

McGee Creek State Park Resource Management Plan

Atoka County, Oklahoma



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The September 2016 kick-off meeting included representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation and the McGee Water Authority. As partners in the larger McGee Creek project, these agencies are also “neighbors” for McGee Creek State Park. Attending this kick-off meeting on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation were Ashley Dixon, Meyer Jay, and Precious Braggs. Similarly, Ron Butler, Jim Flynn, and Colt Birdsong from the McGee Water Authority participated in the initial planning discussions.

It is the purpose of the Resource Management Plan to be a living document to assist with decisions related to the resources within the park and the management of those resources. The authors' desire is to assist decision-makers in providing high quality outdoor recreation experiences and resources for current visitors, while protecting the experiences and the resources for future generations.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLEET	Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GIS	geographic information systems
GPS	global positioning system
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rule Making
NSRA	Natural Scenic Recreation Area
OSU	Oklahoma State University – Stillwater
OTRD	Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
OWRB	Oklahoma Water Resources Board
PBCR	Primary body contact recreation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMP/EA	Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBDO	Waterborne Disease Outbreak
WROS	Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

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Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

The mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to advance Oklahoma's exceptional quality of life by preserving, managing, and promoting our natural assets and cultural amenities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to promote and enhance tourism throughout the state; protect and preserve the environment and natural resources; educate the public about Oklahoma's people and places; provide exceptional customer service to all citizens and visitors; create a team environment in which all employees are successful, productive, and valued; embrace and seek diversity in our workforce and those we serve.

OTRD Values

- Responsibility and leadership
 - Respect
 - Quality
 - Exemplary customer service
 - Balance and self-fulfillment
 - Teamwork and communication
 - Flexibility
 - Creativity and innovation
 - Coordination
 - Commitment
 - Integrity
-



Chapter 1 – Introduction

Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) program and policy is to document management responsibilities to balance the use of water and land resources as they relate to recreation; in this instance, McGee Creek State Park. As a guiding plan, the RMP seeks to propose long-term policies that limit adverse impacts to critical resources while providing protection and management of fish, wildlife, and other natural and cultural resources. In addition, the RMP will provide guidelines for public health and safety, public access, and a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Within the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the purpose and scope of the RMP is to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of McGee Creek State Park and its incorporated resources, summarize the plan's components, and provide descriptive and historical information related to the project. Since McGee Creek State Park is on property leased from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation, 2003), it is appropriate to cite Reclamation's purpose for an RMP. For Reclamation, an RMP is intended to chart the desired future condition for the area related to biological, physical, and social conditions. As stated in the 1995 Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA, McGee Creek RMP Team, 1995) for the McGee Creek Project, Reclamation aims to “balance the desired public recreational uses of project lands and waters while protecting and improving the municipal and industrial water supply, natural, cultural, and other resources” specific to the McGee Creek project.

That 1995 RMP/EA for the McGee Creek Project addressed the scope of the entire Reclamation project. McGee Creek State Park as a component of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department's Division of State Parks was one of three management partners addressed in that RMP/EA with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the McGee Creek Authority. The 1995 RMP/EA addressed the partners equally. This 2017 Resource Management Plan focuses on the state park in the context of the larger project and adjacent properties.

The ultimate purpose of the RMP is to establish a management framework for the conservation, protection, enhancement, development, and use of the physical and biological resources at McGee Creek State Park. With regard to McGee Creek State Park, the RMP is to:

- Provide managers and decision-makers with long-term direction and guidance for the successful management of the resources at McGee Creek State Park;
- Ensure that management of the resources is compatible with authorized purposes;
- Ensure that recreation experiences and facilities are compatible with other environmental resources;
- Ensure that planned developments are based on public need and the ability of the environmental resources to accommodate such facilities and use; and
- Resolve issues and concerns related to management of the environmental resources.

Planning Process

The planning process for preparation of this Resource Management Plan included discussion between research staff at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and management personnel from Oklahoma State Parks. In addition, the process incorporated (1) the acquisition of archival information from libraries, state parks, books, research reports, and other sources; (2) interviews of state park personnel; (3) records provided by state park management; (4) input from members of the public through surveys, comments cards, and focus groups; and (5) searches of the Internet for information that expanded on other archives.

The purposes of public involvement are to inform the public and solicit public response regarding their needs, values, and evaluations of proposed solutions. Public involvement programs are designed not only to meet state and federal regulations, but also to include interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and governmental entities in the decision-making process. Techniques used for public involvement include interviews, workshops, advisory committees, informational brochures, surveys, and public hearings. The process of public involvement is important to help strengthen the relationship between public and government agencies involved in the proposed plan. The relative success of public involvement techniques and the participation of supporting government agencies regarding the program as a whole is indicated by how well informed the public is and by how much the public has contributed to making environmentally sound, feasible decisions that are supported by a significant segment of the public. The public involvement process for the McGee Creek State Park RMP is incorporated into the text of this document.

The original concept in preparation of an RMP is a federal action that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); therefore, the public involvement process must fulfill the RMP and NEPA requirements as well as those of other entities. Oklahoma State Parks has committed the agency to follow a similar model at the state level for all state parks.

Using several public involvement methods to gain insight into the concerns of the public and governmental agencies potentially affected by provisions of the McGee Creek State Park RMP, representatives from OSU compiled and analyzed the data. The public involvement process offered citizens and various interest groups information about the project and its potential impacts. This course of action was used to gather information, ideas, and concerns regarding the different issues to be compiled and addressed to determine issues of public concern. The issues were then evaluated resulting in alternative solutions and recommendations for the park.

Finally, the RMP process included integration of global positional system (GPS) technology into geographic information system (GIS) software to document features and attributes within the park. This component of the process permits an on-going record of facilities with their respective attributes, locations, and conditions. As a result, the GPS and GIS components of the RMP process are integral to on-going implementation and application of the planning effort.

Authorization and Agencies Involved

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement has been renewed annually since 2006. The current agreement specified McGee Creek State Park during 2016 – 2017, and the intent of the agreement is to continue the RMP process across all state parks in Oklahoma.

The RMP agreement became effective July 1, 2016 between Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Oklahoma State University. Following a meeting between OTRD and OSU staff, information, reports, and comment cards were provided to OSU for review. In accordance with the RMP contract, OSU performed research services and delivered reports to OTRD concluding with a written plan for McGee Creek State Park in June 2017.

The authority for the agreement between OTRD and OSU is based upon Title 74 § 2213 as authorized by Engrossed Senate Bill 823 of the 2005 session: “The Commission may contract for the study, analysis, and planning as reasonably necessary to aid in determining the feasibility of leasing, selling or privately managing or developing the property or facilities under the control of the Commission. The Commission shall be exempt from the competitive bidding requirements of the Competitive Bidding Act for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, and effectuating such a contract or contracts.”

Further, this authority is specified in Title 74 § 2215 which states: The Division of State Parks, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission shall formulate, establish, maintain, and periodically review, with public participation, a resource management plan for each state park. The resource management plan, upon approval by the Commission, shall be considered a guide for the development, utilization, protection, and management of the state park and its natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Effective January 14, 2019 as authorized in Enrolled House Bill 3603, “all duties and powers of the Commission shall be transferred to the Executive Director. Any provision in statute that provides to the Commission authority that is not advisory in nature shall be deemed to grant the duty or power to the Executive Director.”

At the federal level, the authority granted to Reclamation to participate in RMPs is vested in several broad legislative actions, including:

The Reclamation Act of 1902 (Chapter 1093, 32 Stat. 388); the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (Chapter 418, 53 Stat. 1187); the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (P.L. 89-72, 79 Stat. 213); and the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-575, Title 28 [2805(c)(1)(A) (Reclamation, 2003).



Figure 1.1 - McGee Creek dam

Left photo source: Bureau of Reclamation

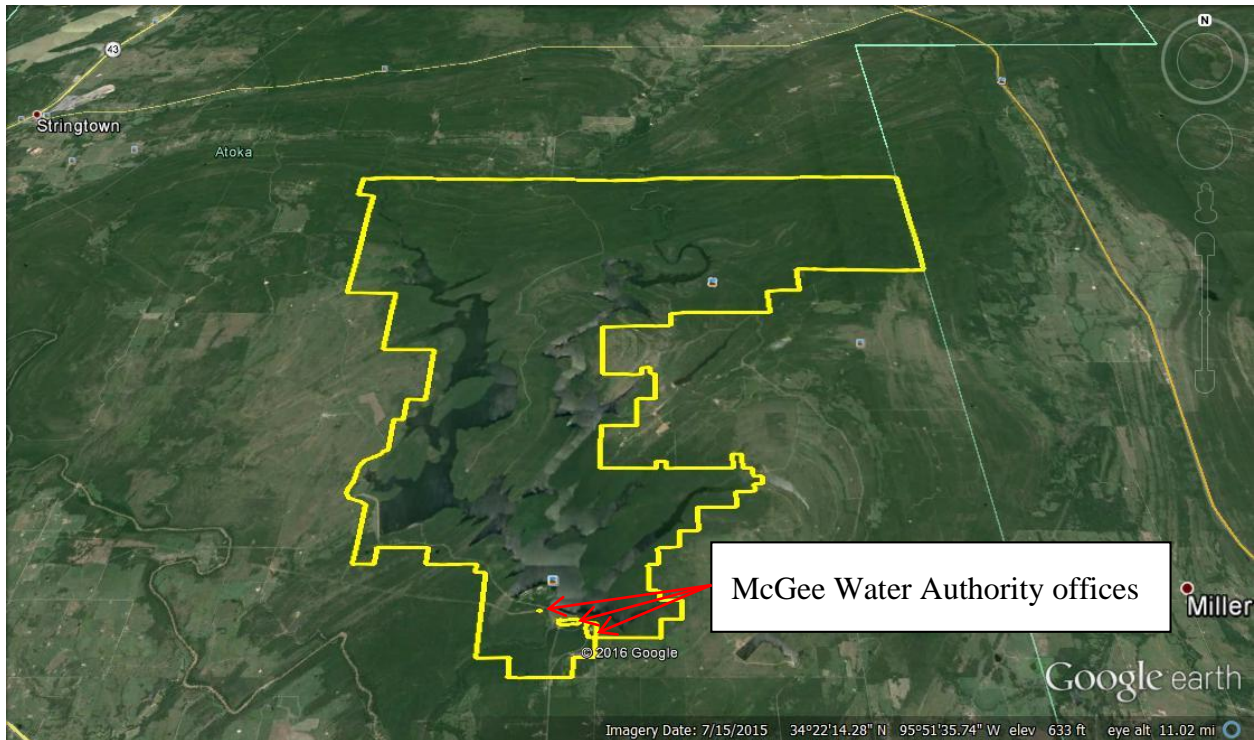


Figure 1.2 – McGee Creek project boundaries
 Source: Bureau of Reclamation (general boundaries; updated in Figure 3.1)

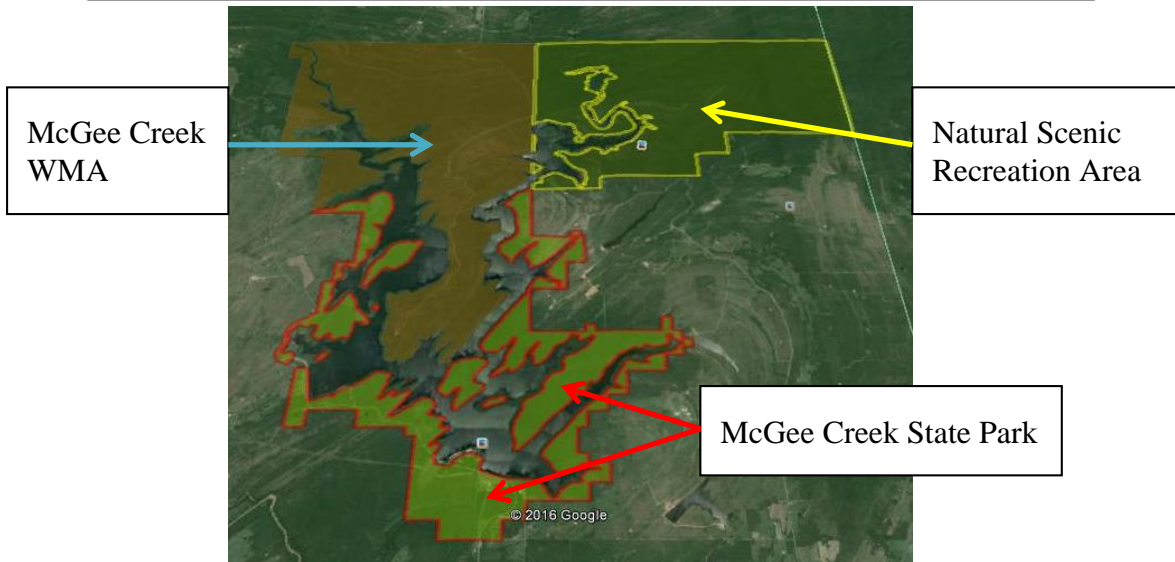


Figure 1.2 shows the boundaries of the entire McGee Creek project which encompass McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area, McGee Creek State Park, and McGee Creek Water Authority properties from the Bureau of Reclamation. Newer and more accurate boundaries are shown in Figure 3.1 later in this RMP. The McGee Creek Water Authority office location is specifically identified in the upper portion of Figure 1.2. The McGee Creek Water Authority is responsible for the lake area as well.

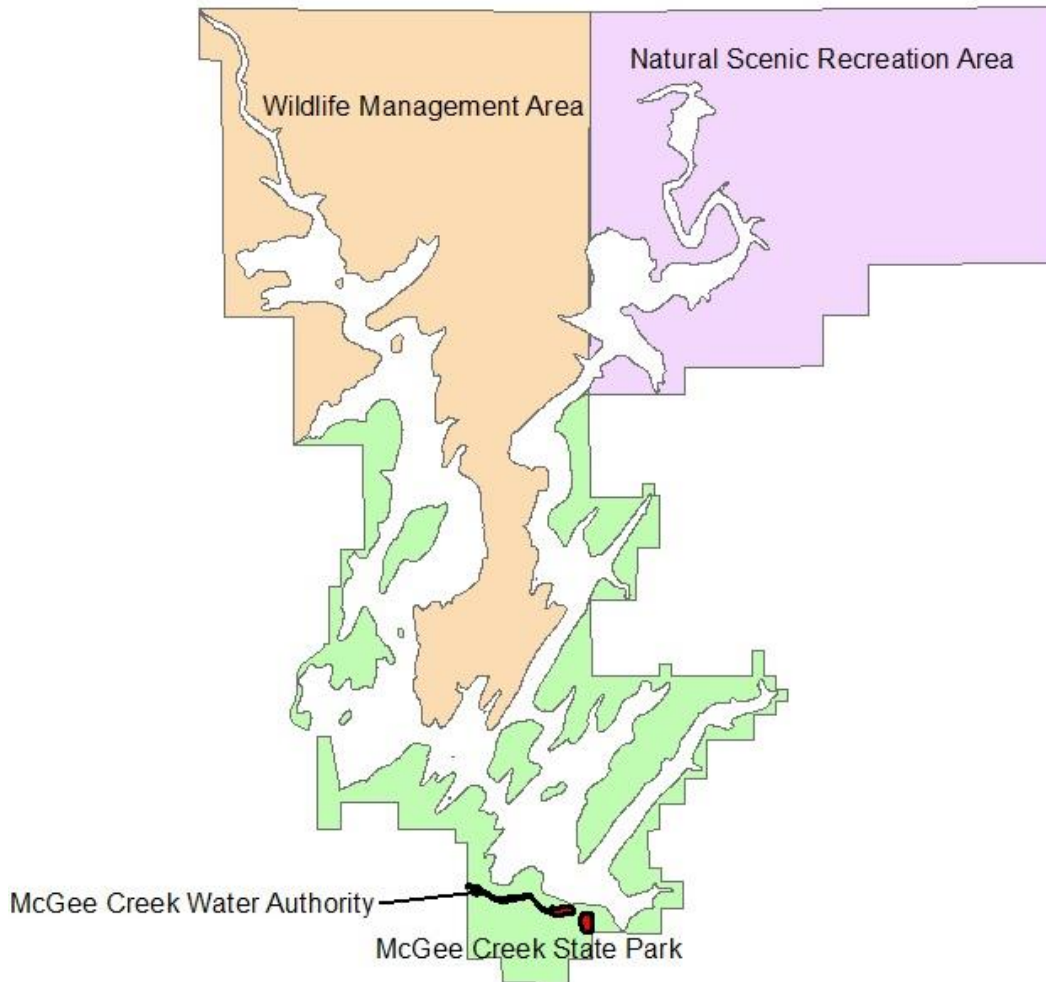


Figure 1.3 – McGee Creek project partners

Source: Bureau of Reclamation (general boundaries; updated in Figure 3.1)

Figure 1.3 shows the relationship between the various properties and project partners in the McGee Creek project boundaries in outline form. The Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The McGee Creek Water Authority manages the property surrounding their office and residence in combination with other property related to water transport and the actual lake. Oklahoma State Parks manages the McGee Creek State Park and the Natural Scenic Recreation Area. Figure 1.3 clearly depicts the islands, non-contiguous portions of the property, and the wide range of this property on the west side of McGee Creek Reservoir, between the two arms of the reservoir, on to the northeast extent of the reservoir and creek flowage.

Chapter 2 – Project Description

About McGee Creek State Park

The Division of State Parks, a part of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, is governed by the laws of the state of Oklahoma. These laws define the authority for the Division and the context in which individual state parks are managed. Title 74 § 2214 of the Oklahoma Statutes states that the Division of State Parks shall, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission:

1. Conserve, preserve, plan, supervise, construct, enlarge, reduce, improve, maintain, equip and operate parkland, public recreation facilities, lodges, cabins, camping sites, scenic trails, picnic sites, golf courses, boating, and swimming facilities, and other similar facilities in state parks reasonably necessary and useful in promoting the public use of state parks under the jurisdiction and control of the Commission;
2. Supervise the management and use of state properties and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may adopt rules to lease concessions in any state-owned facility if the Commission deems it feasible;
3. Authorize those employees in the Park Manager job family classification series, as established by the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management, to maintain administrative control over all facilities, programs, operations, services, and employees in the park to which they are assigned; and
4. Enforce the rules and policies governing the use of and conduct of patrons in all recreational facilities and properties of the Commission.

Purpose and Significance of McGee Creek State Park

An initial requirement of the RMP process is the development of a purpose statement for the property under consideration. The process selected for the development of resource management plans for state parks requires purpose statements and statements of significance for each park. These statements drive the decisions as to planning for the respective parks, since individual parks in the state park system do not have identical purposes or intents.

At the initiation of this project, a purpose statement for McGee Creek State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff, and personnel from the Bureau of Reclamation and the McGee Water Authority, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

McGee Creek State Park provides for the protection and public enjoyment of the scenic, historic, and ecological resources that exist within the park property as one component of the larger Bureau of Reclamation project in conjunction with McGee Wildlife Management Area and McGee Water Authority. The purpose of McGee Creek State Park is to conserve the natural, cultural, scenic, historic and environmentally-based recreational resources within the park, and make them

forever available for the education and enjoyment of all people. McGee Creek State Park provides visitor amenities compatible with that environment permitting visitors to enjoy the lake, forest, fishery, wildlife, and recreation experiences while also stimulating the local economy and providing opportunities for tourists to enjoy the scenery.

Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel, in cooperation with the research staff, developed a statement of significance for McGee Creek State Park. That statement follows:

As one of three management partners present at McGee Creek Reservoir, McGee Creek State Park is significant as a state park in an underserved region of Oklahoma, drawing primary visitation from the surrounding 100-mile population base, but increasingly attracting guests from north Texas and other locations. Having limited competition for comparable recreation and educational experiences in the area, McGee Creek State Park is the only state resource that provides the Natural Scenic Recreation Area, a contiguous 8,900-acre wilderness-like Cross Timbers ecosystem. In addition, McGee Creek State Park is significant because it encompasses and protects a watershed adjacent to an important municipal water supply.

Figure 2.1 demonstrates the inter-relationship of purpose and significance statements with the mission of the management agency in decisions related to a given park or property. This model has been developed by the National Park Service to assure consistency between the mission of the National Park Service and the operation of their respective properties. In a similar manner, park purpose statements and park significance must be consistent with the mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

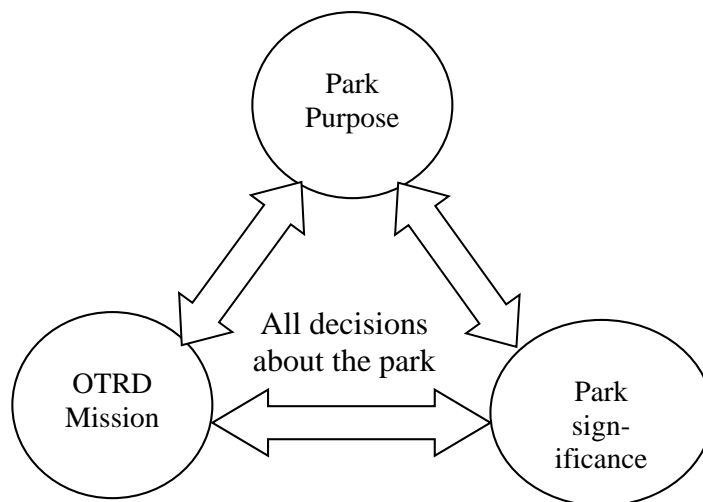


Figure 2.1 - Utilization of purpose and significance statements

Source: National Park Service

Geographic Location of McGee Creek State Park

McGee Creek State Park is located in southeastern Oklahoma in Atoka County approximately 15 miles east of the county seat, Atoka. This portion of Atoka County is mixed pine and hardwood forest, interspersed with open grasslands. Multiple streams and small rivers drain the area, including the Muddy Boggy River, Clear Boggy Creek, and North Boggy Creek. The park is about three miles north of State Highway 3 at Farris. Much of the adjacent wooded property to the north is designated as McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Stringtown Wildlife Management area to the north of McGee Creek WMA.

As stated, McGee Creek State Park is located along State Highway 3, approximately three miles north of Farris, Oklahoma, and 15 miles east of Atoka, Oklahoma. A map (Figure 2.2) of McGee Creek State Park shows its location in the rural environment of Atoka County.

Atoka is the county seat of Atoka County. There are numerous other small communities distributed throughout Atoka County. For most park visitors, travel to and from McGee Creek State Park requires access along state Highway 3 extending east and west between Atoka and Antlers. SH 3 connects to U.S. Highway 69 in Atoka and U.S. Highway 259 as well as the Indian Nation Turnpike in Antlers. For some local travel, county roads link Stringtown, State Highway 43, and other small communities to the north of McGee Creek Reservoir permitting access to the state park.

The map shows McGee Creek State Park and McGee Creek Natural Scenic State Recreation Area (NSRA), both of which are contracted by the Bureau of Reclamation to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. The state park wraps around the eastern, southern, and western sides of McGee Creek Reservoir. The eastern side of the park is less developed than the southern or western portions due largely to limited access. Private property buffers the eastern portion of the property which also has limited road access.

Figure 2.2 – Geographic location of McGee Creek State Park



McGee Creek State Park

Community and Regional Context

Brief History of Atoka County

The following history of Atoka County was written by James C. Milligan for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (<http://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=AT005>).

“Located in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma, Atoka County is bordered by Bryan, Choctaw, Pushmataha, Coal, Pittsburg, and Johnston counties. In the early nineteenth century the Atoka area existed as part of Shappaway County, in the Pushmataha District of the Choctaw Nation. The designation as Atoka County came circa 1854 and was retained after 1907 statehood. The county and county seat name honors a noted Choctaw warrior, Captain Atoka, who led a removal party to present Oklahoma. He lived east of the town that bears his name. The incorporated towns are Atoka (the county seat), Caney, Stringtown, and Tushka.

The present county incorporates a total land and water area of 990.0 square miles. Topography varies from east to west, with the Ouachita Mountains system intruding into the county from the east, offering coal and forest resources. In the western and southern sections, which lie in the Sandstone Hills and Coastal Plains physiographic regions, more level terrain fosters agriculture and ranching. Three streams, North Boggy Creek, Muddy or Middle Boggy River (creek), and Clear Boggy River (creek), provide the primary drainage from northwest to southeast, eventually emptying into the Red River. Human occupation and use of the area’s resources is documented through archaeological surveys. By the beginning of the twenty-first century archaeologists had investigated 112 Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1) period sites in the present county. This is compared with five Paleo-Indian (prior to 6000 B.C.), twenty-seven Woodland (A.D. 1 to 1000), and twenty-one Plains Village (A.D. 1000 to 1500) sites.

The Choctaw inhabited the region from 1831 and 1832. Boggy Depot, an important Choctaw town, was established in 1837 east of present Atoka on the Clear Boggy River. Boggy had a post office beginning in 1849, under William R. Guy, the first postmaster. Allen Wright, who suggested the name Oklahoma, meaning “Red People,” for the state, hailed from Boggy Depot. In 1858 the town became a stop on the Butterfield Overland mail and stage route, which joined the older Texas Road at Boggy and ran southward into Texas. Two other Butterfield stations, Waddell’s and Geary’s, existed in the present county. Waddell’s stood near Wesley, three and one-half miles northeast of Stringtown, and A. W. Geary’s lay on the east side of North Boggy Creek, between Waddell’s and the Muddy Boggy River. The Choctaw built court grounds and a courthouse north of present Atoka on the Muddy Boggy.

In 1863–64, during the Civil War, Confederate troops established Camp Boggy Depot, a supply depot, at Harkins’s Spring, north of present Atoka. In February 1864 a skirmish took place between Union and Confederate troops near the spring, on the Middle Boggy River fifteen miles northeast of Boggy Depot. Confederate soldiers serving in Indian Territory were buried at the spring in a cemetery that had originally served travelers on the Butterfield route. After the Civil War the region resumed a slow, steady growth. In 1868 at Boggy Depot Rev. Joseph S. Murrow organized a Masonic lodge, the first established in Indian Territory after the Civil War.

Murrow also supported the development of the town of Atoka, established in 1867. In 1869 Murrow helped found the Rehoboth Mission Baptist Church there, and in 1879 he helped organize the first chapter of the Eastern Star in Indian Territory. He later launched the Indian Orphan's Home. In 1872 Roman Catholic priest Michael Smyth established the state's first Catholic Church, St. Patrick's at Atoka. It served Irish Catholic workers who were building the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (or Katy) through Indian Territory.

An important development for the county's future growth, the Katy entered the county at Limestone Gap, continued to Springtown, later called Stringtown, where lumber companies and stone quarries were located, crossed North Boggy, Middle or Muddy Boggy and Clear Boggy, and reached Atoka in September 1872. The line bypassed the old Choctaw capitol, Boggy Depot, thereby increasing the regional importance of the town of Atoka.

Varied activities have supplied a living for Atoka County residents. Coal mines, limestone quarries, and the forestry industry have comprised much of the county's early business interests. Cotton and corn provided the early-twentieth-century agricultural base. Peanuts took the lead in crop production, and Atoka County farmers harvested 1,654,461 pounds in 1997. In 2000, 1,087 farms involved 420,857 acres in cultivation. In the mid-twentieth century cattle raising emerged as the county's leading industry, numbering 59,182 head of cattle in 1997. Employment was also offered by the Oklahoma State Penitentiary farm, which opened in 1933 north of Stringtown and in 1973 became the Mack H. Alford Correctional Center, a medium-security prison under the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

In 1920 the county population peaked at 20,862, dropping to 14,533 in 1930. After rising and falling, the census count reached a low in 1960 of 10,352 residents. By 1990 the population had climbed to 12,778. In 2000 the population stood at 13,879. In 2010 the county's 14,182 inhabitants were 73.8 percent white, 3.7 percent African American, 13.8 percent American Indian, and 0.4 percent Asian. Hispanic ethnicity was identified as 2.9 percent.

Transportation access, originally accommodated in the nineteenth century by the Texas Road, the East Shawnee Trail, and the Butterfield Overland Mail and Stage route, is now provided by a network of state and federal highways. U.S. Highway 69 transects the county from northeast to southwest and is paralleled by rail facilities of the Union Pacific Railway. U.S. Highway 75 passes generally northwest to southeast. State Highways 43, 3, and 7 pass through east and west.

Local historians of popular culture report that on August 5, 1932, Clyde Barrow and accomplice Raymond Elzie Hamilton killed Deputy Sheriff Eugene Moore and wounded Sheriff C. G. Maxwell at a dance in Stringtown. Barrow and Hamilton, a career criminal, escaped the area, engaging in a robbery-killing spree with Bonnie Parker. Country singer and actress Reba McEntire was raised at Chockie. Charles David Carter, born at Boggy Depot in 1868, served the state from 1907 to 1927 as a U.S. representative. He was instrumental in securing funding for the Choctaw Sanatorium at Talihina, in Le Flore County.

The Confederate Memorial Museum and Cemetery at Atoka interprets the region's history. The cemetery, located north of town, is the only designated Confederate cemetery in Oklahoma. The National Register of Historic Places includes the Old Faucett Well (NR 72001053), one of the state's first oil wells, located four miles northeast of Wapanucka, and Capt. Charles LeFlore's House (NR 72001052), north of Limestone Gap. Recreational opportunities include Lake Atoka, Boggy Depot State Park, McGee Creek Lake at McGee Creek State Park, and Stringtown Wildlife Management Area."

Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Atoka County. The 2010 Census provided the statistical basis for the detail related to the population of Atoka County. In addition, the Bureau of Census provides population estimates based upon the 2010 Census. These estimates are projected in several tables into 2015.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during September 2016 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Table 2.1 - Population of Atoka County

Year	2000	2010	2015 estimate
Atoka County	13,879	14,182	13,753

Table 2.2 - Demographic Characteristics of the Population

Factor	Detail on factor	Atoka County Number (Percent)	Oklahoma Number (Percent)
Sex and Age	Male	7,384 (52.1%)	1,816,749 (49.4%)
	Female	6,798 (47.9%)	1,858,590 (50.6%)
	Median age (years)	39.5	36.3
	Under 18 years of age	3,348 (23.6%)	911,484 (24.8%)
	18 years of age and over	10,834 (76.4%)	2,762,318 (75.2%)
	65 years of age and over	2,286 (16.1%)	491,422 (13.5%)
Race	White	10,460 (73.8%)	2,720,135 (72.2%)
	Black or African American	529 (3.7%)	267,179 (7.4%)
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	1,964 (13.8%)	259,809 (8.6%)
	Asian	55 (0.4%)	61,581 (1.7%)
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7 (0.0%)	3,967 (0.1%)
	Two or more races	1,009 (7.1%)	263,896 (7.2%)
Hispanic/Latino	Of any race	409 (2.9%)	302,167 (8.2%)

The population of Atoka County increased at a rate of 2.2% over the decade between 2000 and 2010. Since 2010, Atoka County has been decreasing in population by 3% over the past five years, resulting in a population lower in 2015 than in 2010 or 2000. However, it is similar to the decrease of population in several rural Oklahoma counties.

Interestingly, Atoka County reports a population in which the median age of male residents is three years lower than the median age for resident females. In addition, Atoka County shows a population with less diversity than that present within the population for the state of Oklahoma

with the notable exception of American Indian. Atoka County reports a population in which 7.1% of the residents represent two or more races. This composition of the population represents part of the history of the county in that 5.6% of the population reported their race to be “White & American Indian.” In addition, Atoka County presents a population with a much smaller percentage of Hispanic residents than is true across Oklahoma.

Table 2.3 provides detail on the household characteristics of the population of Atoka County. Of particular note is the much higher percentage of households in Atoka County with one or more members over the age of 65 than is true in the state of Oklahoma. On most measures related to household characteristics, Atoka County is similar to the household characteristics represented across Oklahoma. However, the percentage of occupied housing units in Atoka County is below that for the state of Oklahoma, and similarly, there is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in the county.

Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Atoka County

Household Related Factor	Atoka County Number (Percent)	Oklahoma Number (Percent)
Number of households	5,391	1,421,705
Population in households	13,432 (94.7%)	3,563,497 (96.9%)
Households with a child or children under 18	1,735 (32.2%)	425,149 (29.9%)
Households with person 65 years and over	1,685 (31.3%)	140,851 (9.9%)
Occupied housing units	6,312 (85.4%)	1,421,705 (86.5%)
Vacant housing units	921 (14.6%)	222,523 (13.5%)
Owner occupied housing units	4,056 (75.2%)	969,959 (68.2%)
Renter occupied housing units	1,335 (24.8%)	451,746 (31.8%)

One characteristic on which the population of Atoka County differs from that across Oklahoma is household income. The median household income in Atoka County is \$5,000 below the statewide average. Median household income as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Census may be somewhat misleading: by definition 50% of the population in the county is above the median income level and 50% is below that number. In Atoka County, the mean household income is \$50,783 indicating that a small number of residents are in the upper levels of income while a larger number are in the lower income categories. Slightly more than 2% of households in Atoka County report incomes of over \$200,000, with an additional 1% above \$100,000.

It is equally important to recognize that 20% of the population of Atoka County is identified as being below federal poverty guidelines. The percentage of households below poverty levels and the percentage of individuals in those households are above the comparable statistics for the state

of Oklahoma. It can be concluded that the residents of Atoka County are financially limited as compared to the general population of Oklahoma.

Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Atoka County

Characteristic or Factor	Atoka County	Oklahoma
Median household income	\$37,519	\$42,979
Households below poverty level	17.6%	11.9%
Individuals below poverty level	22.6%	16.2%

Residents of Atoka County also present education characteristics that are associated with the financial status of the county. In Atoka County, the greatest variation from the statewide educational pattern is in the percentage of individuals with high school diplomas or equivalent educational achievement. County residents have achieved a higher percentage at this level. But Atoka County lags behind state statistics for education beyond the high school diploma. Education levels have been shown to be highly correlated with other economic measures.

Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Atoka County

Educational Attainment 9,608 persons 25 years of age and above	Atoka County (Percent)	Oklahoma Number (Percent)
Less than 9 th grade	5.1%	115,248 (4.8%)
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	12.8%	232,987 (9.8%)
High school diploma or equivalency	42.3%	775,478 (32.6%)
Some college, no degree	22.3%	559,367 (23.5%)
Associate’s degree	4.4%	159,557 (6.7%)
Bachelor’s degree	8.9%	362,043 (15.2%)
Graduate or professional degree	4.2%	176,139 (7.4%)

Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Atoka County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2010, Atoka County reported unemployment to be approximately 10.0% as compared with a statewide 7.7%. While those percentages have changed since 2010 as economic conditions have improved, Atoka County continues to show higher unemployment than is true statewide.

Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Atoka County

Characteristic or Factor	Atoka County Number (Percent)	Oklahoma Number (Percent)
Population in the labor force (16 years and over)	11,142 (81.0%)	1,806,858 (63.0%)
Employed	4,843 (89.9%)	1,674,765 (92.3%)
Private wage and salary workers	3,213 (66.3%)	1,260,965 (75.3%)
Government workers	1,190 (24.6%)	285,562 (17.1%)
Self-employed (non-incorporated business)	438 (9.0%)	124,013 (7.4%)
Unpaid family workers	2 (0.0%)	4,225 (0.3%)

In summary, Atoka County comprises a rural area with approximately 13.9 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. About 22% of the population of Atoka County resides in Atoka, the county seat. The county population shows an average household income below the statewide average; additionally, a higher percentage of Atoka County residents are below the poverty level than is true statewide. A higher percentage of residents of the county have achieved their high school diplomas, but the county is below statewide educational statistics at higher levels of education.

Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities

Southeastern Oklahoma provides the setting for private and public recreation opportunities. Among the public properties available for recreation, there are state and federal properties distributed throughout the area, although Boggy Depot and Boswell properties were removed from state park designation in the prior two decades.

To the northeast of McGee Creek State Park, Robbers Cave State Park offers a combination of recreational, historic, cultural, and natural resources that is matched only by Beavers Bend State Park located to the southeast of McGee Creek. These two parks are separated by distance of 120 miles and therefore do not directly compete with each other and probably do not compete with McGee Creek State Park. Both parks offer New Deal-era historic structures in large park areas. Both parks offer campgrounds, cabins, and lodges. Both parks offer nature centers, interpretive programs, large festivals, hiking trails, and water-based recreation, while Beavers Bend State Park also includes a golf course. The natural environment for the two parks is also similar with hilly to mountainous terrain, pine forests, and a sense of seclusion. Robbers Cave State Park and Beavers Bend State Park draw a different clientele than is true at McGee Creek and complement rather than compete with McGee Creek State Park. However, McGee Creek State Park may compete with Robbers Cave State Park for equestrian and trail-hiking.

There are three other state parks in the general southeast region of Oklahoma. Lake Eufaula State Park offers camping experiences, but in the setting of a large lake. Lake Eufaula State Park is also much more accessible by highway than McGee Creek State Park. Talimena State Park is about 50 miles from McGee Creek State Park and serves primarily as a staging location for

access to the Ouachita National Forest. Just northeast of Talimena State Park is Lake Wister State Park, at some distance from McGee Creek State Park. Lake Wister State Park does include camping, cabins, and water-based recreation. Raymond Gary State Park is located southeast of McGee Creek on a small lake and offers camping and rustic cabins.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations on Lake Eufaula and Sardis Lake offer camping experiences in a lake environment. However, both settings are quite different in atmosphere and management from that at McGee Creek State Park due to lake size and boat use.

Cedar Lake in the Ouachita National Forest offers camping in a lake environment with equestrian facilities. The large trail network in a forested environment at Cedar Lake may compete with possible visitation to the McGee Creek Natural Scenic Area.

As shown in Figure 2.3, the recreational environment of McGee Creek State Park emphasizes the wooded hills and hollows surrounding an impounded lake with limited boating capacity. This quiet, natural environment encourages a recreation experience appropriate to this setting. The park includes the Natural Scenic Recreation Area, a large undeveloped tract of land. As a result, McGee Creek State Park is different from public recreation areas in southeastern Oklahoma and is complemented by these other facilities.

Regional and Park History

The McGee Creek Project of the Bureau of Reclamation provided the foundation for three distinct management areas including the Wildlife Management Area (WMA), McGee Creek State Park, and the Natural Scenic Recreation Area (NSRA). The 10,000-acre WMA is contracted for management to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Management goals for this area include enhancing the biotic qualities of the area while allowing controlled public use of the available wildlife resources. Emphasis has been placed on white-tailed deer and



Figure 2.3 – Recreational environment of McGee Creek State Park





Figure 2.4 – McGee Creek dam

eastern wild turkeys, but also provides for rabbits, quail, squirrels, nongame, and fur-bearing species. River otters were introduced to Potapo Creek.

A contractual agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department placed 5,500 acres under the Division of State Parks as McGee Creek State Park. The principal developed portions of McGee Creek State Park are located along the south and southwestern portion of the reservoir, although managed park property wraps around the east side of the reservoir. This agreement also placed the 8,900-acre Natural Scenic Recreation Area under management of OTRD as part of the State Park. A single entry drive provides limited vehicular access to the NSRA.

Natural Resources in the Park

Climate and Air Quality

Atoka County and most of Oklahoma are part of the humid subtropical climatic region. The following information related to climate in Atoka County is provided by the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and retrieved September 7, 2016 (http://climate.ok.gov/county_climate/Products/County_Climatologies/county_climate_atoka.pdf).

Temperatures average near 62 degrees, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 95 degrees in August to an average low of 28 degrees in January. Atoka County averages a growing season of 232 days, but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional two to six weeks.

Winds from the southeast are quite dominant, averaging just over six miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, ranges from 42% to 96% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in May and June and lowest in August. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 50% in winter to nearly 75% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 54 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 – 2003, Atoka County recorded 31 tornadoes. The most recent significant tornado (F2 intensity or greater) occurred on April 11, 2001 when two F2 tornados affected Atoka County. There were 5 injuries and 1 death caused by these tornadoes.

Typically, there are about 3 events each year of hail exceeding one inch in diameter. As information collection improves, both the number of reported tornadoes and the number of severe hail events have increased.

Archeology of McGee Creek State Park

While archaeological history was reported in the earlier presentation of Atoka County, additional archeological studies were funded by Reclamation. Project related archeological research began in 1975 and covered 32,365 acres. More than 500 archeological sites were found within the project area. The time frame for these sites covers from Paleoindian (11,000 – 8,000 years ago), Archaic (8,000 – 5,000 years ago), Woodland (2,000 – 1,150 years ago), Late Prehistoric (1,150 – 350 years ago) to Historic (350 years ago to present). A detailed report of this research is provided in the 1995 RMP/EA. This portion of Oklahoma is associated with “Caddoan origins.”

The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (<http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/counties/atoka.htm>) documents one particular resource within McGee Creek State Park. Ferndale bog is one of the several sphagnum bogs within the NSRA.

“Studies of past environments help archeologists understand the factors influencing how people lived in the past. One method available to archaeologists to help them understand past environment is the science of palynology, the study of ancient pollens.

Pollen, the same stuff that causes us to sneeze in the spring and fall, is amazingly persistent in the environment. It has a hard outer shell that preserves well in a wet environment (like a lake bottom) or in an acidic environment (like a peat bog). Different species of plants produce uniquely-shaped pollens that scientists have learned to identify

microscopically. As wind-borne pollen settles in a lake or peat bog, it becomes part of the sediment, and, undisturbed, leaves a record, sometimes thousands of years long, of the kinds of plants that have grown in the area. While peat bogs may seem an unlikely feature of the Oklahoma landscape, Atoka County is home to one known as Ferndale Bog.

The Ferndale Bog formed over thousands of years as sphagnum moss growing in the vicinity of a spring on a sandstone ridge of the Ouachita Mountains decayed and was replaced by new generations of peat. Archaeologists have done two studies on the pollens found in the Ferndale Bog sediments. These studies rely on microscopic examination of sediment cores taken from the bog. They reveal 12,000 years of climate change in southeastern Oklahoma. The deepest sample, taken over 10½ feet below today’s surface contains pine pollen and pollen from white spruce, a tree found today in Canada and the far northern United States. Twelve thousand years ago the world was coming to the end of the last glaciation and Oklahoma’s climate, as revealed by the presence of spruce pollen, was probably cooler and moister. As the climate warmed and dried, the environment around Ferndale Bog became dominated mostly by grasses until it likely became a tall-grass prairie area. However, during the period 9,000 to 5,400 years ago, the actual amount of pollen deposited in the bog falls to its lowest levels. This is interpreted as more evidence for a dramatic drought that lasted for thousands of years and probably turned parts of



Oklahoma into a desert. Gradually, the climate seems to have changed so that more moisture became available to plants, and the oak-pine-hickory forests we see today developed, perhaps as late as 1,000 years ago.

Today the Ferndale bog is protected in the McGee Creek Natural Scenic Recreation Area” (Oklahoma Archeological Survey).

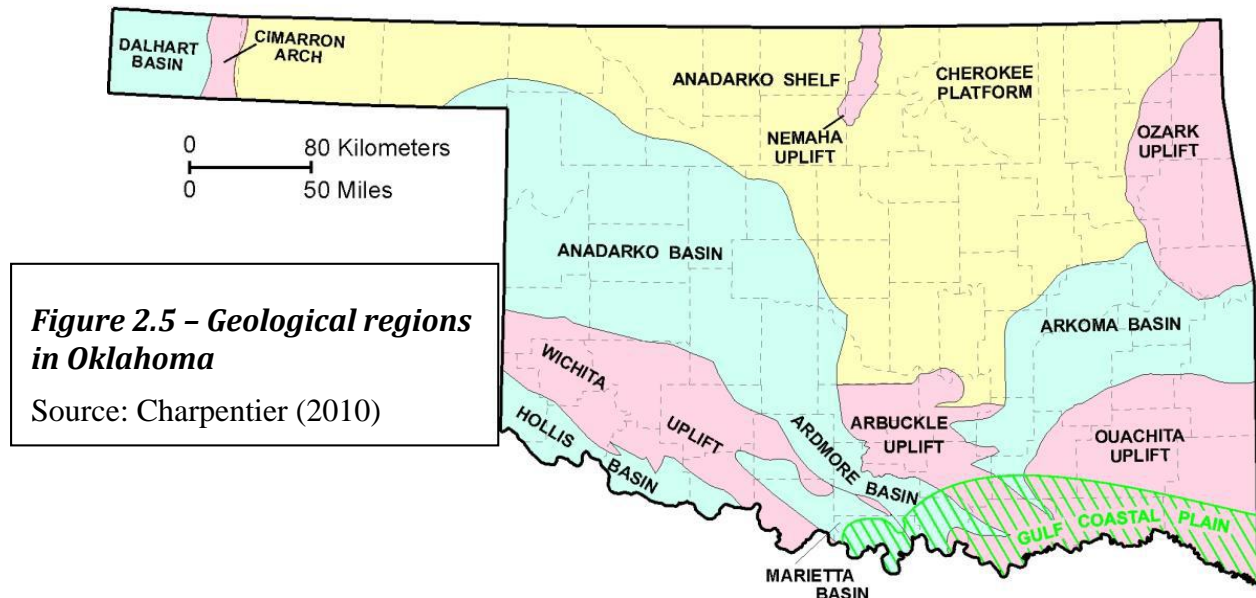
Topography

Using the Fenneman Physiography Classification (National Geographic Society), Atoka County is divided into three topographic regions. A small portion of the northwestern corner of Atoka County is classified as Interior Plains. The northeastern portion of Atoka County is Interior Highlands, and the southern half of the county is Atlantic Plains. McGee Creek State Park and NSRA are both within the Atlantic Plains. As shown in Figure 2.5, the Atlantic Plains are also classified as Gulf Coastal Plain with the portion of Atoka County surrounding McGee Creek State Park classified within the Ouachita Uplift.

Geology

The Ouachita Uplift or orogeny is one of three such mountain belts in Oklahoma where a series of folding, faulting, and uplifting occurred during the Pennsylvanian Period. The east-to-west formations of the Ouachita Mountains are mostly cherty marine limestone, 200 – 3,000 feet thick in the north. Rocks are mostly marine shale and sandstone (Johnson, 2008; Keller, 2012).

Surface rocks in this area are generally of the Pennsylvanian period. However, areas in valleys and along creek beds are of the Quaternary period.



Soil

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gathers data and prepares custom soil resource reports for specific areas. In each report they define various terms related to soils and the related capacities. Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series. Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, are an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example of a miscellaneous area (NRCS, 2010).

Material about soils in the study area provides background information about suitability for recreational development. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides information related to soils. The detail of the soil report for McGee Creek State Park is provided in Figure 2.6a on the following page.

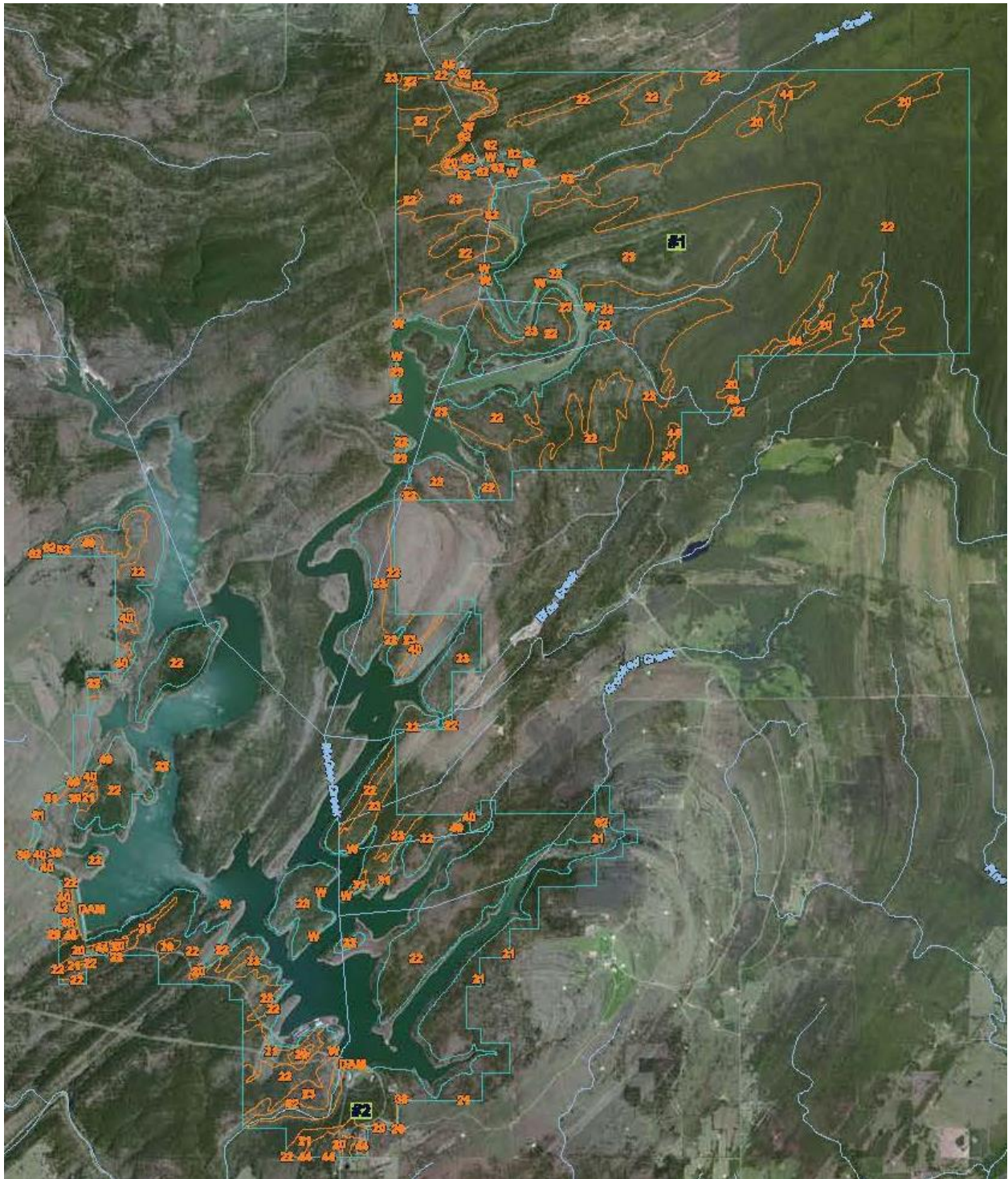


Figure 2.6a – Soil map of McGee Creek State Park

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service

#1, Atoka County, Oklahoma (OK005)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
20	Carnasaw-Clebit complex, 3 to 5 percent slopes	195.7	1.5%
22	Carnasaw-Clebit association, 8 to 25 percent slopes	4,725.1	35.2%
23	Carnasaw-Clebit association, 25 to 45 percent slopes	3,797.3	28.3%
44	Clearview fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	76.6	0.6%
45	Clearview fine sandy loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	0.1	0.0%
62	Rexor-Dela complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	69.7	0.5%
W	Water	22.8	0.2%
Subtotals for #1		8,887.4	66.2%
#2, Atoka County, Oklahoma (OK005)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
20	Carnasaw-Clebit complex, 3 to 5 percent slopes	123.6	0.9%
21	Carnasaw-Clebit complex, 5 to 8 percent slopes	176.5	1.3%
22	Carnasaw-Clebit association, 8 to 25 percent slopes	2,777.4	20.7%
23	Carnasaw-Clebit association, 25 to 45 percent slopes	975.8	7.3%
29	Dennis loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	13.1	0.1%
31	Dennis and Eram soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes, severely eroded	14.5	0.1%
38	Eram clay loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	18.9	0.1%
39	Eram clay loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes	32.2	0.2%
40	Eram-Talihina complex, 5 to 20 percent slopes	270.8	2.0%
42	Guyton silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	0.7	0.0%
44	Clearview fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	25.7	0.2%
45	Clearview fine sandy loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	7.0	0.1%
61	Rexor loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	1.0	0.0%
62	Rexor-Dela complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	66.3	0.5%
DAM	Large dam	23.6	0.2%
W	Water	1.6	0.0%
Subtotals for #2		4,528.8	33.8%
Totals for Area of Interest		13,416.2	100.0%

Figure 2.6b – Legend for soil map on previous page

Area #1 is the NRSA; Area #2 is the main portion of the State Park

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service

Soil Suitability for Recreational Development

Various soils have characteristics that may limit development for recreational purposes without additional investment for remediation or engineering. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of developing camp areas and the performance of the areas after development. Slope, stoniness, and depth to bedrock or a cemented pan are the main concerns affecting the development of camp areas. The soil properties that affect the performance of the areas after development are those that influence trafficability and promote the growth of vegetation, especially in heavily used areas. For good trafficability, the surface of camp areas should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry. The soil properties that influence trafficability are texture of the surface layer, depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat), and large stones. The soil properties that affect the growth of plants are depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat), and toxic substances in the soil.

Approximately 63% of the NSRA is composed of Carnasaw-Clebit association having 8 to 25 percent slopes or Carnasaw-Clebit association showing 25 to 45 percent slopes. In both soil types, the area is limited for campground development due to the presence of large stones, slow water movement, and depth to bedrock. Similarly, approximately 40% of the main portion of McGee Creek State Park is composed of these same soil associations. The actual areas limited for campgrounds due to soil characteristics are shown in the upper left figure on the following page (Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7 also shows similar soil limitations for trail development and for installation of sanitation facilities (septic systems and lagoon systems). While a slightly smaller portion of the NSRA is classified as “severely limited” for trails, several of the current trails are within the areas identified as problematic for trail development.

In much the same manner, development of sanitation and waste facilities has required additional engineering and remediation due to the limitation of soils throughout McGee Creek State Park and the NSRA.

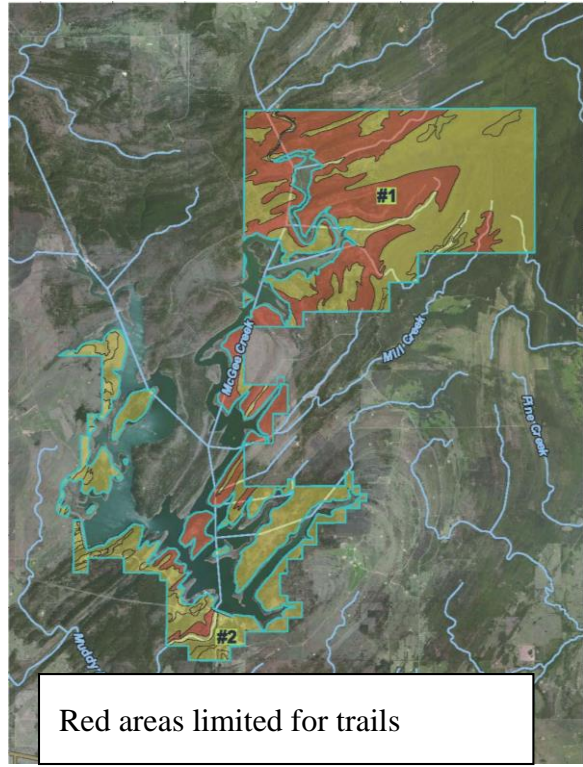
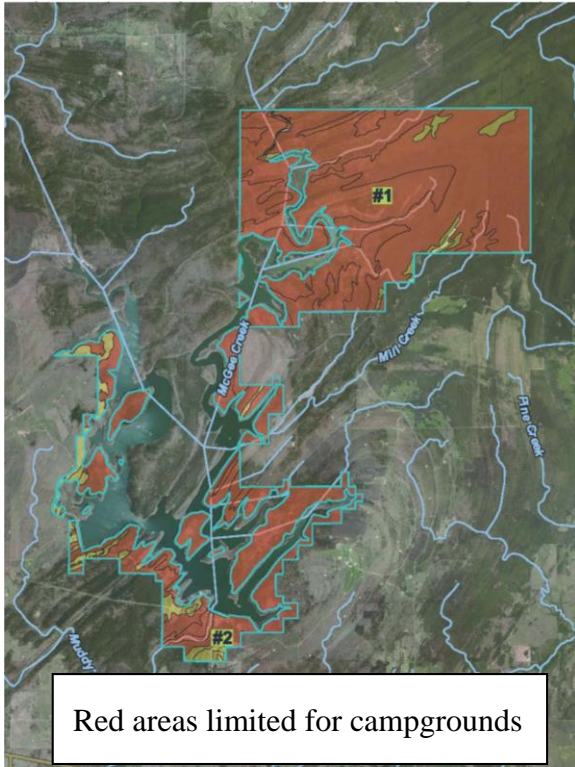
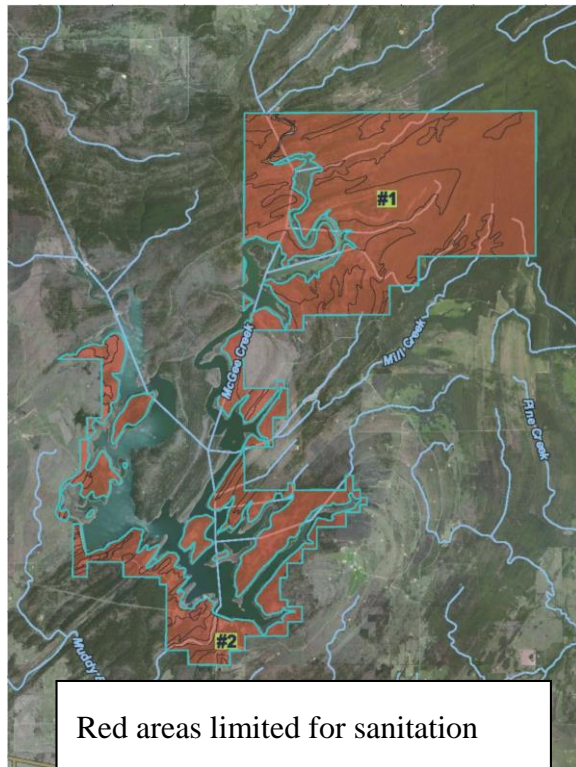


Figure 2.7 – Areas of soil limitation for development
Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service



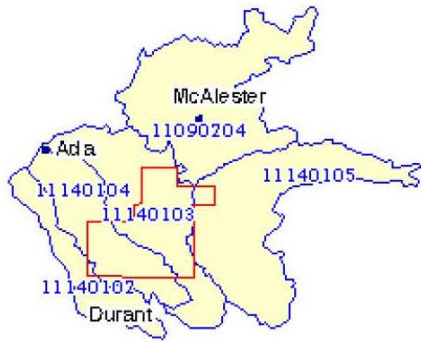


Figure 2.8 – Watersheds of Atoka County

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Hydrology

Atoka County straddles portions of five watersheds, three of which cross state lines into Texas. These watersheds are:

- Lower Canadian (OK) – 11090204
- Blue (OK and TX) – 11140102
- Muddy Boggy (OK and TX) – 11140103
- Clear Boggy (OK) – 11140104
- Kiamichi (OK and TX) – 11140105

Figure 2.8 above depicts the five watersheds affecting Atoka County. McGee Creek State Park is entirely within the Muddy Boggy watershed (11140103).

Figure 2.9 on the following page is a map of McGee Creek Lake from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. As indicated on this 2016 map, the features of McGee Creek Lake have been updated since the lake was constructed. These details include:

- 577 feet elevation above mean sea level for normal conservation pool;
- 3,709 surface acres;
- 80.3 miles of shoreline;
- 103.5 feet maximum depth;
- 100,146 acre-feet of storage capacity.

In the 1995 RMP/EA, these same parameters were listed as:

- 577 feet elevation above mean sea level for normal conservation pool;
- 3,800 surface acres;
- 77 miles of shoreline;
- 116 feet maximum depth.

It should be noted that this map erroneously identifies the Natural Scenic Recreation Area as McGee Creek *National* Scenic Recreation Area.

The primary purpose of the McGee Creek Project is to provide a dependable municipal and industrial water supply of 60,000 acre-feet annually for Oklahoma City, Atoka, Atoka County, and the Southern Oklahoma Development Authority. In addition to its benefit for water supply, the project controls flooding downstream and provides recreational facilities, fish and wildlife resources for public use.

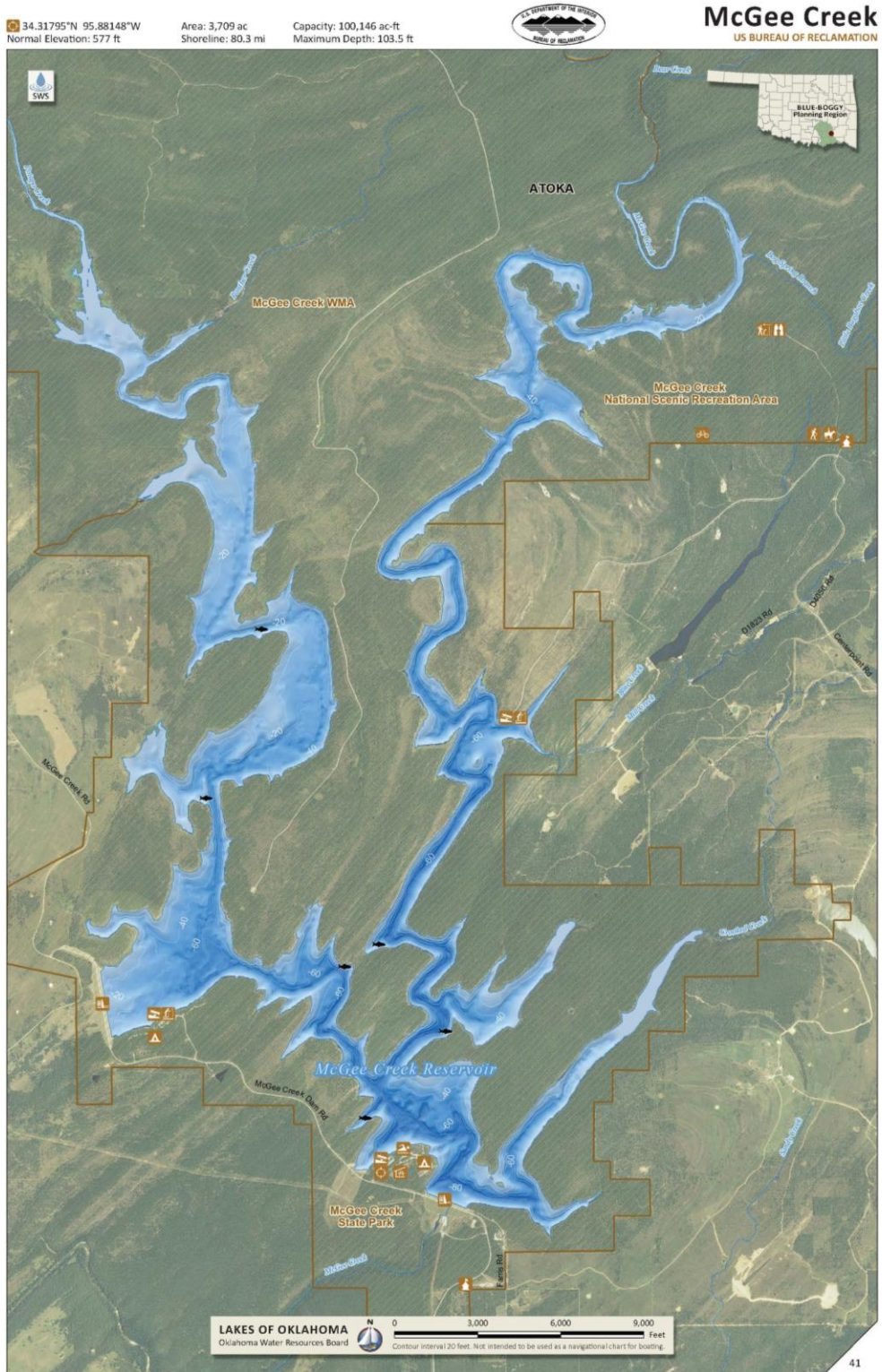


Figure 2.9 – McGee Creek Lake
 Source: Oklahoma Water Resources Board

The Flood Control Pool is established in the reservoir design to provide flexibility for fluctuating levels to control downstream flooding. Levels can vary within the active conservation pool from 577.5 feet MSL and below to the top of the flood control pool at 595.5 feet MSL. From the 1995 RMP/EA, facilities such as sanitary systems, comfort stations, and RV campgrounds may be placed in the area between 610 feet MSL and 595.5 feet MSL.

The minimum recreation design pool of 560 feet MSL takes into consideration the estimated low lake level due to draw-downs for municipal and industrial uses. The minimum design pool is the lowest operational elevation that water access facilities should be constructed if they are to be functional for most normal seasonal usage.



Figure 2.10 – Structural features of McGee Creek Dam

Above: Overflow spillway

Below: Downstream face of the impoundment



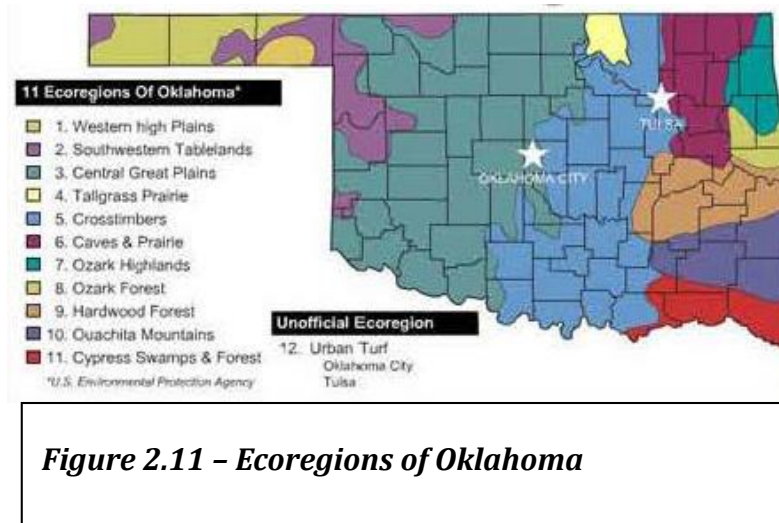


Figure 2.11 – Ecoregions of Oklahoma

Vegetative Cover

McGee Creek State Park is in the Oak-Hickory-Pine forest using the Kuchler Vegetation Classification. The area is in the “sub-tropical regime mountain” division and the Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow province.

The Lenihan Vegetation Classification identifies these areas with slightly different descriptors. The southern portion of Atoka County is in the South Mixed Forest. The vegetation associated with this area is identified as Oak-Pine.

Wildlife

As is true with all Oklahoma state parks, McGee Creek State Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Due to its location near two wildlife management areas, McGee Creek State Park serves a variety of roles for many forms of wildlife. For some, McGee Creek State Park is a temporary or seasonal habitat as part of the migratory movement of birds and animals through the area. For others, McGee Creek State Park may be the permanent habitat, providing an appropriate setting for the entire lifecycle.

Being adjacent to McGee Creek WMA (10,000 acres) and in proximity to Stringtown WMA (2,260 acres) enhances the variety and quantity of wildlife present within McGee Creek State Park. Quail, deer, rabbits, coyotes, raccoons, bobcats, doves, a wide variety of waterfowl, turkeys, and raptors may be observed within McGee Creek State Park or in the immediate area. Non-game species that are present include Bachman’s sparrow, brown creeper, various owls, and the eastern wood pewee. McGee Creek State Park is within the identified range for copperheads, timber rattlesnakes, western diamondback rattlesnakes, western pygmy rattlesnakes, and western cottonmouth.

Two large ranches are adjacent to the eastern boundary of McGee Creek State Park and adjacent to the southern boundary of the Natural Scenic Recreation Area. These ranches are encircled by high fences that restrict movement of most large wildlife. However, these ranches have included limited hunts for game species and have marketed their properties demonstrating benefits of being adjacent to McGee Creek State Park.

Nuisance Species

Feral hogs are present in Atoka County and have been observed throughout the county with populations dating back prior to 1970. The estimated feral hog density for Atoka County was moderate at 13 to 58 hogs per square mile for the majority of the county. However, higher densities were reported for those portions of Atoka County adjoining the Muddy Boggy Creek as it flows southward (Stevens, 2007). In those locations, the density of the feral hog population was abundant at 64 or more hogs per square mile.

Feral hogs were addressed as an issue for management in the 1995 RMP/EA. The background information stated:

“Historically, hogs have been allowed to freely roam the Project area since their introduction in the 1920’s. Periodically, they were rounded up and marked with ear notches, slaughtered, or taken to market. This type of hog ranching ended, for the most part, in the 1940’s.

Feral hogs thrive in sparsely populated wooded areas. While there is no definitive data setting a total population count, approximately one hundred are estimated to be in the WMA and the NSRA. Although they roam both areas, they tend to frequent the area of two NSRA trails called “Boars Run” and “Hog Camp.” Feral hogs can be very destructive to cultural resources, vegetation, and other animal species, such as birds, which nest on the ground. The hogs also directly and indirectly contribute to soil erosion. They are also a potential threat to the safety of park users.”

A second invasive species mentioned during the preparation of the RMP was the “Mexican buzzard,” accurately known as black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) also known as the American black vulture. Although protected, these vultures are quite aggressive, commonly serving as scavengers, eating carrion, but occasionally known to kill newborn animals. At McGee Creek, the numbers of Mexican buzzards gathering around the dam, the dike, and other roosting areas has become an “invasion” in numbers of large birds.

Additionally, resident Canada geese are beginning to become pests in portions of the park.

Endangered or Threatened Species

At present there are no state-listed threatened or endangered species listed for Atoka County. However, federally listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in Atoka County include: American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), and Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). The American burying beetle is listed as endangered, whereas the Piping Plover is listed as threatened.

The American Burying Beetle is believed to be present in southeastern Oklahoma. In its remaining territory, the beetle is listed as endangered regardless of where they are found. This is a large beetle, approximately one to one-and-a-half inches long, predominantly black with red or orange markings (Figure 2.12). According to ODWC, a pair of beetles will find a carcass “the size of a rat, bury it a few inches below the surface of the ground and lay a small clutch of 10 to 25 eggs on it.” Loss of habitat and reduction in available and suitable carcasses are believed to be primary causes in the reduction of the population.



**Figure 2.12 –
American
Burying Beetle**
Source: ODWC



Figure 2.13 - Piping plover
Source: ODWC

Piping plovers (Figure 2.13) are migratory shorebirds that prefer sandy beaches and mud flats. It is much more likely to find piping plovers in western Oklahoma, although it is possible they may be found in the upper reaches of McGee Creek Lake or along sandy shores.

According to representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, in 2015, the northern long-eared bat or northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) shown in Figure 2.14 was added to the threatened or

endangered species list for Atoka County. Such documentation was not available from other sources, but it is possible that these bats may be in the county at the far southwestern extent of their range.



Figure 2.14 - Northern long-eared bat
Source: University of Michigan

Accessibility

The Oklahoma State Parks Division strives for accessibility for those with disabilities in all its park locations and facilities and has an access plan for the Division. Many parks and facilities were designed and constructed before the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and well before the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) were developed. Further, by its very nature, the natural environment may not lend itself to easy access for those with mobility impairments.

The technical provisions of the ADA permit deviation from the stated guidelines. These provisions allow deviation from full compliance if accessibility cannot be provided because (1) compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious or significant natural features or characteristics; (2) substantially alter the nature of the setting or purpose of the facility; (3) require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by federal, state or local regulations or statutes; or (4) would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

In 2007, the United States Access Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for outdoor developed areas. The United States Access Board has since issued requirements that are now part of the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards and apply to national parks and other outdoor areas developed by the federal government. The final rule became effective on November 25, 2013. This does not apply to outdoor areas developed with federal grants or loans or to other entities. However, the Board has indicated it intends to develop guidelines for non-federal outdoor sites covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and areas developed with federal grants and loans covered by the ABA in subsequent rulemaking. In recent years, it has been the practice of OTRD to apply available standards once they are established, even if they are not yet in force for state parks. These rules and their associated interpretations have direct bearing on the consideration of access in McGee Creek State Park. The minimum requirements found in the NPRM for outdoor developed areas are based on several principles developed through the regulatory negotiating process. They include (U.S. Access Board, 2009):

1. Protect the resource and environment
2. Preserve the experience
3. Provide for equality of opportunity
4. Maximize accessibility
5. Be reasonable
6. Address safety
7. Be clear, simple, and understandable
8. Provide guidance
9. Be enforceable and measurable
10. Be consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (as much as possible)
11. Be based on independent use by persons with disabilities

Most of the trails within McGee Creek State Park are natural surfaces, although hard surface sidewalks have been installed in the developed areas leading to various buildings. Any one designated trail may make use of all or several surface types. If major trail redesign or construction were to occur, it would be important to ensure compliance with the ADA standards where appropriate. The NPRM addresses ten provisions that must be considered related to trail accessibility. These provisions are:

1. Surface – must be firm and stable
2. Clear tread width – minimum of 36 inches
3. Openings in surface – may not permit passage of sphere one-half inch in diameter
4. Protruding object – minimum of 80” of clear headroom above the trail
5. Tread obstacles – cannot exceed a maximum of two inches
6. Passing space – minimum of 60” by 60” at intervals of 1000’ or less
7. Slope – addresses cross slope and running slope
8. Resting intervals – at least 60” in width
9. Edge protection – not necessarily required, but may be provided
10. Signage – information on distance and departure from technical provisions

An example of possible signage for trails as suggested by the National Center on Accessibility is shown in Figure 2.15. As of 2010, no specific signs have been designated for universal communication related to accessible trails. However, these signs communicate the concept of accessibility in outdoor developed recreation spaces that include trails.

Other considerations related to access for persons with disabilities include “Braille trail” concepts that allow persons with visual limitations to enjoy the features of a trail. This is particularly true if the trail is interpretive in nature, with signs



Figure 2.15 - Accessible Trail Signage

communicating information related to natural, cultural, historic, or other significant topics related to the park environment.

In an effort to fully disclose the extent of accessibility within state parks, the Oklahoma State Park Division developed terms to describe two levels of access; these terms are used in State Parks publications: *accessible* and *usable*.

Accessible indicates that the park “substantially complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The facility is connected with a barrier-free-route-of-travel from an accessible parking area.”

Usable indicates that the “facility allows significant access. Some individuals with disabilities may have difficulty and need assistance. Due to topography and the primitive nature of some sites, parking and connecting routes may not be accessible to all with disabilities” (OTRD, 2007).

OTRD began development of the properties at McGee Creek State Park simultaneously with the passage of the ADA; thus, most of the established structures meet the requirements of the law as of the date of the construction of the individual feature. In several locations, Oklahoma State Parks has added accessible restrooms, developed hard surface campsites, installed walkways, and made other efforts to improve accessibility and remain current with legal requirements. The existing trails in these properties are not currently accessible trails, and such modification may not be desirable. The natural terrain varies considerably and is quite rocky; in addition, the environment includes vulnerable species. Thus, ADAAG-defined accessibility to every area of the park is not practical, nor necessarily desirable.

Throughout McGee Creek State Park, it will be necessary to complete a thorough review of accessibility. In addition, and in light of continuous updating, new rule-making, and interpretation of rules on-going vigilance related to accessibility is required.

An example of this rule-making and interpretation took effect March 15, 2011 under the Department of Justice ruling that specified “other power-driven mobility devices” (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by individuals with mobility limitations. At present, the expectation is that the operating entity (OTRD) shall “make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of OPDMD cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted based on actual risks” (American Trails, 2011).

Another example of interpretation of rules took place in mid-2014 with publication of *7 Things Every Playground Owner Should Know about the Accessibility of their Playground Surfaces* by the U.S. Access Board and the National Center on Accessibility.

Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

McGee Creek State Park is one of the more recent additions to the Oklahoma State Park system. The McGee Creek project was authorized by the U.S. Congress on September 28, 1976, by Public Law 94-123. Both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation started construction of the lake in June, 1982, and completed it in June, 1987. Dam gates were closed to fill the lake on April 2, 1987. The State of Oklahoma, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, leased 2,600 acres from the Bureau of Reclamation in August 1983 for establishment of a state park. Initial development of the park was completed and the park was opened to the public on May 28, 1988. As stated earlier in the history of the McGee Creek project, McGee Creek State Park shares the larger project with McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area and the McGee Creek Water Authority.

The map on the following page, Figure 3.2, provides an overview of the features of McGee Creek State Park. These facilities are detailed in the following discussion. For ease of presentation, the discussion and presentation begins at the main entrance to the property comprising McGee Creek State Park and proceeds north along the main road through the property. The NSRA is then presented as a distinct unit of management.

For all visitors entering McGee Creek State Park by automobile, the only highway access route is along McGee Creek Dam Road. Most visitors would turn north from State Highway 3 in Farris, although some local traffic may access the park from State Highway 43 along rural roads to the north of the park.

Figure 3.1 shows the boundaries of McGee Creek State Park (yellow outline) and the NSRA (blue outline) overlaid on aerial photography from Google Earth. This figure shows the location along McGee Creek Dam Road and the relationship between the impounded lake, the main body of the park, and the NSRA.

By contrast Figure 3.2 on the following page shows the developed portions of this property, about one half of the southwestern side of the lake. This map is based on the portable document file (PDF) provided on the OTRD website.

Entry Drive and Environs

The environs surrounding McGee Creek State Park are mixed hardwood and pine covered hills. The area is quite rural with pastures and tilled croplands adjoining the highway access into the park.

McGee Creek Lake Road, also identified as NS402 Road, is paved from SH 3 to and through the state park. Within the park, this road becomes McGee Creek Dam Road.

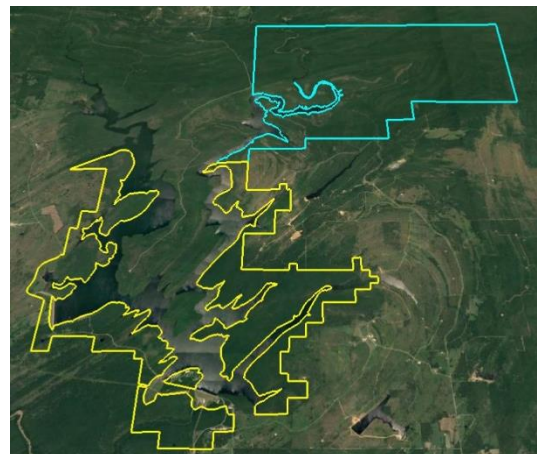


Figure 3.1 – Boundaries of McGee Creek State Park and NSRA

Background from Google Earth

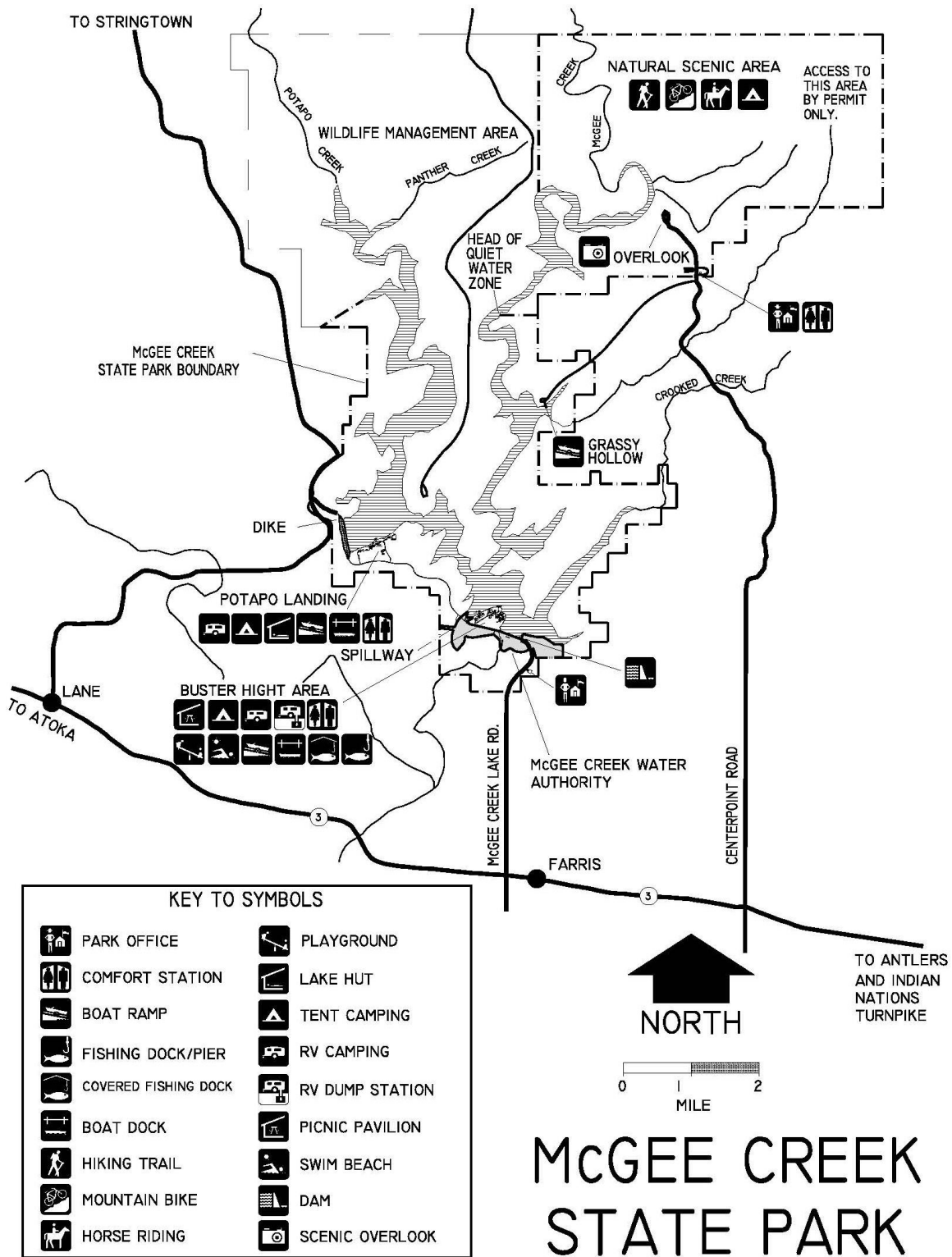


Figure 3.2 - Map of McGee Creek State Park



Figure 3.3 – Signage along SH 3



Figure 3.3 depicts the signage along SH 3 at the intersection with McGee Creek Dam Road. At this location, SH 3 is a two lane highway permitting speeds of up to 65 miles per hour. SH 3 is a well-traveled route between Atoka and Antlers. Figure 3.3 also shows the rural, agricultural environment common to this part of Oklahoma.

Once a visitor turns north along McGee Creek Dam Road, the rural pastoral landscape continues for about two miles. In recent years, private development has occurred along McGee Creek Dam Road within about a mile to the south of the park entrance. This private development (Figure 3.4) includes a small convenience store, storage units for boats and recreational vehicles, several cabins, campgrounds, and additional private recreational development.



Figure 3.4 – Development along McGee Creek Dam Road



South Entry

The main entrance into McGee Creek State Park is clearly identified with a wood and rock sign as shown in Figure 3.5. In addition to the signage marking the park's boundary, additional signs posted along the fence line identify the state park as a game refuge.

Additional speed limit signs and mowed roadsides are indications to park visitors that they are entering a more congested and managed area than is true to the south of the park. Once within McGee Creek State Park, the first developed area encountered by a visitor includes the visitor center, park office and park store.



Figure 3.5 – South entry to McGee Creek State Park



Visitor Center and Adjacent Area

Signs along McGee Creek Dam Road direct visitors to the Visitor Center which also serves as the park office and gift shop. Figure 3.6 depicts the visitor center as does a photograph on the front cover of the RMP. Access to the Visitor Center is provided by a “loop entry and exit” permitting larger vehicles to have easy access. The Visitor Center is supported by six to eight parking spots visible to the right in Figure 3.6. Additional features that identify the park office and enhance the area are a flag pole, bird feeders, landscaping and plantings.

Less apparent to visitors is an area to the southeast of the park office. A short entry drive from the parking lot provides access to the park residence (Figure 3.7 on the following page). The wooded environment common to this area is evident in Figure 3.7.



Figure 3.6 – Visitor Center, Park Office, and Gift Shop



Figure 3.7 – Park residence

Northeast of the park office there is a large metal building that is visible to visitors. This maintenance building and adjacent fenced maintenance area is shown in Figure 3.8 below. While this area can be accessed from the parking lot by the visitor center, the more proper access route into the maintenance area is by a short drive from the main road just north of the visitor center. This area is fenced and gated for security.



Figure 3.8 – Maintenance area

McGee Creek Water Authority

The McGee Creek Water Authority offices and facilities are located further along the drive providing access to the maintenance area (Figure 3.9). This road is not intended for access by the general public, although there is no signage other than that shown in Figure 3.9 to discourage park visitors from entering the area. The complex of development in this location includes a residence for the manager of the Authority, maintenance facilities, an office supported by a loop driveway and adequate parking, and the rural water district tower. In addition, there is a “helipad” associated with the Authority development.

The McGee Creek Authority is a public trust created under Title 60, Oklahoma Statutes, in August 1977. The beneficiaries of the McGee Creek Authority are the City of Atoka, the City of Oklahoma City, and Atoka County. The McGee Creek Authority utilizes the office and facilities at this location for much of their operation. This portion of the property and additional segments near the dam (Figure 1.2 and Figure 3.2) are not part of McGee Creek State Park.



Figure 3.9 - The McGee Creek Water Authority

Buster Hight Area

McGee Creek Dam Road swings westward in its route leading generally north through the park. Just beyond the Visitor Center, the road crosses the dam forming McGee Creek Lake. The next roadway to the right, somewhat north of the McGee Creek Dam Road, leads to the Buster Hight Area. A map of the Buster Hight area is shown in Figure 3.11 on the following page. For ease of description, the respective developments are detailed from the entry into the area to the most extreme northeastern portion of this area.

Immediately to the left (northwest) of the entry drive there is a large parking lot designed to accommodate 40 to 50 vehicles towing boat trailers. Figure 3.10 shows the multi-lane boat ramp with lights, supported by an accessible courtesy dock, vault toilet, and parking area. A monument also commemorates Buster Hight as the namesake for this area.



Figure 3.10 – Boat ramp and amenities in Buster Hight area

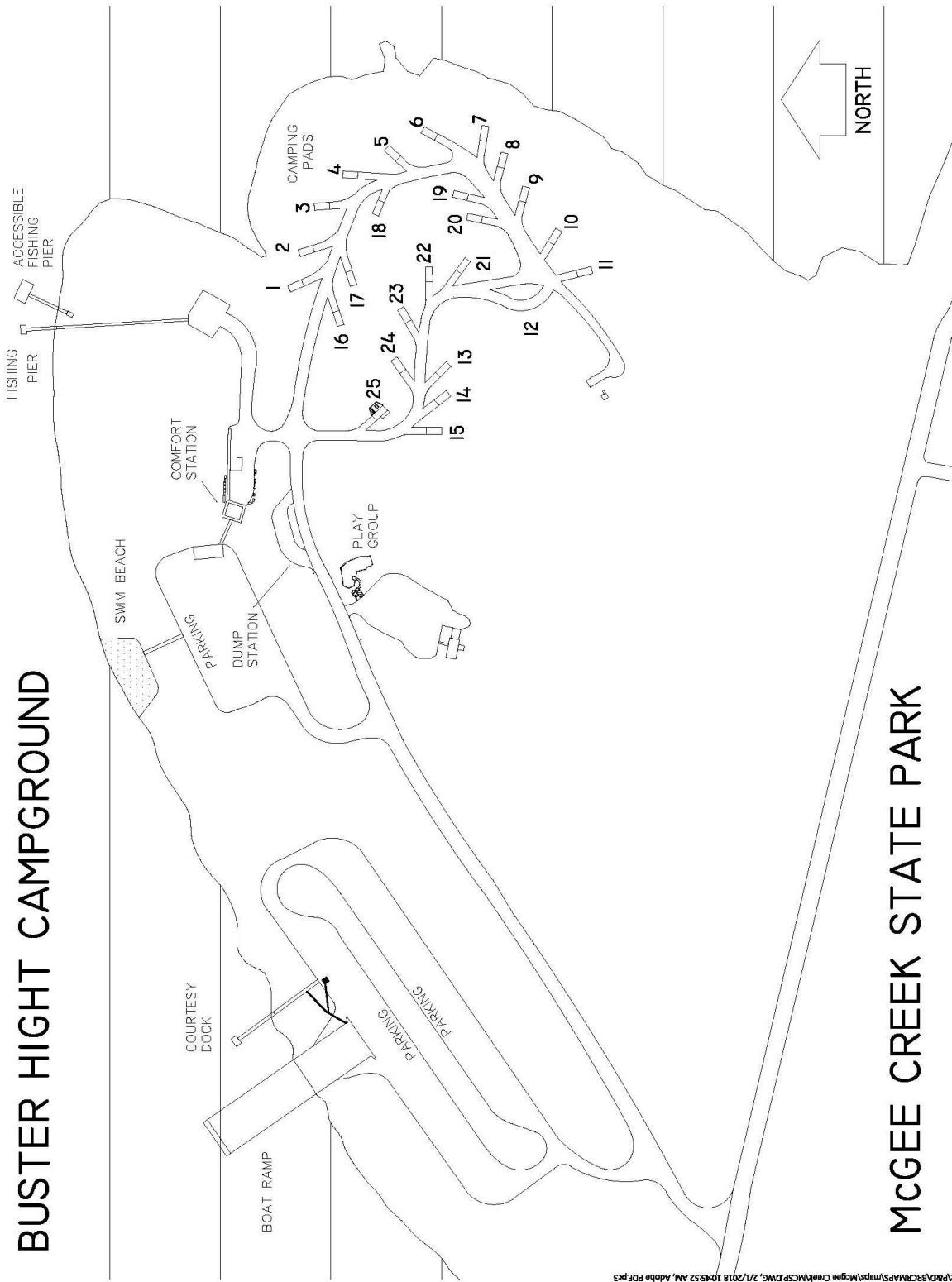


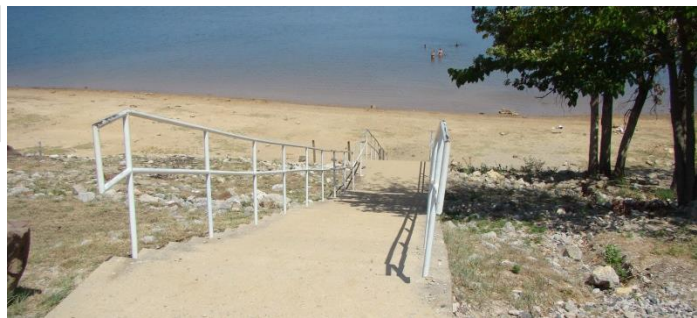
Figure 3.11 - Map of Buster Hight area

Buster Hight Swimming Beach

Continuing along the entry drive into Buster Hight, a visitor will notice a second parking area along the left side of the road leading to the swimming beach (Figure 3.12). This gravel parking lot will accommodate 80 – 100 cars. At the time of preparation of the RMP the parking lot was being resurfaced with materials stored on the lot.



Figure 3.12 – Beach area



Due to the topography of the area, access to the beach requires a walk downhill or down the stairway shown in Figure 3.12. Swimmers may access the comfort station in the campground since it is located adjacent to the east end of the parking lot.

Buster Hight Fishing Pier and Boat Dock

Beyond the comfort station that serves this area, a parking lot for about a dozen vehicles supports access to a covered fishing pier (Figure 3.13) and boat dock. A paved trail leads to the fishing pier with spurs leading to campsites or picnic sites along the way. This walkway and the fishing pier are accessible for persons with mobility limitations.

Figure 3.13 – Fishing pier and walkway



Buster Hight Campground and Day Use Area

The central core of the Buster Hight area, located to the right or south along the roadway, is developed as a campground and also includes a day use area. The diversity of facilities in this area and the resulting diversity of types of visitors attracted to the area are shown in Figure 3.14. The comfort station is centrally located permitting access from the beach, from the fishing pier, and from the undeveloped and developed camping areas. In addition, day visitors using the picnic area or the playground may access the comfort station.

A pavilion and a playgroup are situated at the crest of the hill within Buster Hight area. The pavilion shown in Figure 3.15 includes several portable picnic tables. Additional picnic tables are distributed around the area. The parking lot for this area is natural soil. The designated picnic area is defined by a split rail fence.

Horseshoe pits and an accessible playgroup are located adjacent to the pavilion and serve campers and day visitors alike. The playgroup is compliant with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines and ADA requirements. In addition, parking and access to the playgroup comply with ADA requirements. This playgroup is designed to meet the play needs of children age five to twelve. The parking area and the playgroup are shown in Figure 3.15.

Additional amenities in Buster Hight are intended for use by overnight campers. A campground offering unimproved camping designed for tents is located between the comfort station and the fishing pier. A campground designed for recreational vehicles with individual pads is located



Figure 3.14 – Amenities within Buster Hight



Figure 3.15 – Pavilion with amenities in Buster Hight





Figure 3.16 – Unimproved camping area in Buster Hight



along the main roadway. The roadway makes a one-way loop with the RV pads designed as “back-in” campsites. The first group of unimproved campsites is shown in Figure 3.16. The number of campsites is “unspecified” but is somewhat defined by available picnic tables. Additional unimproved campsites are located along the entry drive into Buster Hight close to the boat ramp area.

In contrast, the RV campground is well defined with each site having a hard surface pad, electricity, water, and picnic table. Eleven of the 25 sites include 50-amp electrical service.



Figure 3.17 – RV Campground in Buster Hight

Table 3.1 – Campground Detail for Buster Hight Campground

Campground amenity	Buster Hight Campground
Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)	25 sites
Unimproved (no utilities)	Unspecified number of sites
Pavilion (capacity of 60)	1 with water & electricity
Playgroup	1
Comfort station	1, including showers

Figure 3.18 depicts several other important amenities in the Buster Hight area. First, the comfort station is centrally located and serves multiple use nodes within the area. A dump station is adjacent to the comfort station, providing easy access for campers leaving the campground. Within the RV campground, there is a building that formerly housed a water treatment facility, now used as a storage building. To the south of the entry drive and somewhat elevated above the entry drive there is a sewage lagoon to serve this area. Due to the elevation, the two-cell sewage lagoon is only minimally visible for most visitors.



Figure 3.18 – Amenities in Buster Hight
 Above: storage building
 Right: lagoons
 Below: comfort station and dump station





Figure 3.19 – Undesignated lake access

McGee Creek Dam Road area

Upon leaving the Buster Hight area and turning right, a visitor will cross the spillway shown in Figure 2.10 on page 26. The drive along McGee Creek Dam Road at this location provides views of the lake to the north and east, with a broad vista across the spillway to the south and west.

Although not a named area, there are locations along McGee Creek Dam Road that have become recreational access locations. One such location is shown in Figure 3.19. The area to the north of McGee Creek Dam Road from this location to Potapo Landing is known as the “Finger Area.” In the 1995 RMP/EA the “Finger Area” was considered to be a special kind of landscape with numerous protected coves, pines on the side slopes, and scattered pines on most uplands. Ridges in this area trend northeast to southwest with some very steep areas near the tips of the peninsulas. Allowing access to such areas as that shown in Figure 3.19 increases opportunities for erosion, reduction of water quality, and deterioration of the groundcover.

Middle Pond Primitive Area

To the south of McGee Creek Dam Road, a short unpaved drive enters an area called Middle Pond (Figure 3.21 on the following page). Unimproved camping is permitted in this area, although other activities are also occurring. Middle Pond is a small impoundment offering a wetlands environment

Figure 3.20 – Middle Pond Primitive Area





Figure 3.21 – Middle Pond



contrasting to the larger lake. During the time of preparation of the RMP, visitors to Middle Pond have trashed the surrounding area, leaving unacceptable residue in an area designated as a “primitive area.”

Potapo Area

Continuing northward on McGee Creek Dam Road, the next developed recreation area that a visitor will encounter is Potapo Landing. As indicated in Figure 3.22, Potapo Area is two miles from Buster Hight and 3.5 miles from the park office. In this location, Potapo Area is the northern-most developed recreation area with McGee Creek State Park. On various materials, this area is identified as Potapo Area as well as Potapo Landing. Both terms refer to this recreation node within McGee Creek State Park. Figure 3.23 on the following page shows the general layout of Potapo Landing development.



Figure 3.22 – Entry to Potapo Area

Road access to Potapo Landing is provided by a loop through the area with two points of entry from McGee Creek Dam Road. The first entry road encountered by a visitor coming from the main portion of the park leads northward into the developed area. This road then splits with a roadway leading to the right (east) and the Lake Hut area, while the main road continues southwestward parallel to the lakeshore. After a short distance and passing through the campground, the road turns south to rejoin McGee Creek Dam Road. For ease of presentation, the following discussion follows this counter-clockwise route.

The first developed node encountered by a visitor within Potapo Landing includes a trailhead on the right side of the roadway and an unimproved campground with four defined campsites on the left side. Several parking spots are available for visitors choosing to walk the trail. In addition, a vault toilet is located within the campground.



Figure 3.24 – Unimproved camping in Potapo Area



The four campsites in the unimproved campground are quite shaded as shown in Figure 3.24 and generally defined by a concrete picnic table. The vault toilet is marked as being accessible and is adjoined by a hard surface parking space. However, there is a distinct elevation change from the surrounding soil to the base of this facility that could be difficult for a person with mobility limitations to navigate.

Across the road from the unimproved campground is a trailhead for the Potapo Hill trail. The trail is a natural surface loop leading from this location through the wooded area toward the Lake Huts and returning. There is moderate change in elevation along the trail route.



Figure 3.25 – Potapo Hill trailhead

Potapo Landing Lake Huts

A short distance beyond the unimproved campground, a right turn takes a visitor into the Lake Hut area. Eight lake huts are arrayed along a road spur. Each Lake Hut is approximately 12’x 24’ in size with wooden floors, glassed windows, fireplaces, heating/air conditioning units, screened-in back porch, table and chairs and one set of bunk beds with mattresses although guests provide their own bedding or linens. Each hut has a sleeping capacity of 4 – 6 persons.

Figure 3.26a – Lake Huts
Right: comfort station
Below: Lake Hut



As shown in Figure 3.26a, the Lake Huts have a separate comfort station designated in this area.



LAKE HUTS

MC GEE CREEK STATE PARK



McGee Creek State Park
 576A McGee Creek Lake Rd.
 Atoka, Oklahoma 74525

Reservations
 580-889-5822
 Fax
 580-889-7868



email:
mcgeecreek@oklahomaparks.com

McGee Creek State Park has eight Lake Huts located near the Potapo Campground. Although rustic in appearance these huts provide shelter from the elements that Mother Nature can unleash whether it is rain or the summer heat.

The huts are approximately 12 feet in width and 24 feet in length, and each has a screened in back porch overlooking the lake.

The accommodations include one set of bunk beds with mattresses, table, chairs, fireplace and heat/air conditioning . There are no linens. Water and a bar-b-que grill are available outside each Hut. A restroom with showers is within walking distance.

These huts are available for reservation through the park office or by calling 580-889-5822 during normal business hours.

Discounts are available for Senior Citizens and Totally Disabled. 



Person making reservations and occupying Hut must be 21 years of age or older and will be responsible for payment of all charges for the accommodations, including any damages by the occupants, or guest of the occupants.



Firewood not Supplied



Figure 3.26b - Lake Huts



Figure 3.27 – Potapo Landing boat ramp and courtesy dock

Potapo Landing Boat Ramp Area

Returning from the Lake Hut area to the main road through Potapo Landing, a visitor enters an area designed for lake access. Figure 3.27 depicts the multi-lane boat ramp and accessible courtesy dock at this location. Due to elevation change from the parking lot to the water level, a hard surface walkway provides an accessible route to the courtesy dock.



Figure 3.28 – Stairway to comfort station

The elongated parking lot at the boat ramp parallels the lakeshore and is designed to permit vehicles with boat trailers to have easy access to the ramp or to maneuver through the parking lot. Steep elevation change from the water level to the parking lot is shown in Figure 3.27, with elevation change continuing in Figure 3.28 mediated by a stairway leading to a comfort station that serves this area and the campground. The roadway also circles uphill permitting vehicles to provide access to the comfort station for visitors who choose not to walk uphill.

Potapo Area Recreation Vehicle Campground

At the west end of the parking lot, a one-way road exits the boat ramp area and leads to the RV campground. The road continues through the campground to eventually exit onto McGee Creek Dam Road. Visitors may also circle through the parking lot and return via the road on which they had entered Potapo Area.



Figure 3.29 – Directional sign in Potapo Area



Figure 3.30 – Potapo area RV campsite and comfort station

Potapo Area RV Campground has 16 paved, semi-modern campsites, although one campsite was out of service at the time of preparation of the RMP. Fifteen of these campsites are designed as back-in sites, while one is a pull-through campsite. As shown in Figure 3.30, the comfort station is quite traditional in design, common to many Oklahoma State Parks. By contrast, the RV campsites are landscaped, many with “patios” extending from the concrete spur. For protection from falls due to the elevation changes, most of these campsites include fences integrated into the campsite design. These campsites include electrical service and water. The comfort station shown in Figure 3.30 also serves the Potapo Landing boat ramp area.

Table 3.2 – Campground Detail for Potapo Campground

Campground amenity	Potapo Campground
Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)	16 sites
Unimproved (no utilities)	4 sites
Trail	1
Comfort station	2, including showers
Lake Huts	8

Potapo Area Waste Management and Utilities

The one-way road continues through Potapo Campground and turns south before intersecting with McGee Creek Dam Road. A two-cell sewage lagoon (Figure 3.31) and other important waste management structures are located near the intersection of the two routes. Multiple dumpsters are located here with easy access for campers and other visitors leaving the Potapo Area. The lagoon area, tank and building are within appropriate fencing, well-marked, whereas the dumpsters are located outside the fenced area.

The tank and building shown in Figure 3.31 is a former water treatment plant and the large white tank served as water storage. This utility has now been replaced by water service supplied by a rural water district.



Figure 3.31 - Sewage lagoon, waste management, and former water treatment within Potapo Area



Figure 3.32 – Sign at dike and north entry

North Entry and Dike

Upon returning to McGee Creek Dam Road and turning right, a visitor will see a broad, open expanse with the lake on the right side. The dike is well-marked as shown in Figure 3.32. Just beyond the dike, McGee Creek Dam Road intersects with a county road. This north entry to McGee Creek State Park is also marked by a sign as shown in Figure 3.32.

The boundary of McGee Creek State Park parallels the county road to the north for about a mile. Then the boundary continues northward before intersecting with the lake. At this point McGee Creek State Park borders the McGee Creek WMA. While the border of the state park is marked, this area remains natural.

Grassy Hollow and East Side of State Park

The boundaries of McGee Creek State Park continue eastward, then northward, from McGee Creek Dam Road. The boundaries incorporate the arm of the lake formed by Crooked Creek and the main arm surrounding McGee Creek. A private ranch borders the park at this point and limits access from the east side of the park. One public access into McGee Creek State Park is available at Grassy Hollow.

Grassy Hollow and the Natural Scenic Recreation Area (NSRA) are the primary public portions along the eastern side of McGee Creek reservoir. Both areas are accessed by way of Centerpoint Road north from State Highway 3 (Figure 3.33). The road is most easily identified by a country store at the intersection of Centerpoint Road and SH 3. Grassy Hollow and the NSRA are about 10 miles north of SH 3. Centerpoint Road is bordered on both sides by private property.

Approximately 10 miles north of SH 3, a visitor will come to an intersection marked for Grassy Hollow boat ramp. The intersection is outside of the boundaries of McGee Creek State Park. The route to



Figure 3.33 – SH 3 sign for NSRA

Grassy Hollow boat ramp continues for about two miles toward the southwest before a visitor re-enters the state park property.

Re-entry into McGee Creek State Park is marked by signage shown in Figure 3.35. The Grassy Hollow area includes several items also depicted in Figure 3.35. Among these amenities are the boat ramp and courtesy dock, a primitive parking lot, and a vault toilet. Several primitive and undefined campsites are scattered around the parking lot. Proximity to the WMA is revealed in the large sign at this location.

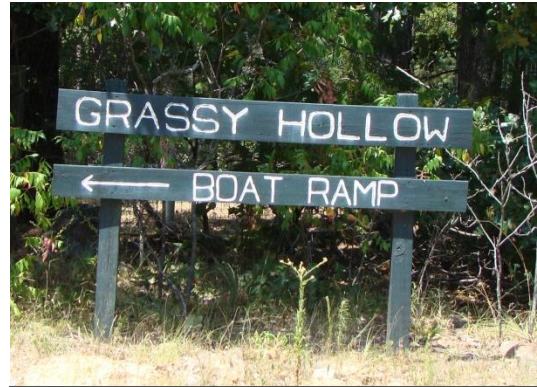


Figure 3.34 – Directional sign for Grassy Hollow Boat Ramp



Figure 3.35 – Grassy Hollow





Figure 3.36 – Entry to NSRA

McGee Creek Natural Scenic Recreation Area

Returning the two miles to Centerpoint Road, a visitor can turn left (north) into the McGee Creek Natural Scenic Recreation Area. Entry into the NSRA is clearly marked as shown in Figure 3.36 with multiple signs and an entry gate. Entry into the NSRA requires a permit available at the office immediately to the right at the entry gate. The office is the western portion of a building that also serves as a park residence. Across the entry drive and west of the office there is a fenced parking area for overnight visitors to the NSRA to store their vehicles and property. The roadway loops around the building before returning to Centerpoint Road. On the eastern portion of this

loop there is a maintenance drive, gated and fenced, that leads to a well house. Further west, beyond the fenced parking area and out of view is a two-cell lagoon.



Figure 3.37 – Residence and office area in NSRA

Left: office and residence
 Below left: fenced parking
 Below right: gated roadway



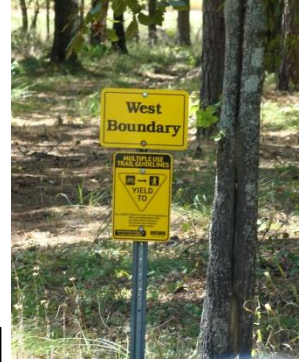


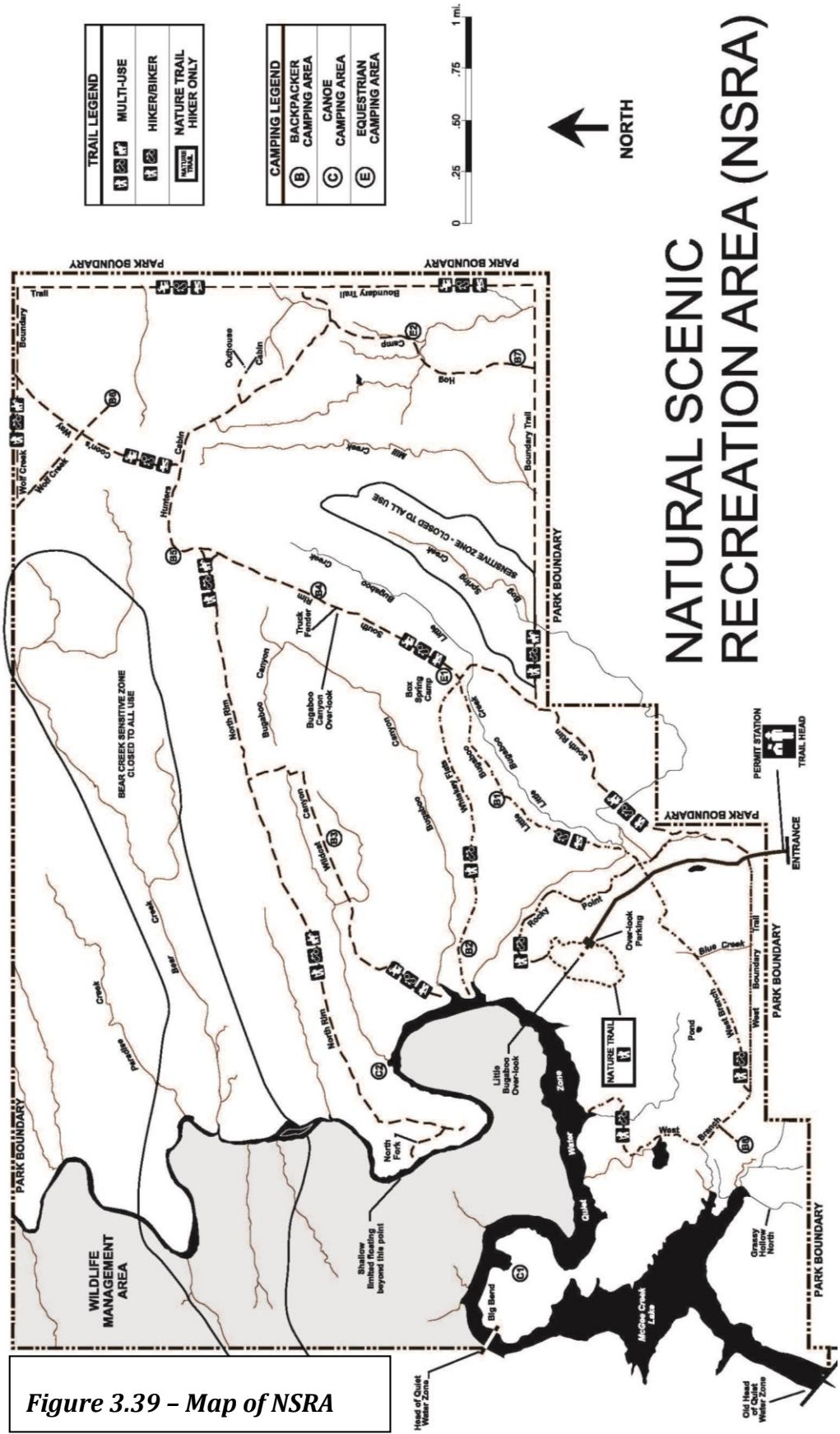
Figure 3.38 – Trails, trail markers, and amenities at NSRA parking lot



Centerpoint Road then continues north from the office and entry area into the south-central portion of the Natural Scenic Recreation Area. Approximately one mile into the NSRA, a visitor will come to a parking lot as the limit for vehicular traffic. Along the route and upon arrival at the parking lot, a visitor will have encountered numerous yellow signs (Figure 3.38) identifying various trails, trail crossings, and trail heads. Trails throughout the NSRA are well-marked for equestrians, hikers, mountain bikes, or multiple use.

Prominent features for many hikers in the NSRA are Little Bugaboo Overlook and Bugaboo Canyon Overlook. An area in the southeastern portion of the NSRA designated Bog Spring Creek is closed to all visitor use as is a larger area in the northern reaches designated Bear Creek Sensitive Zone. In contrast, in the northeastern portion of the NSRA along Hunter Cabin trail there is a primitive cabin and outhouse for visitor use.

A map with several of these details and additional trail identification is shown in Figure 3.39 on the following page. For this map, north is to the left. This 8,900-acre natural environment borders the McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area enhancing the habitat for wildlife and the natural features of the area.



NATURAL SCENIC RECREATION AREA (NSRA)

Figure 3.39 - Map of NSRA

<p style="text-align: center;">MCGEE CREEK NATURAL SCENIC RECREATION AREA (NSRA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PERMIT FORM</p> <p>NAME OF PERSON/GROUP: _____</p> <p>NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY: _____</p> <p>DATE: _____</p> <p>STARTING TIME: _____</p> <p>ESTIMATED DAY AND TIME OF RETURN TO PERMIT STATION: _____</p> <hr/> <p>LENGTH OF STAY:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HALF DAY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FULL DAY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OVERNIGHT</p> <p>_____ NUMBER OF NIGHTS</p> <p>TYPE OF USE:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BICYCLE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HIKER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EQUESTRIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>DESIGNATED CAMPING AREA: (Circle One)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">B-1</td> <td style="width: 25%;">B-5</td> <td style="width: 25%;">C-1</td> <td style="width: 25%;">E-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-2</td> <td>B-6</td> <td>C-2</td> <td>E-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-3</td> <td>B-7</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-4</td> <td>B-8</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>NAME OF INITIAL TRAIL TO BE USED: _____</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Please place the YELLOW COPY of this form in the YELLOW BOX. Keep this WHITE COPY while you're on the trail; place in the WHITE BOX upon your RETURN to this contract station.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Thank you for completing the trail survey which is on the back of this form.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">revised 7/98</p>	B-1	B-5	C-1	E-1	B-2	B-6	C-2	E-2	B-3	B-7			B-4	B-8			<p style="text-align: center;">TRAIL SURVEY</p> <p>Comments and suggestions regarding the condition of the McGee Creek trails that you used. Which trails were you on? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What was the condition of the designated camping areas? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Were the trail signs and maps easy to understand? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Are additional signs needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>If yes, which locations would you suggest? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What wildlife did you observe? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Thank you for any suggestions you wish to make regarding ways that the NSRA and its trail system can be improved. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Thank you for completing this survey. We hope you had an enjoyable trail outing.</p>
B-1	B-5	C-1	E-1														
B-2	B-6	C-2	E-2														
B-3	B-7																
B-4	B-8																

Figure 3.40 – Permit and survey for McGee Creek NSRA

The Natural Scenic Recreation Area was established with a specific management strategy intended to preserve the ‘wilderness experience’ via a permit system. Visitors entering the NSRA are required to complete the permit form shown in Figure 3.40. The backside of the permit is a survey also shown in Figure 3.40. The permit system is one aspect of the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) described in Appendix B of the 1995 RMP/EA. That plan established a Maximum Daily Limit (MDL) for specific types and numbers of recreation visitors. Factors that were utilized to establish the initial per mile MDLs included:

- Wilderness-type experience (user density)
- Resource preservation (user impacts): set as bikers at 2:1; Equestrian at 10:1; and hikers at 1:1
- User demand (activity distribution): set as bikers at 1.0:1; Equestrian at 2.0:1; and hikers at 4.5:1
- Projected use (maximum use based on 32 miles of trails)
 - Annual: 40% of 20,000 to 60,000 = 8,000 to 24,000
 - Peak day: 1% = 80 to 240
- 20% of users are campers
- 4:1 ratio for land access hikers versus water access hikers

Permits were to be issued for each user type and are not interchangeable. The following table reproduced from the 1995 RMP/EA established the detail of each MDL on an activity basis.

Table 3.3 – Maximum Daily Limits
(users/mile/day)

	Multi-use trails	Biker/Hiker only	Hiker only
Biker	1.0	4.1	0
Equestrian	2.0	0	0
Hiker – land access	3.6	14.6	21.2
Hiker – water access	0.9	3.7	5.3
Total users/mile	7.5	22.4	26.5
Camper 20% of total users	(1.5)	(4.5)	(5.3)
Impact units	26.5	26.5	26.5
Half-day user	40 vehicles maximum (4 hour limit)		
Boater/fishermen	No limit (shoreline area access only)		

The 1995 RMP/EA went into further detail based upon miles of trail. As of 1993, the trail system consisted of 19.5 miles of multi-use trails, 8 miles of hiker-biker trails, one mile of hiker-only trails, for an approximate total of 28.5 miles of trail. The maximum trail system at that time was estimated to be 45 miles. This plan produced the following trail capacities for the NSRA.

Table 3.4 – McGee Creek NSRA Trail Capacity

Type	Open	Unopened	Total miles	Users per mile	Total users
Multi-use	19.5	14.7	34.4	7.5	258
Hiker/Biker	7.8	14.7	10.5	22.4	235
Total			44.9		493

The preferred plan for operation of the NSRA called for maintenance of the current permit system established in 1995. Boaters intending to access the shore, trails or campsites in the NSRA would continue to be required to acquire permits under the same rules applied to other users of the NSRA. The permit system was not in use for a period of time as shown in Table 3.5, but has been re-established as of 2015. Current use is well below MDLs for the NSRA.

Table 3.5 – Natural Scenic Area Permits – McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Permits recorded
2012	N/A
2013	N/A
2014	N/A
2015	383
2016	629

Hiking/Walking/Riding Trails

As stated in the foregoing discussion related to the NSRA, the 1993 estimate of 45 miles of trail was updated during the RMP process. Materials provided by Oklahoma State Parks state: “this wildness-type area, with over 25 miles of mountain biking, hiking and equestrian trails, abounds with wildlife.” The estimate of trail mileage and designated purpose as of 2016 is as follows:

- Hikers only (2.4 miles)
 - 1.4 miles > Potapo Hill Loop trail in Potapo Landing;
 - 1.0 mile > Carnasaw Nature Trail in NSRA;
- Hikers, equestrian and mountain bikes (12 miles)
 - 1.5 miles > West Boundary Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.0 mile > South Rim Trail in NSRA;
 - 3.5 miles > North Rim Trail in NSRA;
 - 4.0 miles > Boundary Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.0 mile > Coon’s Way in NSRA;
 - 1.0 mile > Wildcat Canyon Trail in NSRA;
- Hikers and mountain bikes (8.75 miles)
 - 1.0 mile > West Branch of West Boundary Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.0 mile > Rocky Point Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.0 mile > Little Bugaboo Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.5 miles > Whiskey Flats Trail in NSRA;
 - 1.5 miles > Hog Camp Trail in NSRA;
 - 2.0 miles > Hunter’s Cabin Trail in NSRA;
 - 0.75 mile > Wolf Creek Trail in NSRA.

Several of these trails extend beyond the state park boundaries into the Wildlife Management Area. As a result, the network of trails available to visitors may be more extensive than indicated on maps. In addition, water access adds a number of trail routes.

Discussion during preparation of the RMP included comments related to planned trails. The primary trail desired by park management would be a trail for hikers linking the developed areas (Buster Hight and Potapo Landing) in the main area of the park.

Property Summary at McGee Creek State Park

McGee Creek State Park is one of three partners associated with the larger McGee Creek project. As detailed earlier, the other partners include the McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area and the McGee Water Authority. McGee Creek State Park is comprised of 5,500 acres under the Division of State Parks leased by OTRD from the Bureau of Reclamation. The principal developed portions of McGee Creek State Park are located along the south and southwestern portion of the reservoir, although managed park property wraps around the east side of the reservoir. The lease by OTRD from Reclamation also placed the 8,900-acre Natural Scenic Recreation Area under management of OTRD as part of the State Park. Park documents describe management of the NSRA as being based on four concepts: (1) a quiet water zone, (2) a wilderness-type recreational experience, (3) non-motorized activities, and (4) preservation of natural and cultural resources.

Public Access and Entry Aesthetics

Two primary county roads provide access to McGee Creek State Park. As shown in several figures earlier in the RMP, McGee Creek Dam Road leads north from State Highway 3 into the developed portion of McGee Creek State Park. Although this road links with several other county roads from the north, the primary access into the park is from the south. The second primary county road leading to the Natural Scenic Recreation Area is Centerpoint Road. The entry corridor along both of these county roads is rural in nature, wooded and relatively undeveloped.

Park Visitation

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor – but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At McGee Creek State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park to utilize the restroom or for other purposes. The physical location of McGee Creek State Park along McGee Creek Dam Road, a public roadway, means that some motorists driving through without stopping would be park visitors.

Other aspects of park visitation can be calculated more accurately. This would include those situations in which there is an exchange of a fee for a specific service. As a result, the following discussion reports total visitation to McGee Creek State Park and specific usage of particular areas within the park.

For clarity in understanding of visitation patterns, total park visitation is presented in the following discussion. This would include campers and day visitors, as well as guests in the Lake Huts.

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Visitation for McGee Creek State Park has varied considerably during the past five years based on comment from management and in reported numbers. This variability is linked to water levels in the lake, economic factors related to travel expenses, and possible change in accuracy of reporting following change in management personnel. Park visitors include pass-through sightseers, anglers, boaters, picnickers, and many other recreational visitors. Every vehicle driving McGee Creek Dam Road includes park visitors. Overnight visitors include campers who spend one or more nights within McGee Creek State Park.

Under traditional management practices, determining the number of campsites rented is more accurate than is the calculation of total visitors to the park. Total number of visitors should not be interpreted as “individuals” in that numerous individuals are repeat visitors to the park on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis. In addition, guests may enter the park, leave the park, and return to the park multiple times on a single visit. In such cases, traffic counters would record each entry. At McGee Creek State Park, the number of day visitors has been calculated using the traffic counter in recent years. As a result, the total visitation annually is an estimate based on an algorithm from that traffic count, whereas number of cabin rentals and campsite rentals is much more accurate.

Table 3.6 – Camping and Total Visitation – McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Day visitors	Campsites rented – improved	Campsites rented – unimproved	Total Visitation
2012	84,474	4,767	439	89,680
2013	86,952	4,565	410	91,927
2014	51,302	5,107	513	56,922
2015	47,857	4,510	500	52,867
2016	67,535	6,257	671	74,463

Table 3.7 – Lake Hut Rentals at McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Total Lake Hut rentals
2012	943
2013	840
2014	913
2015	928
2016	1,062

Table 3.8 – Natural Scenic Area Permits – McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Permits recorded
2012	N/A
2013	N/A
2014	N/A
2015	383
2016	629

Public Perception of McGee Creek State Park

At the time of preparation of this resource management plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to McGee Creek State Park, which were provided by private sources. Further, private citizens and visitors to McGee Creek State Park maintain personal “blogs” and social networking sites that address their experiences and visits to the park. These blogs often were associated with activities such as hiking the various trails, camping, fishing, or boating, but addressed McGee Creek State Park in some manner.

The following comments are examples of public perception of McGee Creek State Park. These comments are taken directly from online sites and include verbatim comments which may also include errors.

- We visited McGee Creek State Park in October, 2016. We set up our tents in one of the many tent sites that had a great view of the lake. The tent sites are first come, first serve - we arrived late Friday night and there were plenty of spaces. That night we saw many, many deer.
- Saturday morning we drove around the park to check out our surroundings and we were lucky enough to witness a beautiful bald eagle!! Not lucky enough to get a picture, but still amazing!
- Saturday morning we drove over to the McGee Creek Natural Scenic Recreation Area, upon arrival there were several folks with horses in front of the trailhead and offered to give us a ride, however we opted to hike. The trails are good, rocky. My only complaint as a hiker is that the trails are shared with horses - so you had to watch your step (even on trails marked for hikers and bikers only). We were only able to do about 4 miles, looking forward to going back and checking out more of the 25 miles. Trails were marked very well, very easy to follow.
- Back at the park we went fishing off the fishing pier in our campsite - several fish were caught that afternoon, perch, catfish, large-mouthed bass.
- We had three tents - two 2 person, one 6 person on one tent site. Each tent site had a grill/pit - grill is pretty rustic, a picnic table and a lantern hook. The tent sites at Buster Hight (where we stayed) were a bit rocky. We drove over to Potapo to check it out and those sites looked to be directly on the ground - less rocky, but I didn't see very many and no lake view. You are able to pick up dead/down wood in the area to burn and there is a little store a few miles from the campsite if you want to purchase wood or bait.
- The restrooms are very clean but also soapless. I had read somewhere before going that there was a cost to use the showers, there was no cost at ours.
- Also, not sure when it opens and closes, but during warmer months they will rent kayaks and paddle boards. Dogs are welcome at the park and on the trails at the recreation area.
- Good weekend off the grid, we had four adults, three kids, and a pup and all had a great time!
- My husband and I camped here for one night in a tent. There were a good amount of tent locations (no water or elec), as well as RV locations that included water and electricity. We chose one of the tent sites that did not have electricity or water, but did have a ‘pit toilet’. The park itself was clean and the bathrooms were your typical camping bathrooms (bugs all about and in need of a good cleaning, but they got the job done). There were a lot of people fishing and boating at the park, which I think is the main activity.

- We only noticed 1 hiking trail in the actual state park, but we camped in the park to hike at the McGee Creek Natural Scenic State Recreation Area, which is just north east of the park. The road to get there was paved, but once you started getting closer to the recreation area it was pretty rough with gravel filling in holes and large portions of the road (we were in a Honda Civic and we were just fine, but any lower of a vehicle could have problems). We hiked the ‘nature trail’, but there wasn’t anything spectacular about it and the ‘overlook’ did not have any designated walk-out areas so we just tried to look from the trail. We did hike the Rocky Trail and some of the Bugaboo trail. The trails were not extremely clear as to what was the path, but the saving grace were the marks on the trees, otherwise it would have been hard to stay on course. As long as you pay attention and stop and look around for the tree markers you should be okay, but there were a few times you had to really search for the mark in the distance.
- Overall, we had a pleasant stay at the State Park and enjoying hiking in the recreation area. The park ranger was very nice as well!
- We rented a 1 room cabin for a couple days. We got what we rented. 1 room. It only has bunkbeds. AC. And a wooden picnic table. These are pretty much fishing cabins at best. If your wanting more amenities. Bring them with you. My wife planned ahead but still forgot a few. For next time. Yea we will be back it was that peaceful. Boathouse was clean. The park is clean.
- The lake is clear.
- It was peaceful.
- We stopped here on our way from Texas to the Ozarks & in the way back. The sites are beautiful. We have a tent camper & sites have water & electric. You can reserve your site on line & we picked sites right on the lake. Gorgeous pine trees! We learned that fishing is big here & we’ll definitely do some when we return!
- Pretty tent camping near boat ramp at Grassy Hollow, pit toilets only. Bald eagles nest nearby. We kayaked to Whiskey Flats and camped, lots of ticks (May 2016) but otherwise good location for primitive camping. There is another larger campground on south side (Buster Hight) that has nice bathrooms w/ showers
- We camped here over spring break and it was wonderful. The park is very clean, the restrooms were flawless, and the park hosts were very friendly. We were able to reserve an RV site with a great view of the lake. There are a lot of hiking and biking that you can do. The only down side is that it’s really spread out. In order to get to some of the other parts of the park to hike, you have to leave the park area and drive about a 20 minute drive, then enter back in the other side of the park. It wasn’t bad, just seemed to take forever with two young kids wanting to get out. All in all, great place! We will be back to visit!
- This is a great little state park off the beaten path. The site have plenty of space between them with large shade trees. Not all the sites are on the water but most of them are. Some of the sites have 50 amps. This park also has 8 wooden lake huts for rent, boat ramps, group pavilion, fishing docks, swim beach, dump station and hiking trails. We will add this to our list of “Places to Stay” We camped at McGee Creek State Park – Potapo Landing in a Fifth Wheel.
- Trails are mostly double track and fun to ride if not overly challenging. All intersections are well marked and, along with the map available at the trailhead, it is easy to know

where you are at all times. We had the entire trail system to ourselves this day. Although I was not able to ride all of the routes I particularly enjoyed the rocky Little Bugaboo.

- Fair double track. Some trails are hiking/biking only, and others allow horses too. Averaged 16-20 mph flying around these trails. Some rocky outcrops, some soft gravel, and some rough spots tore up by horses (legally). Can catch some air off some rocks in the trail. Really fun riding fast. I wish they would make some loops from the trails that end at several spots on the lake. Beware, we rode Hog Camp to the Trail Boundary trail, and I don't think the Trail Boundary trail exists except for a brush-hogged fenceline. There is a road on the other side of the fence that will lead you to just south of the trail head, but I don't think it's a marked trail. I wish we would have known that before we rode it. Not very overgrown for a June ride. I would ride it again.

Park Management

Over the years of operation, the management structure for McGee Creek State Park has changed at the direction of leadership within OTRD from Oklahoma City. However, in recent years, McGee Creek Park has been quite stable in organization and operation.

McGee Creek State Park is included in the Southeast Region of Oklahoma State Parks. This intermediate management structure allows park management to work with regional oversight as an intermediary or in direct contact with the Oklahoma City office.

Staffing

Staffing for McGee Creek State Park has been stable over the past five years, with minor adjustments in the full-time-equivalent seasonal staff appointment during that time. Table 3.9 documents the staffing pattern for McGee Creek State Park in recent years.

Table 3.9 – Staffing at McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Permanent salaried staff	Seasonal staff Park	Total park staff
2012	5	2 – 3	7 – 8
2013	5	2 – 3	7 – 8
2014	5	2 – 3	7 – 8
2015	5	2 – 3	7 – 8
2016	5	2 – 3	7 – 8

Most state parks in Oklahoma experienced similar staffing adjustments in response to budgetary appropriations. McGee Creek State Park has sustained a dedicated, loyal staff over the years.

Revenue and Expenses

Data related to revenue and expense at McGee Creek State Park was provided by the park manager. Table 3.10 on the following page reports this revenue and expense data for the past five years.

The principal revenue sources for McGee Creek State Park are lake hut and campsite rentals. These revenues earned on-site are detailed in Table 3.10. As a result, the difference between revenue earned on-site combined with expense for operation of McGee Creek State Park has been reduced over the past five years. For fiscal 2016, McGee Creek State Park showed a net loss of \$86,526 – a remarkable achievement in park management essentially recouping personnel expenses.

Table 3.10 – Expense and Revenue at McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	Expense	Revenue on-site	Net gain (loss)
2012 Total		\$192,150	(\$220,668)
<i>Personnel Expense</i>	\$323,550		
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$89,268		
2013 Total		\$202,179	(\$243,193)
<i>Personnel Expense</i>	\$341,361		
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$104,011		
2014 Total		\$200,320	(\$149,536)
<i>Personnel Expense</i>	\$243,712		
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$106,144		
2015 Total		\$163,583	(\$218,358)
<i>Personnel Expense</i>	\$286,546		
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$95,395		
2016 Total		\$268,704	(\$86,526)
<i>Personnel Expense</i>	\$265,273		
<i>Operating Expense</i>	\$89,957		

Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational

Any recreational activity includes the exposure to hazards, and the probability of specific risks may increase in many outdoor settings. In most current discussions related to hazard and risk, hazards are defined as conditions or events. Risk is the likelihood of injury resulting from a given hazard and is typically defined as a probability of adverse effects from those conditions or events. Everything people do exposes them to hazards. It is how people conduct themselves that determines the risk. An agency or site risk management plan addresses potential loss from anticipated hazards.

Natural Hazards

As with all natural areas, McGee Creek State Park includes a number of hazards. Some of those hazards are natural and related to such things as topography, flora, and fauna. Some of the hazards are structural or related to design; other hazards are operational in nature.

Natural hazards in McGee Creek State Park include the steep and rocky terrain, flora and fauna, as well as a number of other natural conditions or events. In addition, the development of facilities encourages visitors to interact with the natural environment, encouraging people to participate in recreation in an outdoor setting. For example, trails invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, distressed and lost hikers are not uncommon. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions. Due to the topography and remote nature of McGee Creek State Park, it is possible for an individual to become “lost” on property, but that is an unlikely occurrence. Boating, swimming, and other aquatic activity present greater risks for most visitors.

Among the natural hazards present in the park are those associated with weather events. The National Climatic Data Center reports a variety of such hazards by county over several years. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes, snow, ice, excessive heat, and drought. Staff members are prepared to notify park visitors in the event of severe weather, but appropriate shelter is limited. At the present time, neither signage nor printed visitor materials provide severe weather information to park visitors.

Other natural hazards are related to life forms in the natural environment. Any time people are hiking and recreating in an outdoor environment, a chance exists that they will inadvertently encounter such wildlife; this is the case in McGee Creek State Park. The park environment encompasses habitat suitable for venomous snakes including the copperhead, rattlesnake, and water moccasin. There are no recent records of any adverse encounters between people and snakes within the park.

A number of mammals common to the park are subject to rabies. They include raccoons, opossums, skunks, badgers, and bats. Additional animals in this environment include armadillos and the possibility of black bears, bobcats, and mountain lions – although these are less likely.

The wooded and grassland environment in and around McGee Creek State Park is home to mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders—all of which may be hazards or present hazards to recreational visitors. The Brown Recluse spider and the Black Widow are native to Atoka County. Both spiders have produced adverse effects for humans in recreational settings (and other environments). Both types of spiders were observed within the park making it likely that these spiders may occur in structures throughout the park. In addition, ticks are known carriers of a number of serious diseases in humans.

The 2002 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Caneday, 2002) stated:

An “environmental problem” of increasing occurrence in Oklahoma in recent years is related to ticks and tick-transmitted diseases. Although there are a number of tick-transmitted diseases, the most frequent occurrence is shown by Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, and Tularemia. A number of factors are related to this increased occurrence of disease including demographics, living preferences, and recreational behavior. Oklahoma has experienced significant increases in tick-transmitted diseases over the past decade. While most of these diseases can be treated, the diseases can also be life threatening. Participants in outdoor recreation are among those who encounter the ticks and who contract the tick-transmitted diseases. A concerted, unified effort is necessary to educate the recreational visitor regarding the results of recreational behaviors.

At the time of the writing of the 2002 SCORP, the author contacted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta regarding rumors (at that time) of a mosquito borne virus – West Nile virus. The CDC assured Caneday that Oklahoma would not experience West Nile virus within the five-year period covered by the 2002 SCORP (2002-2007). However, by summer 2003, Oklahoma was experiencing cases of West Nile virus among horses and humans. Often these resulted from outdoor recreation activity, and that pattern is continuing.

Some plants are also hazardous to some individuals and the risk varies by degree of exposure and response to that exposure. Poison ivy is among those potentially hazardous plants at McGee Creek State Park.

Another potential natural hazard in a recreation environment is waterborne disease. As stated in the 2002 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Oklahoma (Caneday, 2002):

Since 1971, Federal agencies (CDC and EPA) have maintained a collaborative surveillance system for collecting and reporting data related to occurrences and causes of waterborne-disease outbreaks (WBDOs). As an environmental hazard, waterborne diseases have always been present in the United States; however, outbreaks linked to drinking water have steadily declined since 1989. By contrast, the number of outbreaks linked to recreation activity has increased (Center for Disease Control). It is not clear whether this is due to increased outdoor recreation activity, larger numbers of people involved in outdoor recreation, or greater hazard present in the water environment. CDC reports for 1995 – 1996 have shown that the exposure to the disease occurred in lakes in 59% of waterborne-disease outbreaks of gastroenteritis associated with recreational water. Equal percentages (27%) of *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Escherichia coli* as the etiologic agent were reported during that period.

McGee Creek State Park receives its potable water from approved public water supplies through the local rural water district. As with all water supplies, there is the potential to be a host for waterborne disease through the drinking water provided on-site. Such a risk is no greater for a park visitor than would be true in a private residence. By contrast, surface waters in McGee Creek, in streams, and in ponds have a greater chance of being a source of a waterborne-disease.

Operational Hazards

Operational hazards include those vulnerabilities to park staff, the park system, or the state of Oklahoma that exist as a result of management or operation of the resource and application of policy. Management and operational decisions are made on a daily basis and are affected by budgets, prioritization within the state park system, staffing patterns, local and state politics, and other external influences.

At present, emergency fire service and other emergency services are provided by several local volunteer fire departments. The Oklahoma Department of Forestry provides secondary support in a fire emergency, especially in those cases of wildfire. Emergency response time is estimated to be one hour or more. Emergency medical service is available in Atoka or in Antlers including ambulance service.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to McGee Creek State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors

include play structures which utilize a variety of surfacing materials. The play structures are currently in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines or accessibility guidelines.

Further, weather-related events (e.g., ice storms, strong winds) in Oklahoma often result in tree and limb damage throughout the park. The locations in which downed trees and limbs have immediate impact on visitors include the camping areas, trails, and day use areas. Currently, McGee Creek State Park does not have a formal limb management or tree replacement program; this is common throughout the state park system. Park staff members attend to downed trees and limbs as they discover them and/or are notified of the hazard.

Law Enforcement

In most state parks in Oklahoma, the CLEET certified rangers and reserve-CLEET certified rangers are responsible for primary activity related to law enforcement within the boundaries of the park. At present under the management at McGee Creek State Park, there are two CLEET certified rangers as shown in Table 3.7. It is common for law enforcement units to have mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies, but no memorandum of agreement has been established with any local law enforcement agency. As a result, enforcement of applicable laws at McGee Creek State Park relies on the support and cooperation of the Atoka County sheriff in the appropriate jurisdiction.

Table 3.11 – Ranger Staff at McGee Creek State Park

Fiscal year	CLEET Certified	Reserve CLEET	Total ranger staff
2012	1	0	1
2013	2*	0	1
2014	2*	0	1
2015	2*	0	1
2016	2*	0	1

*One ranger is also the Park Manager.

Law enforcement within McGee Creek State Park does result in encounters between park management and visitors. In addition, law enforcement within the Wildlife Management Area may occasionally overlap with that within the State Park. One such example of serious law enforcement encounters is documented as “Murder on McGee Creek” (http://www.okgamewarden.com/PastIssues/2006_Issue2/MurderOnMcGeeCreek.html). The actual record of citations and incidents reported by state park law enforcement at McGee Creek State Park is shown in Table 3.12.

Table 3.12 – Citation and Incident Reports at McGee Creek State Park

Calendar year	Incident Reports	Citations Issued	Arrests	Combined Total
2012	7	N/A	6	13
2013	6	5	2	13
2014	11	5	3	19
2015	36	78	13	127
2016	23	81	8	112

Policy-Related Exposures

Some aspects of management of hazard risk are incorporated into law enforcement. Park rangers are the law enforcement personnel for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, although they frequently have cooperative (mutual aid) agreements with county sheriffs and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Law enforcement authority for Oklahoma State Park Rangers is authorized by state statute as follows (Title 74 § 2216, 2005):

Park rangers, when commissioned, shall have all the powers of peace officers except the serving or execution of civil process, and shall have in all parts of the state the same powers with respect to criminal matters and enforcement of the laws relating thereto as sheriffs, highway patrolmen [sic] and police officers in their respective jurisdictions and shall possess all immunities and matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and police officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their employment, provided, however, they shall comply with the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

In parks with CLEET certified or reserve certified personnel, written logs are maintained by park staff to document incidents. In addition to the regular log, staff complete incident reports when notified of property damage or personal injury to visitors or staff. While the incident reporting form requires information regarding personal injury or property damage, the process does not appear to require follow-up with the reporting party.

In terms of wildlife, while a formal management plan does not exist, staff operates under an agreed-upon plan approved by the Oklahoma Division of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). As an important natural resource in the park, the vulnerable and endangered species in the area lack a management plan other than classification by ODWC.

Perhaps one of the most essential operational hazards related to the public is the concern that cell phones and radios have limited to sporadic service in rural areas, and possibly within the park. During the preparation of the RMP, research staff members were able to acquire and maintain cell phone signals throughout McGee Creek State Park, but service was highly dependent upon

specific carriers. Thus, in case of injury, illness, fire, or other emergency, park visitors with personal cell phones may be able to contact necessary emergency services. Those without personal cell phones or with inadequate signals must use a landline based telephone to call emergency personnel.

Waste Management

The relatively concentrated area of development at McGee Creek State Park requires multiple programs in waste management. There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste.

Solid waste is transported off-site for disposal. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Liquid waste is managed on-site through septic systems, as well as, sanitary lagoon systems for developed areas in McGee Creek State Park. While the septic systems tend to be concentrated on a single structure, the lagoon systems serve multiple buildings and campgrounds. The lagoon systems require lift stations to transport liquid wastes from the respective development to the lagoons. An exception to this general statement is evident at the NSRA. In this case, the lagoon serves a single building (the office/residence). This lagoon does not require a lift station.

As with any area that is utilized by the public, some trash and litter is present within the park. This solid waste presents a visual detraction, but presents limited problems other than clean-up of the area.

Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to McGee Creek State Park. This background information was gained through review of literature, interviews and meetings with park management personnel, input from the public, multiple on-site visits, and through other sources. When analyzed, this information raises several issues for consideration with alternatives for possible management action. These issues are presented in the following discussion with alternatives for management to consider. In each case, based on the available information a preferred alternative is identified.

Issues and Alternatives

Issue Statement 1: Qualification and branding as a state park

One of the central issues for consideration related to each of the properties being reviewed during the Resource Management Plan project is qualification and branding as a state park. That question is applicable for McGee Creek State Park as for other properties.

What is a state park? Jordan and Caneday addressed this question in an earlier report for OTRD as a part of the state park visitor study in 2003 (Caneday and Jordan). As stated in that report –

The research team believes that the term “state park” should mean something specific. The term, “state park,” should identify a property distinctively through management practices, quality of experience and appearance to the public. The research team believes that visitors to Oklahoma “state parks” should know immediately that they are in a State Park because of the distinctive “branding” apparent to the visitor and deliberately intended by management. The research team believes that the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department must jealously guard the use of the term “state park” in much the same manner as companies protect symbols of intellectual property.

An example of resource qualifications for specific classifications can best be demonstrated through the National Park Service. For a property to be classified as a National Park there must be (1) evidence of national significance for a natural, cultural, or recreational resource, (2) management of the property must be feasible, and (3) the property must be suitable within the mission, purpose, and system of the National Park Service.

By contrast, other classifications of National Park Service properties include National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, and National Preserves. National monuments must be significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources, but may be managed by entities other than the National Park Service. National preserves are limited to significant environmental resources and may vary in ownership and management of the resource. National recreation areas, including Chickasaw National Recreation Area in south-central Oklahoma, are managed for more intensive recreation in outdoor settings.

OTRD policy related to acquisition of property uses some of this language, thereby establishing a general pattern of resource qualification. These criteria include (1) state-wide significance for natural beauty, uniqueness, or other recreational and resource preservation purposes, and (2) sites which will improve the overall availability of public recreation facilities to the recreating public while possessing resource significance (Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, 1988).

In addition, branding and classification of properties within the Department has varied over the years. Minutes of the Oklahoma Planning and Resource Board (a precursor to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission) from September 18, 1953 record the passing of a motion defining state parks, state recreation areas, state memorials, and state monuments. That variation in descriptive classification was changed by legislation during the 1980s.

Applying the national concepts to state parks in Oklahoma and utilizing the earlier definitions in Oklahoma, it could be concluded that a state park must (1) have a significant statewide natural, cultural, or recreation resource, (2) be feasible to manage by the agency, and (3) be suitable within the mission, purpose, and statewide system of state parks. If this set of qualifications is applied to McGee Creek State Park, it could be concluded that:

1. McGee Creek State Park offers historical, cultural, geological and environmental resources of statewide significance with the additional benefit of regionally important recreation significance. As indicated in the statement of significance of McGee Creek State Park, this property is significant because it has “limited competition for comparable recreation and educational experiences in the area, McGee Creek State Park is the only state resource that provides the Natural Scenic Recreation Area, a contiguous 8,900-acre wilderness-like Cross Timbers ecosystem.”
2. McGee Creek State Park is feasible to manage within the agency and fits within the mission of Oklahoma State Parks. McGee Creek State Park is located in an under-served region of Oklahoma from the perspective of public recreation resources. The park offers a quiet, nature-based recreation experience similar to those experiences available in other state parks, augmented by the unique environment of the NSRA.
3. McGee Creek State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD. Oklahoma State Parks will conserve the natural, cultural, scenic, historic and environmentally-based recreational resources within the park, and make them forever available for the education and enjoyment of all people.

As a result, the research team recognizes the value of McGee Creek State Park as a state park.

Alternatives

- A. Terminate the management contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for the property at McGee Creek State Park;
- B. No change – Retain McGee Creek State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: No change – continue management as it is. Retain McGee Creek State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

Issue Statement 2: Hazardous waste policy and practice

The 1995 RMP/EA asserted that “all of the McGee Creek Project is to be inventoried for the occurrence of any hazardous wastes.” Specifically addressing McGee Creek State Park, the 1995 document indicated inspections and contracts were pending related to various detailed hazardous waste materials essential to park operations. Since that time, such inspections have occurred and contracts are in place for proper management, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Alternatives

- A. Revise and update policies and practices related to hazardous waste;
- B. No change – continue management as it is, which is best practices available.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: No change – continue management as it is, which is best practices available.

Issue Statement 3: Pesticide policy and practice

The 1995 RMP/EA asserted that within McGee Creek State Park “any pesticides or herbicides used must be approved in advance by Reclamation by the annual ‘Pesticide Use Proposal.’ Each use is logged.” Specifically, within the NSRA, this statement further asserted “no pesticides have been used up to this time within the NSRA. There are no plans to use pesticides in this area.”

The broad language used in this statement encompassed visitors who may well be using various repellants or pesticides during their visits to McGee Creek State Park or the NSRA. In conversation with park management and representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, such a broad application of exclusion of herbicides and pesticides was not intended. The Bureau of Reclamation has established an Integrated Pest Management Plan to which all partners at the McGee Creek Project are subject.

Alternatives

- A. Strengthen the practice related to pesticides and herbicides to comply with the language used in 1995, adding additional burden to park visitors;
- B. No change – continue management as it is. Continue as a partner subject to the Integrated Pest Management Plan established by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: No change – continue management as it is. Continue as a partner subject to the Integrated Pest Management Plan established by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Issue Statement 4: Horse droppings in the NSRA

The preferred plan established in the 1995 RMP/EA stated “allow horse droppings on the trails, but maintain and enforce the dispersal requirements in the NSRA campgrounds.” Conversely, Alternative B (no action) permitted continued “dispersing of horse droppings off the trails. Bury or disperse horse droppings at campgrounds.” No recommended action was established although each practice has specific impacts. During preparation of the RMP, management appeared to be

unaware of either the preferred plan or Alternative B. As a result, actual operation has been “no action” related to horse droppings in the NSRA.

Alternatives

- A. Allow horse droppings on the trails, but maintain and enforce the dispersal requirements in the NSRA campgrounds;
- B. Disperse horse droppings off the trails. Bury or disperse horse droppings at campgrounds;
- C. No change – continue management as it is utilizing the principles in Alternative A.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives C: No change – continue management as it is utilizing the principles in Alternative A.

Issue Statement 5: Permits and carrying capacity in the NSRA

The Interim Operating Plan established under the 1995 RMP/EA require park management to “maintain the current permit system. Boaters intending to access the shore, trails or campsites in the NSRA would continue to be required to acquire permits under the same rules applied to other users of the NSRA.” An example of the permit that is presently in place is shown in Figure 3.40 on page 54, with additional information related to the carrying capacity for the NSRA.

The intent of the permit and carrying capacity is to ensure the protection of the resources and the wilderness-like experience while allowing for maximum use of the NSRA. The permit system is working as intended and the carrying capacity has not been breached. However, the carrying capacity calculations used in the 1995 document are somewhat cumbersome and may need to be reviewed.

Alternatives

- A. Review and update the carrying capacity while establishing an easier calculation for management purposes;
- B. Eliminate the permit system and the carrying capacity restrictions;
- C. No change – continue management as it is, keeping the current carrying capacity calculations and the permit system.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives C: No change – continue management as it is, keeping the current carrying capacity calculations and the permit system.

Issue Statement 6: Fire management for McGee Creek State Park

The wooded and prairie environment present at McGee Creek State Park and the NSRA provide fuel and potential for wildfire. The 1995 RMP/EA established different fire management policies for the various areas within the larger project. For McGee Creek State Park, the accepted alternative is “suppress all fires as soon as possible with maximum suppression equipment when necessary to prevent fires from getting out of control.” In contrast to that aggressive policy, the accepted alternative for the NSRA is “suppress with minimum impact using hand tools and, if

necessary, four-wheel drive vehicles on multi-use trails or old lumber roads; use bull dozer as last resort if life or private property is in danger.”

Alternatives

- A. For McGee Creek State Park, suppress all fires as soon as possible with maximum suppression equipment when necessary to prevent fires from getting out of control;
- B. For McGee Creek State Park, reduce the aggressiveness in suppression of fires;
- C. For the NSRA, suppress with minimum impact using hand tools and, if necessary, four-wheel drive vehicles on multi-use trails or old lumber roads; use bull dozer as last resort if life or private property is in danger;
- D. For the NSRA, increase the aggressiveness of suppression to match that utilized within the boundaries of the rest of McGee Creek State Park;
- E. No change – continue management as it is, continuing the principles expressed in Alternative A and Alternative C.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A, C, and E: No change – continue management as it is, continuing the principles expressed in Alternative A and Alternative C.

Issue Statement 7: Feral hogs within McGee Creek State Park

As background to this issue, the 1995 RMP/EA documented the history of the hog population present on the McGee Creek Project property dating back to the 1920s. That population has grown in density with occasional adverse encounters between hogs and park visitors. As of 1995 the preferred plan related to feral hogs was to “request enactment of legislation defining feral hogs as pests and to reduce the population. Prohibit the importation of all non-native species (without a favorable impact analysis) into the area. Establish a restitution fee to pay for damages on the owners who release hogs. Fees would be paid to Reclamation and/or managing agencies.”

Feral hogs are not protected under Oklahoma law, permitting hunting and aggressive actions to manage their populations.

Alternatives

- A. Protect feral hogs as a part of the wildlife within McGee Creek State Park;
- B. Follow state wildlife laws and authorization by the Tourism Commission related to management of feral hogs as an invasive species presenting possible hazards for visitors.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Follow state wildlife laws and authorization by the Tourism Commission related to management of feral hogs as an invasive species presenting possible hazards for visitors.

Issue Statement 8: Timber management within McGee Creek State Park

Timber is an economic interest in Atoka County and the surrounding region. As much as 83% of the McGee Creek Project is covered with timber, some of which has commercial value.

However, the differing management purposes and practices for the differing portions of the project require specific management practices related to timber. As a result, McGee Creek State Park may differ in policy and practice from the NSRA. The current preferred plan in place states, “Harvesting of timber would be allowed in the State Park. The cut and sale of timber would require prior approval by Reclamation. Net revenues from such sales would accrue to the United States. Any land disturbing activities must be approved by Reclamation. Timber will be managed in all areas to minimize fire hazard and to mitigate disease epidemics in trees. Areas damaged by extraction of trees would be restored. Mast-producing trees, unless diseased, would be preserved.” More specifically, the RMP/EA states that in the State Park “timber is only removed for construction purposes” whereas in the NSRA “there is no removal except for maintaining fence openings and trail maintenance.”

Alternatives

- A. Permit cutting and sale of timber in the park;
- B. Totally restrict cutting and sale of timber with the park and the NSRA;
- C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives C: No change – continue management as it is.

Issue Statement 9: Retention of NSRA wilderness-like characteristics

The 1995 RMP/EA described the legal basis for the NSRA under federal guidelines of an “environmental quality area” under Sec. 702 of Public Law 94-423. Reclamation’s projects can include three types of features: enhancement, mitigation, and environmental quality (EQ). With an enhancement feature, such as the State Park, the Federal government funds 50% of the cost of development. Mitigation costs are paid 100%, usually by the project’s sponsor; in this case, the McGee Creek Authority. An environmental quality feature receives 100% Federal funding on all costs associated with the project. Deviations from the requirements unique to an environmental quality area could lead to a reclassification and/or disposal of the NSRA.

Clearly the NSRA is a unique and valued feature with the Oklahoma State Park system. It is a defining and distinguishing feature for McGee Creek State Park. The NSRA holds statewide significance as one of the largest contiguous natural areas within Oklahoma State Parks.

The preferred alternative in the 1995 document asserted “review retention of the area periodically (every 5 to 10 years) to evaluate the amount of use and demand. The review shall be addressed by Reclamation.” This information would help assess the desirability to retain the classification of the NSRA as an EQ area.

Alternatives

- A. Permit deviation in management from the requirements to sustain the NSRA as an environmental quality area, recognizing the possible adverse actions that would follow;
- B. Terminate the agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for management of the NSRA by Oklahoma State Parks;

- C. No change – continue management as it is, recognizing the value and distinctiveness of the NSRA within the Oklahoma State Park system and as part of McGee Creek State Park.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives C: No change – continue management as it is, recognizing the value and distinctiveness of the NSRA within the Oklahoma State Park system and as part of McGee Creek State Park.

Issue Statement 10: Marina at McGee Creek State Park

At the time of preparation of this RMP, there is no marina on McGee Creek Reservoir. Since 1995 there have been discussions regarding a marina, but demand has not been adequate to sustain operation of a marina. That could change.

The 1995 RMP/EA presented the following preferred alternative. “Limit new facilities at Buster Hight. Develop additional facilities at Potapo Point and the east side of McGee Creek in the State Park, provided that easements for road access can be obtained. Construct a marina on the lake and provide additional swim beaches and handicap accessible fishing piers.” The preferred alternative continued with additional proposals unrelated to a marina.

Developments within Buster Hight area and Potapo Point area were detailed in the RMP. These included swimming areas and accessible fishing piers, as well as other significant developments within Potapo Point. Both areas are now well-developed and would change in personality if additional development were to occur. The east side of McGee Creek Reservoir remains undeveloped and inaccessible by road.

Alternatives

- A. Limit new facilities at Buster Hight and Potapo Point to sustain the character of McGee Creek State Park and McGee Creek Reservoir;
- B. Aggressively seek a private concessionaire to develop a marina at McGee Creek Reservoir within McGee Creek State Park;
- C. No change – continue management as it is. Remain open to the development of a marina if demand is adequate and private concession operation can be arranged under approval by Oklahoma State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives C: No change – continue management as it is. Remain open to the development of a marina if demand is adequate and private concession operation can be arranged under approval by Oklahoma State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Issue Statement 11: Fishing tournaments at McGee Creek Reservoir

Fishing tournaments are common on Oklahoma lakes and have become a tradition on McGee Creek Reservoir. Many of these tournaments are based out of McGee Creek State Park due to the provision of parking, boat ramps, courtesy docks, and other amenities. Management reported that

there are about 20 tournaments per year that involve more than 15 boats. These tournaments are “permitted” through state park management. This practice is compatible with the 1995 preferred plan to “continue allowing jackpot/cash payback fishing tournaments. OTRD will continue to issue permits in consideration of the capacity of facilities to handle such tournaments. Encourage ODWC to establish slot limits on McGee Creek Reservoir.”

During meetings held as part of the preparation of this RMP, park managers and anglers supported the continuance of fishing tournaments. However, the establishment of slot limits on McGee Creek Reservoir has adversely affected the quality of the fishery and the anglers’ experience. Park managers and anglers uniformly encourage the removal or adjustment of the current slot limits now in place on McGee Creek Reservoir.

Alternatives

- A. Continue allowing jackpot/cash payback fishing tournaments with permits granted through McGee Creek State Park management;
- B. Stop the permitting of fishing tournaments and do not permit fishing tournaments on McGee Creek Reservoir;
- C. Encourage the removal or adjustment of the slot limit presently in place on the McGee Creek fishery;
- D. Continue the slot limit presently in place on the McGee Creek fishery;
- E. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A and C: Continue allowing jackpot/cash payback fishing tournaments with permits granted through McGee Creek State Park management and encourage the removal or adjustment of the slot limit presently in place on the McGee Creek fishery.

Issue Statement 12: Interpretive Services at McGee Creek State Park

McGee Creek State Park has a story to tell in many locations. The story of McGee Creek State Park would include the natural and geological history of the area, the human history, and the environmental processes that remain in relatively natural conditions. The interpretive message of McGee Creek State Park should be told on property and off, to any interested audience, and to audiences yet uninformed.

Interpretive services are variously defined depending upon the source or the agency involved. The classic definition of interpretation was given by Freeman Tilden (1977) as “An educational activity that attempts to reveal meaning and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than to simply communicate factual information.”

William E. Brown (1971), in *Islands of Hope*, presented the role of parks in the interpretive process. His definition of interpretation encompassed technology as well as process, as he stated that interpretation is “That body of communications, devices and facilities that conveys environmental knowledge, stimulates discourse on environmental problems and results in environmental reform.” Brown also indicated that interpretation has a distinct purpose, especially in a sensitive natural environment. Brown argued that “Environmental interpretation not only informs; it motivates to action – sometimes it is action. Even at the informing level, it ceases to

be innocent nature study or whitewashed history. It questions value systems, folk heroes, and conventional wisdom.”

The National Association for Interpretation (2008) has developed a professional, contemporary definition of interpretation that incorporates the theory from Tilden, the purpose from Brown, and the mission of the agency delivering the service. “Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”

McGee Creek State Park offers multiple resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The story includes the people, the place, the organizations, the events, the habitat, the wildlife, and much more.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for McGee Creek State Park and the state park system more broadly. This would require staff at a time when finances are limited for employing personnel.

McGee Creek State Park could host one or two collegiate interns continually to create and deliver interpretive messages. Such interns could possibly be shared between the state parks in the general area, including Raymond Gary State Park and Clayton Lake State Park, or Lake Texoma State Park. This would accomplish several goals for McGee Creek State Park and Oklahoma State Parks: (1) it would bring creative and energetic personnel into the park system; (2) it would achieve an educational goal for the park and the park system; (3) it would provide a link between the park system and the formal college and university education system; and (4) it would provide a message that Oklahoma’s state parks serve an educational role as well as a recreational role.

Alternatives

- A. When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park;
- B. Encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services and other aspects of park management;
- C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A and B: When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park; encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services and other aspects of park management.

Issue Statement 13: Green practices related to energy and conservation

Within the past few years Americans have begun to take conservation practices seriously. On behalf of citizens and as a representative of the park and recreation profession – a field with a strong connection to the environment – Oklahoma State Parks has initiated several practices that are intended to conserve energy and other resources. This has been initiated with energy efficient lighting in the lodge and office structures, and needs to be expanded to other management practices.

Among the many possible areas that would benefit from conservation practices are: (1) park policies related to mowing, maintenance, debris removal, and waste disposal; and (2) recycling opportunities for the entire operation and its guests.

At present, state laws do not encourage a state agency to recycle waste or trash products, especially when private citizens generate (and thereby ‘own’) those materials. Inventory management and accounting procedures prevent the sale of, or revenue production from, recycled materials. However, volunteer groups such as a possible “Friends of McGee Creek State Park” are permitted to serve as an agent for the collection and sale of recyclable materials. Another challenge to the establishment of a recycling program is the difficulty in finding a consistent market for the various products that might easily be recycled: glass, aluminum, and paper. These challenges do not lessen the desirability of establishing a recycling program in the state park system.

McGee Creek State Park can have a significant role in modeling and educating other managers and guests regarding best management practices. One state park in Oklahoma – Keystone State Park – has been eco-certified. McGee Creek State Park should be a leader in this effort as well.

Alternatives

- A. Seek to change state accounting regulations to permit operation of the recycling program by park staff;
- B. Encourage the development of a “Friends of McGee Creek State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;
- C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Encourage the development of a “Friends of McGee Creek State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park.

Issue Statement 14: Erosion control and landscaping

Water quality in McGee Creek Reservoir is dependent upon activities that occur on land. Within McGee Creek State Park, several campsites, picnic areas, and play areas reveal considerable erosion from loss of ground cover, soil compaction, and normal human activity, particularly on the soil type and topography present in McGee Creek State Park. An example of a campsite that should be closed to reduce erosion was shown in Figure 3.18, page 43. Some remediation of erosion and run-off is accomplished through the grassy median maintained along the shoreline.

Beyond the concern for water quality, erosion leads to uneven surfaces for campsites, play areas, and walking. As a result, landscaping of campsites, cabin areas, and play areas should be considered as a means to reduce the adverse effects of erosion.

Alternatives

- A. Landscape campsites, cabin areas and play areas to reduce erosion potential and provide safe footing for guests, while complying with accessibility guidelines;
- B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A: Landscape campsites, cabin areas and play areas to reduce erosion potential and provide safe footing for guests, while complying with accessibility guidelines.

Issue Statement 15: Park roads

The roadways within McGee Creek State Park and those providing access to the various sections of McGee Creek State Park vary in quality and durability. The main entry drive, McGee Creek Dam Road, is appropriate in width and construction to handle vehicles that enter the park. However, the spurs leading into the developed portions of the park vary in quality, width, and ability to handle larger vehicles. By contrast, the roads leading north (Centerpoint Road) to the NSRA are minimally engineered. Asphalt that has been laid on these roadways is inadequate to support the traffic or weight of vehicles that utilize the park. Tree roots and shifting rock bases have resulted in uneven surfaces. Inadequate design of water flow has resulted in ponding and erosion.

All the roadways in McGee Creek State Park need to be redesigned, properly engineered, and properly surfaced. The size and weight of recreational vehicles in use demand better roadways in a state park. It is acknowledged that this would be expensive.

Alternatives

- A. Design and develop properly engineered roadways within McGee Creek State Park;
- B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A: If it is financially feasible, design and develop properly engineered roadways within McGee Creek State Park.

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Appendix A – Documents related to Property

OT-420
LND-8.00

JUN 16 1995

Mr. Edward H. Cook
Executive Director
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
Attn: Mr. Richard Romero
500 Will Rogers Bldg
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Subject: Revision to Exhibit "A", Lease Agreement No. 4-AG-5C-02640 and Lease Agreement and Contract No. 4-R0-5C-02650, McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Cook:

Enclosed are copies of the May 1995 revision of Exhibit "A" for Lease Agreement No. 4-AG-5C-02640 and Lease Agreement and Contract No. 4-R0-5C-02650, McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma. This revision has been previously discussed with your staff. The two primary changes are the formal identification of the McGee Creek Authority's O&M areas within Area C and a revised delineation of the "land and water management areas" within Area A, Area B, and Area C based on conservation pool elevation (577.1) rather than the original delineation which was based on maximum water surface elevation (609.9).

Please affix the enclosed revised Exhibit "A's" to your copy of the subject contracts.

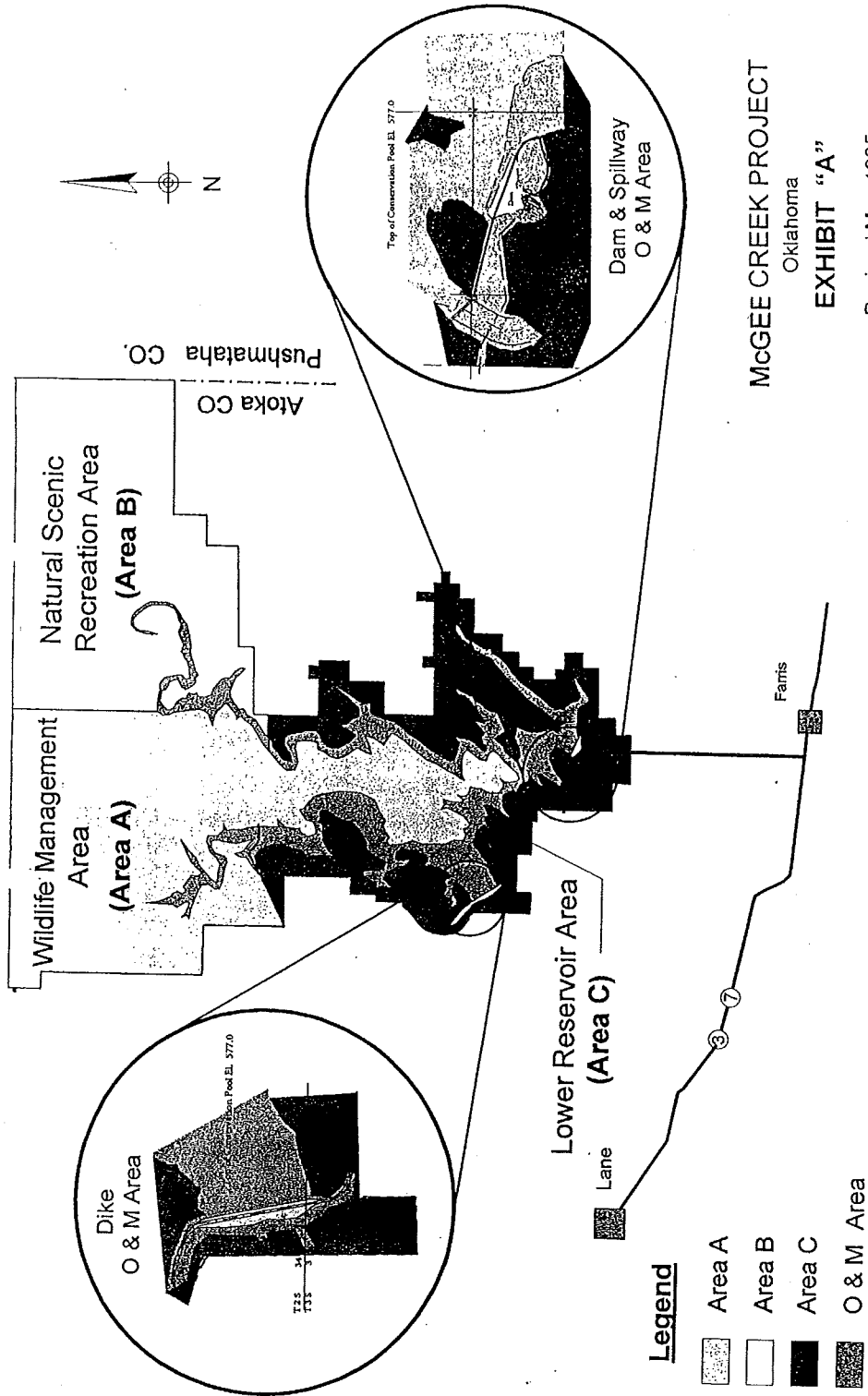
If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fred Landefeld at (405) 231-5976.

Sincerely,



FOR Larry Todd
Area Manager

Enclosures (2)



McGEE CREEK PROJECT

Oklahoma

EXHIBIT "A"

Revised May 1995

Legend

- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- O & M Area

EXHIBIT B

Inventory and Condition Survey

Part I - Land

Project - McGee Creek

Date -

Location -

Acreage -

Other -

Part II - Improvements

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
MCGEE CREEK PROJECT, OKLAHOMA
AREA B

LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION,
AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED PUBLIC USE AREAS AND FACILITIES
OF THE MCGEE CREEK RESERVOIR, ATOKA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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LEASE AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION,
AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED PUBLIC USE AREAS AND FACILITIES,
OF THE MCGEE CREEK RESERVOIR, ATOKA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
AREA B

THIS AGREEMENT AND LEASE CONTRACT is made and entered into this 18th
day of November, 1983, pursuant to authority of the Reclamation Act of
1902, Chapter 1093, 32 Stat. 388, and all Acts of Congress amendatory or supple-
mentary thereto, and the Reclamation Authorization Act of 1976, Public Law No.
94-423, Title VII, 90 Stat. 1329, between the United States of America, acting
through the Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of the Interior,
hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau," and the State of Oklahoma, acting by
and through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, hereinafter referred
to as the "Department."

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Act of September 28, 1976, Public Law
No. 94-423, 90 Stat. 1329 (1976), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to
construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek Project, hereinafter referred
to as the "Project," and provides that the conservation and development of fish
and wildlife resources and enhancement of recreational opportunities, and other
purposes; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Statute, Title 74, Section 1802 (Supp 1979) provides
for acquisition of State park sites by the Department, and said Department is
otherwise authorized by Oklahoma law to administer and control all State parks;
and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Bureau to lease to the
Department the land and water areas known as the "Natural Scenic Recreation
Area," hereinafter referred to as the "Leased Premises"; and identified as
Area "B" on Exhibit "A," attached hereto and by this reference made a part
hereof; and

WHEREAS, the Department is agreeable to accepting management responsi-
bilities associated with development, maintenance, and enhancement of the area
known as the "Natural Scenic Recreation Area",

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

LEASE

1. a. The Bureau, in consideration of the observance and performance by the Department of its obligations hereinafter set forth, leases the Leased Premises, without warranty of title, to the Department, in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

b. The Department accepts the lease of the Leased Premises without warranty of title in accordance with terms of this agreement subject to obligation of the Bureau to defend such title as it has.

LEASE TERMS

2. a. This lease shall be in full force and effect for a term of 50 years commencing 60 days after the Bureau notifies the Department in writing unless and until terminated as hereinafter specified. This lease may be revoked by the Bureau in the event the Department violates any of the terms and conditions of this lease and continues and persists therein for a period of 60 days after notice thereof is given in writing by the Bureau.

b. On or before the date of expiration of this lease or its relinquishment by the Department, the Department shall vacate the premises, remove its property therefrom, and restore the premises to a condition satisfactory to the Bureau. If, however, this lease is revoked, the lessee shall vacate the premises, remove its property therefrom, and restore the premises as aforesaid within such time as the Bureau may designate. In either event, if the Department shall fail or neglect to remove its property and so restore the premises, then its property shall become the property of the Bureau without compensation therefor, and no claim for damages against the Bureau or its officers or agents shall be created by or made on account thereof.

c. That, as of the commencement date of this lease, an inventory and condition report of all personal property and improvements of the Bureau included in this lease shall be made by a representative of the Bureau and a representative of the Department to reflect the then present condition of said property. Said inventory and condition report is attached hereto and becomes a part hereof as exhibit "B". Upon the expiration, revocation, or termination of this lease, a similar inventory and condition report shall be prepaid and submitted to the Bureau, said inventory and condition report to constitute the basis for settlement by the Department with said Bureau for leased property shown to be lost, damaged, or destroyed, any such property to be either replaced, restored, or at the election of the Bureau, reimbursement made thereof at the depreciated market value.

d. This lease is subject to all existing easements or rights, and easements or rights subsequently granted, for roadways, mineral operations, and utilities located on the premises.

e. Grants of land or land-use rights other than oil, gas, and mineral leased to third parties for utility or pipeline rights-of-way may be issued by the Bureau after consultation and concurrence of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

3. a. The Bureau shall acquire the land and landrights constituting the Leased Premises and will fence the area and construct those facilities outlined in the Definite Plan Report for the Natural Scenic Recreation Area of the McGee Creek Project, subject to the availability of funds for that purpose.

b. All structures shall be constructed and landscaped in accordance with plans submitted to, and approved by, the Bureau. Further, the Department shall not discharge waste or effluent from the premises in such a manner that such discharge will contaminate streams or other bodies of water or otherwise become a public nuisance.

c. The Department shall keep a current and accurate inventory of such structures and improvements installed or constructed at its own expense. Title to such facilities shall remain with the Department. Upon termination of this agreement, the removal of such property will be in accordance with Article 2.b of this agreement.

UNITED STATES USE PARAMOUNT

4. a. The rights of the Department under this agreement are subordinate to rights of the Bureau. The Bureau has the right to use the Leased Premises in any manner it finds necessary, including the right of ingress and egress, for any project or other Federal purpose.

b. Public use of the Leased Premises may be restricted whenever the Bureau determines that such restriction is necessary in the interest of Project purposes, public safety, environmental protection, or national security.

c. The Department will not interfere with or impede operation and maintenance of the Project by the Bureau.

d. It is clearly understood that the McGee Creek Project has as its primary purpose the furnishing of storage space for water rights held by the several participants in the McGee Creek Authority and which will be used as municipal and industrial water supply by these entities. The Department and Bureau agree that, any provision of this agreement notwithstanding, no activity or operation of the Department or the Bureau shall be inconsistent with the preservation of the integrity of the project as a municipal water supply.

MANAGEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT

5. a. The Department shall conform to such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may issue to govern the public use of the Project area and shall comply with the provisions of all applicable Acts of Congress and Acts supplemental and amendatory thereto. The Department shall protect the premises from fire, vandalism, and soil erosion and may make and enforce such regulations as are necessary, as within its legal authority, in exercising the privileges granted in this lease; Provided, That such regulations are not inconsistent with those issued by the Secretary of the Interior or with provisions of the above-referenced Acts of Congress.

b. The Department shall administer and maintain the premises in accordance with the management program to be prepared by the Bureau with input and concurrence of the Department, which may be amended from time to time as may be necessary. Such management program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Plans for management activities to be undertaken by the Department or jointly by the Department and the Bureau, including improvements and other facilities to be constructed thereon.

(2) Budget of the Department for carrying out the management activities.

(3) Personnel to be used in the management of the area.

c. The Department shall provide the facilities and services necessary to meet the public demand either directly or through concession agreements with third parties. All such agreements shall state that they are granted subject to the provisions of this lease and that the concession agreement will not be effective until approved by the Bureau.

d. No habitable buildings shall be constructed on the Leased Premises below a 610 feet elevation, USGS datum, and no provision of this agreement shall be interpreted otherwise.

e. Subject to written approval of the Bureau, water on the Leased Premises may be used for drinking, modern restroom facilities, and other uses convenient or necessary for public recreational purposes to the extent water is available.

f. In taking over the administration, operation, and maintenance obligations in this lease agreement, the Department acknowledges that it has inspected all land and water areas covered by this agreement and is aware of all hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions existing thereon. The Department shall be solely responsible for taking all steps reasonably necessary to protect the safety of persons and property in the land and water areas covered by this agreement from all hazards existing at the time of this agreement or which may thereafter arise.

g. The Department will estimate the annual operation and maintenance expenses anticipated on the approximately 8,900-acre area of the Leased Premises for a 3-year period and submit the estimates to the Bureau for review and approval on or before July 1 prior to beginning of the next Federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). This approved budget will provide the basis for the Department's annual operations with such subsequent modifications as approved in advance by both parties.

h. On or before March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year, the Department shall submit to the Bureau a complete accounting of actual operation and maintenance expenditures on the Leased Premises and, following review and approval by the Bureau, the Department will be reimbursed accordingly, subject to the availability of funds for that purpose.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS,
MINERAL AND OIL AND GAS RIGHTS

6. a. The Bureau has the right to remove materials from the Leased Premises necessary for project purposes; Provided however, That such removal of material does not interfere with improvements completed by the Bureau or by the Department.

b. Mineral, oil, and gas exploration and development will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the recommended plan as described in the Supplemental Environmental Statement prepared for McGee Creek Project and existing Federal laws, including Public Law 97-88, and State rules and regulations.

c. The Bureau shall notify the Department as to proposed prospecting, locating, developing, or mining of mineral resources. The Bureau shall submit special stipulations to the Department for review. The Department shall notify the Bureau of any comments or recommendations on the special stipulations or submit additional stipulations for consideration by the Bureau. The Department shall not interfere with oil and gas or mineral permittee to prospect, locate, develop, or mine mineral resources on such Federal lands. No payment, unless specified in the mineral lease, shall be collected by the Department for any damage to or loss of natural vegetation, wildlife, mineral material, or for soil disturbance occurring on Leased Premises which might result from operation, development, or construction activities conducted under the authority of an oil and gas or mineral lease.

LAND RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION AND PROTECTION

7. The Department assures that it will comply with the Antiquities Act of 1906, Endangered Species Act, Historic Sites Preservation Act of 1966, National Environmental Policy Act, The Clean Air Act, The Clean Water Act of 1978, and all other applicable Federal and State laws and orders.

THIRD-PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

8. a. The Department may enter into contracts, concession agreements, or permits with third parties to improve the Leased Premises for public-use purposes. The term of such contracts, agreements, or permits shall not extend beyond the end of the term of this lease agreement and shall specifically include all applicable provisions of this lease agreement and not be effective until approved by the Bureau. The Bureau reserves the right to require insertion of such provisions into said contracts, agreements, or permits that will serve to protect the interests of the Bureau in the Leased Premises.

b. Permits which the Department may issue shall require the permittee to comply with the terms of this agreement and shall be subject to cancellation at will upon 30 days advance notice and shall be void if this lease agreement is terminated, subject to written renewal by the United States.

c. If this lease agreement is terminated before expiration of the term of any contracts or concession agreements between the Department and a third party, the Department shall assign all its rights under such a third party to the Bureau.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

9. a. Activities on the Leased Premises shall be subject to all applicable Federal, State, and local rules and regulations. The Bureau may issue rules and regulations for Project purposes. The Department may, within limits of its authority, issue rules and regulations for occupancy, use, operation, maintenance, development, and improvement of the Leased Premises as are necessary or desirable for fish and wildlife propagation or enhancement or public use.

b. The right is reserved, to the Bureau, its officers, agents, and employees, to enter upon the premises at any time and for any purpose necessary or convenient to the overall purpose of the project, and/or to make any other use of the land as may be necessary in connection with such purpose, and the Department shall have no claim for damages of any character on account thereof against the Bureau or any agent, officer, or employee thereof.

c. The Bureau shall not be responsible for damages to property or injuries to persons which may arise from or be incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted, or for damages to the property of the Department, or for damages to the property or injuries to the person of the Department's officers, agents, servants, or employees or others who may be on the premises at their invitation or the invitation of any one of them, arising from or incident to the flooding of the premises by the Bureau or any other cause, or arising from or incident to any other Bureau or governmental activities.

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

10. The Department shall submit annually to the Bureau, on a form provided by the Bureau, a report of public use of the Leased Premises and of facilities provided for the public.

FEES - STATE

11. a. Admission, entrance, or user fees may be charged by the Department for the entrance to, or use of, the premises or any facility constructed thereon; Provided, That prior approval of the Bureau is obtained.

b. All revenues received by the Department from entrance fees or from use of the Leased Premises shall be accounted for through general accounting procedures. Revenue received by the Department shall be paid to the United States.

c. The Department will periodically cause an audit to be made by the State of Oklahoma's auditor or qualified accountant of its books and accounts for the preceding fiscal year and shall submit to the United States a report of each such audit setting forth the accountant's findings respecting the revenue, income, and other receipts and the expenditure for operation and maintenance to the Leased Premises and all facilities in connection therewith.

Revenues derived from licenses and permits required by Oklahoma law and user fees relating only to State of Oklahoma financial requirements shall not be included as revenue within the meaning of this paragraph.

BOOKS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS

12. a. The Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, and any duly authorized representative of the Bureau shall have access to and the right to examine pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the State of Oklahoma and the Department involving transactions related to this lease, which right shall continue until 3 years after termination of this lease or any extensions thereof. Pertinent books, documents, papers, and records shall be retained and recorded in accordance with the appropriate State law, statute, etc.

b. The Department shall include in all agreements granting any concession, license, permit, or lease pertaining to the operation, maintenance, development, or improvement of the Leased Premises a provision permitting the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, until the expiration of 3 years after termination of the respective agreement to have access to and the right to examine pertinent books, documents, papers, and records pertaining to such agreement and the Leased Premises. This provision shall not be applicable to (1) purchase orders not exceeding \$2,500 and (2) agreements or purchase orders for public utility services at rates established for uniform applicability to the general public.

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE

13. The Department shall not do or knowingly permit to be done by others anything which may jeopardize the health or safety of any person on the Leased Premises or which may damage or destroy any property or improvements in or upon the Leased Premises. To the extent of its authority, the Department shall save the Bureau harmless from any claim on account of death, personal injury, or property damage by reason of anything done or knowingly suffered or omitted to be done by the Department in its exercise of the rights, powers, and privileges granted by this lease. Nothing in the lease shall be construed or interpreted as authorizing (1) the Department, its agents, or employees to act as the agent or representative of or on behalf of the Bureau or to incur any obligation of any kind on behalf of the Bureau; or (2) the Bureau, its agents, or employees to act as the agent or representative of or on behalf of the Department or to incur any obligation of any kind on behalf of the Department.

INSURANCE

14. The Department shall provide in its agreements with concessionaires, permittees, licensees, and lessees for carrying such public liability, fire, theft, vandalism, and other insurance as is customary for similar operations under comparable circumstances, which insurance shall be subject to the approval of the Department. In the event of major or total destruction of any improvement constructed with Federal funds, it shall be mutually determined whether the insurance shall be paid to the Bureau or used for restoration or construction of a similar facility. The Department will comply with the Oklahoma Tort Claims Act and other State laws.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

15. Upon request of either the Bureau or the Department, the parties hereto agree to meet to review the administration of the areas designated as Leased Premises. Periodic management reviews will be scheduled by the Bureau with the Department.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE

16. The Department shall provide or contract for operation of all necessary electrical power, garbage services, water, sewage facilities, solid waste disposal, and other utilities required for all areas under its administration.

ASSIGNMENT LIMITED - SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OBLIGATED

17. The provisions of this lease agreement shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, but no assignment or transfer of this lease agreement or any part or interest therein to anyone except a party hereto shall be valid until approved by the Bureau.

COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

18. The Department warrants that it has not employed any person to solicit or secure this lease upon agreement for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee. Any breach of this warranty shall give the Bureau the right to annul the lease or, in its discretion, to deduct from any amount payable under this lease by the Bureau to the Department the amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

AUTHORITY OF FUNDS

19. The performance of all obligations of the United States created by this agreement or arising therefrom shall be subject to the availability of funds for such purposes.

The performance of all obligations of the Department created by this agreement or arising therefrom shall be subject to the laws of the State of Oklahoma and subject to the availability or appropriation of funds for such purpose.

EXHIBITS

20. Exhibits A and B are considered as continued conditions of this lease with each exhibit being attached hereto.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

21. a. During the performance of this lease agreement, the Department agrees as follows:

(1) The Department will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national

origin. The Department will take affirmative action to insure that applicants are employed, and that the employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Department agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Bureau setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

(2) The Department will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Department, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(3) The Department will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the Bureau advising the said labor union or workers' representative of the Department commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(4) The Department will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(5) The Department will furnish all information and reports required by said amended Executive order and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to its books, records, and accounts by the Bureau and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the Department's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended, in whole or in part, and the Department may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in said amended Executive order and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in said Executive order or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The Department will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of said amended Executive order so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Department will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions of noncompliance; Provided, however, That in the event the Department becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as

a result of such direction, the Department may request the Bureau to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the Bureau.

b. Inclusion of the above nondiscrimination clause in subcontracts may be by reference to Section 201 of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended, dated September 24, 1965. Subcontracts below the third tier, other than subcontracts calling for construction work at the site of construction, are exempt from the requirement of the clause.

c. (1) Definitions:

(a) The term "Department" shall mean the employees, agents, lessees, sublessees, and contractors, and the successors in interest.

(b) The term "Facility" shall mean any and all services, facilities, privileges, accommodations, and activities available to the general public and permitted by this agreement.

(2) The Department shall not:

(a) Publicize any Facility operated hereunder in any manner that would directly or inferentially reflect upon or question the acceptability of any person because of race, creed, color, ancestry, or national origin;

(b) Discriminate by segregation or other means against any person because of race, creed, color, ancestry, or national origin in furnishing or refusing to furnish such person the use of any such Facility.

(3) The Department shall post the following notice in such a manner where any Facility is available so as to insure that its contents will be conspicuous to any person seeking employment or use of any Facility. Such notice will be furnished the Department by the Bureau.

NOTICE

THIS IS A FACILITY OPERATED IN AN AREA UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

NO DISCRIMINATION BY SEGREGATION OR OTHER MEANS IN FURNISHING OF ACCOMMODATIONS, FACILITIES, SERVICES, OR PRIVILEGES ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, ANCESTRY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IS PERMITTED IN THE USE OF THIS FACILITY. VIOLATIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE, IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH. COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240.

(4) The Department shall require in all of its contracts or other forms of agreements for the operation of a Facility pursuant to this agreement, inclusion and compliance with provisions identical with those stated in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) herein.

NOTICES

22. Any notice, demand, or request authorized or required by this contract shall be deemed to have been given, on behalf of the Department when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation, 714 South Tyler Street, Suite 201, Amarillo, Texas 79101, and on behalf of the Bureau or the United States, when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Executive Director, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 500 Will Rogers Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. The designation of the addressee or the address may be changed by notice given in the same manner as provided in this article for other notices.

OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

23. No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit that may arise herefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the day and year first hereinabove written.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Department of the Interior

EUGENE HINDS

By _____
Regional Director, Southwest Region
Bureau of Reclamation

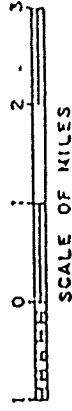
CONCURRENCE:

MCGEE CREEK AUTHORITY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
Department

By *Sam Kinross*
Title *Chairman*

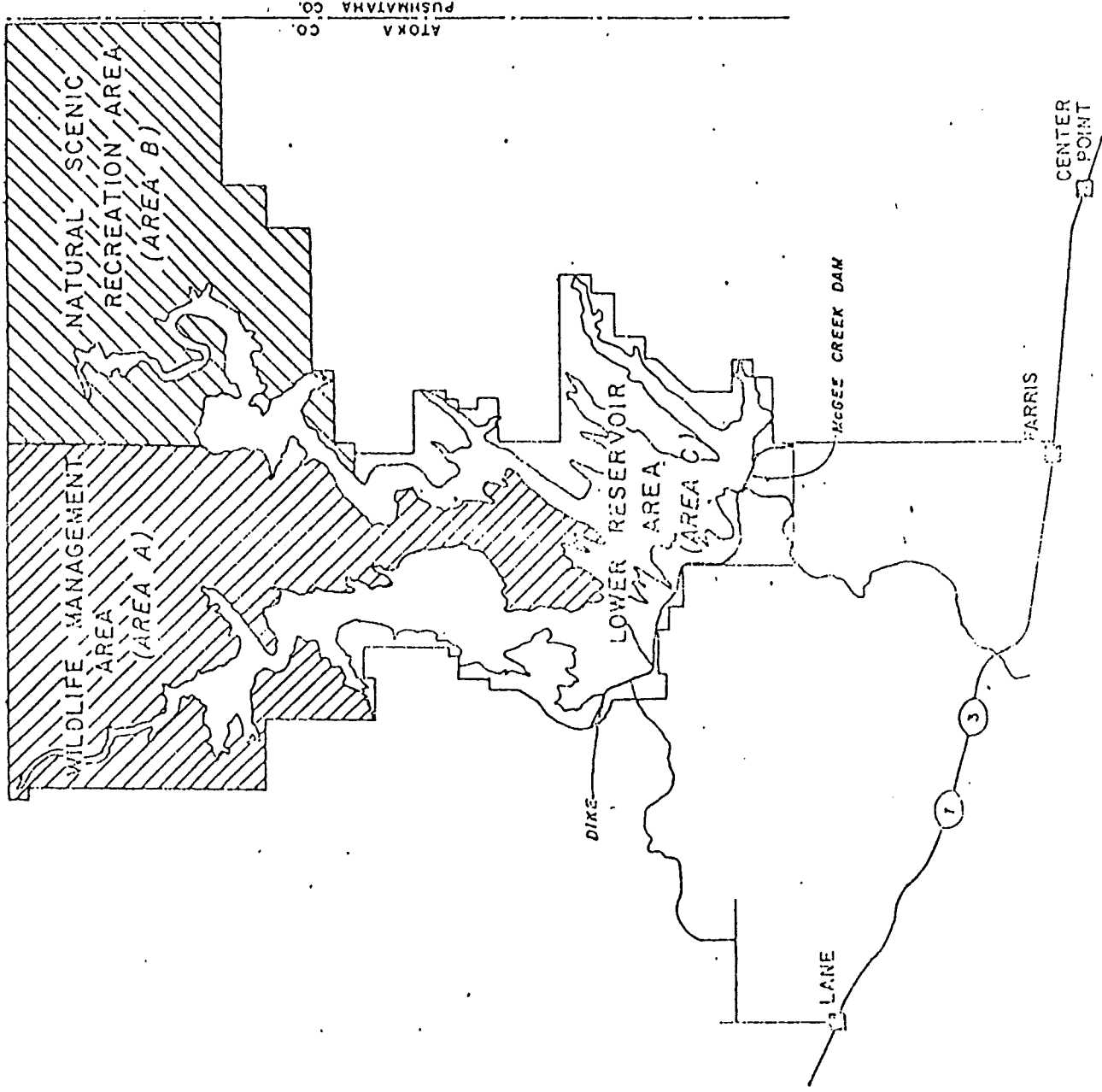
By *Abe L. Hesser*
Title Abe L. Hesser, Executive Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

McGEE CREEK PROJECT OKLAHOMA

EXHIBIT "A"



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
MCGEE CREEK PROJECT, OKLAHOMA
AREA C

LEASE AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION,
AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED PUBLIC USE AREAS AND FACILITIES,
AND FOR REPAYMENT OF THE SEPARABLE COSTS FOR RECREATION AND
FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FACILITIES OF THE
MCGEE CREEK RESERVOIR, ATOKA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION,
AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED PUBLIC USE AREAS AND FACILITIES,
AND FOR REPAYMENT OF THE SEPARABLE COSTS FOR
RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FACILITIES
OF THE MCGEE CREEK RESERVOIR, ATOKA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
AREA C

THIS CONTRACT AND AGREEMENT is made and entered into this 18th day of November, 1983, pursuant to authority of the Reclamation Act of 1902, Chapter 1093, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory and supplementary thereto, particularly the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, Public Law No. 89-72, 79 Stat. 213, as amended; the Reclamation Authorization Act of 1976, Public Law No. 94-423, Title VII, 90 Stat. 1329; and the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 41 U.S.C. Sections 501 et seq. (Supp II 1978) between the United States of America, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of the Interior, hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau," and the State of Oklahoma, acting by and through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, hereinafter referred to as the "Department."

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Act of September 28, 1976, Public Law No. 94-423, 90 Stat. 1329 (1976), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek Project, hereinafter referred to as the "Project," for the purposes of conservation and development of fish and wildlife resources and enhancement of recreational opportunities and other purposes in connection with the McGee Creek Project in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, supra, and in accordance with repayment contract No. 0-07-50-X0822 with the McGee Creek Authority, hereinafter referred to as the "Authority"; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Statute, Title 74, Section 1802 (Supp 1979), provides for acquisition of State park sites by the Department, and said Department is otherwise authorized by Oklahoma law to administer and control all State parks; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the Bureau to lease to the Department a portion of the lands, water areas, units, improvements, and facilities in and adjacent to the McGee Creek Reservoir, which lands, water and facilities are identified as Area C on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof, and are hereinafter called the "Leased Premises"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, supra, as amended, the Department is agreeable to accepting repayment obligations associated with development of recreational facilities and certain fish and wildlife enhancement facilities, the Department will bear not less than one-half the separable costs associated with the development of the recreation facilities and one-fourth of the costs associated with development of the fish and wildlife facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department is agreeable to assuming administration of the recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities and Leased Premises, and to operating, maintaining and replacing those facilities at its own expense,

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

LEASE

1. a. The Bureau, in consideration of the observance and performance by the Department of its contractual obligations hereinafter set forth, leases the Leased Premises, without warranty of title, to the Department in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

b. The Department accepts the lease of the Leased Premises without warranty of title in accordance with terms of this agreement subject to obligation of the Bureau to defend such title as it has.

LEASE TERMS

2. a. This lease shall be in full force and effect for a term of 50 years commencing 60 days after the Bureau notifies the Department in writing unless and until terminated as hereinafter specified.

b. The Bureau hereby leases to the Department to administer for public outdoor recreation use, subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement, the land and water areas and facilities thereon and therein identified as Area C in Exhibit A.

c. The Department shall promptly make any and all repairs of the Leased Premises, including replacement of facilities thereon or therein, which are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public using the Leased Premises or necessary for the proper care, operation, and maintenance of the Leased Premises. In case of neglect or failure of the Department to make such repairs within 60 days following written notification by the Bureau, the Bureau may cause the repairs to be made, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the Department as prescribed by the Bureau. Repair of the Leased Premises by the Bureau does not relieve the Department of any repayment obligation it may have incurred for the Leased Premises.

d. The Bureau may elect to take over from the Department the care, operation, and maintenance of the Leased Premises at any time that the Department violates any term of this agreement and fails to take corrective action satisfactory to the Bureau within 180 days after written notification by the Bureau of the specific violation. The Bureau will give written notice to the Department of such election and the effective date thereof. Thereafter,

during the period of operation by the Bureau, the Department shall pay to the Bureau annually in advance the cost of operation and maintenance of the Leased Premises, including needed replacement of facilities, as prescribed in notices from the Bureau to the Department. Operation of the Leased Premises by the Bureau does not relieve the Department of any repayment obligation it may have incurred for the Leased Premises. The care, operation, and maintenance of the Leased Premises may be retransferred to the Department in the manner originally transferred.

e. The Bureau may terminate the whole or any part of this agreement at any time that the Department violates any term of this agreement and fails to take corrective action satisfactory to the Bureau within 180 days after written notification by the Bureau of the specific violation. Termination of the whole or any part of this agreement by the Bureau because the Department has violated terms of this agreement does not relieve the Department of any repayment obligation it may have incurred for the Leased Premises.

f. On or before the date of expiration of this lease or its relinquishment by the Department, the Department shall vacate the premises, remove its property therefrom, and restore the premises to a condition satisfactory to the Bureau. If, however, this lease is revoked, the lessee shall vacate the premises, remove its property therefrom, and restore the premises as aforesaid within such time as the Bureau may designate. In either event, if the Department shall fail or neglect to remove its property and so restore the premises, then its property shall become the property of the Bureau without compensation therefor, and no claim for damages against the Bureau or its officers or agents shall be created by or made on account thereof.

g. This lease is subject to all existing easements or rights, and easements or rights subsequently granted, for roadways, mineral operations, and utilities located on the premises.

h. Grants of land or land-use rights, including permits to utilize surface overlying oil, gas, and minerals leased to third parties and including utility or pipeline rights-of-way, may be issued by the Bureau after consultation and concurrence of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

3. a. The Bureau will acquire the land and landrights constituting the Leased Premises and will fence the area and construct those facilities outlined in the Definite Plan Report for the Leased Premises of the McGee Creek Project, subject to the availability of funds for that purpose.

b. All structures shall be constructed and landscaped in accordance with plans submitted to, and approved by, the Bureau. Further, the Department shall not discharge waste or effluent from the premises in such a manner that such discharge will contaminate streams or other bodies of water or otherwise become a public nuisance.

c. The Department shall keep a current and accurate inventory of such structures and improvements installed or constructed at its own expense. Title to such facilities, which are installed or constructed to satisfy the cost-sharing requirements of the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, shall be

transferred to the Bureau. Title to such facilities, which are constructed by the Department in the future as additions to the initial project recreation development, shall remain with the Department. Upon termination of this agreement, the removal of such property will be in accordance with Article 2.f of this agreement.

UNITED STATES USE PARAMOUNT

4. a. The rights of the Department under this agreement are subordinate to rights of the Bureau. The Bureau has the right to use the Leased Premises in any manner it finds necessary, including the right of ingress and egress, for any project or other Federal purpose.

b. Public use of the Leased Premises may be restricted whenever the United States determines that such restriction is necessary in the interest of Project purposes, public safety, environmental protection, or national security.

c. The Department will not interfere with or impede operation and maintenance of the Project by the Bureau.

d. It is clearly understood that the McGee Creek Project has as its primary purpose the furnishing of storage space for water rights held by the several participants in the McGee Creek Authority and which will be used as municipal and industrial water supply by these entities. The Department and Bureau agree that, any provision of this agreement notwithstanding, no activity or operation of the Department or the Bureau shall be inconsistent with the preservation of the integrity of the project as a municipal water supply.

IN KIND REPAYMENT CONTRACT

5. a. The Department will repay to the Bureau through provision of recreation facilities funded by the Oklahoma State Legislature, 50 percent of the separable costs allocated to recreation facility development, and 25 percent of the separable costs allocated to fish and wildlife facility development, as set forth in the attached in kind repayment schedule, Exhibit "C." If the actual separable recreation and fish and wildlife costs do not exceed \$2,000,000 and \$391,000, by 20 percent respectively, or if the separable costs are less than \$2,000,000 and \$391,000 respectively, the in kind repayment schedule, Exhibit "C," will be revised accordingly. If it appears that actual separable recreation and fish and wildlife facility costs will exceed \$2,000,000 and \$391,000 by twenty percent (20%), respectively, the Bureau and the Department shall jointly determine what action should be taken. By this reference Exhibit "C" is made a part of this agreement.

b. Project funds authorized for recreation and fish and wildlife facility development shall be indexed annually. The current authorized ceilings (October 1984) are \$2,603,000 and \$391,000, respectively, for recreation and fish and wildlife facilities. Unexpended project recreation and fish and wildlife funds shall remain available for facility development, at the option of the Department, on a cost-share basis agreeable to the Bureau and the Department.

c. The in kind repayment obligation of the Department to the Bureau shall be paid beginning in 1985 (FY'86) through the development of recreation facilities in accordance with the McGee Creek Master Plan. The

facility development by the Department shall extend for 5 years beginning in 1985 with approximately 20 percent of the total expenditure obligation being paid in kind each year, subject to the availability of legislature appropriated funds for this purpose. The actual cost of development each year shall be subtracted from the total in kind repayment obligation remaining. Title to all such facilities constructed by the Department shall be vested in the Bureau.

d. All repayment obligations paid by June 30, 1990, shall be considered upfront money. In the event the repayment obligation (as shown in Exhibit C) is not paid in full by June 30, 1990, interest on the unpaid balance shall be calculated and billed annually to the Department at the rate of 7.21 percent until the repayment obligation is paid in full.

e. Repayment may be limited to entrance and user fees or charges collected if the fee schedule and the portion of fees dedicated to repayment are established on a basis calculated to achieve repayment by the end of the lease term and are made subject to review and renegotiation at intervals of not more than 5 years.

f. Repayment may be accomplished by the Department paying to the Bureau in advance of or during construction, the amount which has been determined to be 50 percent of the separable costs allocated to recreation and 25 percent of the separable costs allocated to fish and wildlife.

MANAGEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT

6. a. The Department shall conform to such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may issue to govern the public use of the project area and shall comply with the provisions of the above cited Acts of Congress. The Department shall protect the premises from fire, vandalism, and soil erosion and may make and enforce such regulations as are necessary and within its legal authority in exercising the privileges granted in this lease; Provided, That such regulations are not inconsistent with those issued by the Secretary of the Interior or with provisions of the above-cited Acts of Congress.

b. The Department shall administer and maintain the premises in accordance with the management program to be prepared by the Bureau with input and concurrence of the Department, which may be amended from time to time as may be necessary. Such management program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Plans for management activities to be undertaken by the Department or jointly by the Department and the Bureau, including improvements and other facilities to be constructed thereon.

(2) Budget of the Department for carrying out the management activities.

(3) Personnel to be used in the management of the area.

c. The Department shall provide the facilities and services necessary to meet the public demand either directly or through concession

agreements with third parties. All such agreements shall state that they are granted subject to the provisions of this lease and that the concession agreement will not be effective until approved by the Bureau.

d. No habitable buildings shall be constructed on the Leased Premises below a 610-foot elevation, USGS datum, and no provision of this agreement shall be interpreted otherwise.

e. Subject to written approval of the Bureau, water on the Leased Premises may be used for drinking, modern restroom facilities, and other uses convenient or necessary for public recreational purposes to the extent water is available.

f. In taking over the administration, operation, and maintenance obligations in this lease agreement, the Department acknowledges that it has inspected all land and water areas covered by this agreement and is aware of all hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions existing thereon. The Department shall be solely responsible for taking all steps reasonably necessary to protect the safety of persons and property in the land and water areas covered by this agreement from all hazards existing at the time of this agreement or which may thereafter arise.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, MINERAL AND OIL AND GAS RIGHTS

7. a. The Bureau has the right to remove materials from the Leased Premises necessary for project purposes; Provided however, That such removal of material does not interfere with improvements completed by the Bureau or by the Department.

b. Mineral, oil, and gas exploration and development will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the recommended plan as described in the Supplemental Environmental Statement prepared for McGee Creek Project and existing Federal laws and administrative orders, including Public Law 97-86, and State rules and regulations.

c. The Bureau shall notify the Department as to proposed prospecting, locating, developing, or mining of mineral resources. The Bureau shall submit special stipulations to the Department for review. The Department shall notify the Bureau of any comments or recommendations on the special stipulations or submit additional stipulations for consideration by the Bureau. The Department shall not interfere with oil and gas or mineral permittees to prospect, locate, develop, or mine mineral resources on such Federal lands. No payment, unless specified in the mineral lease, shall be collected by the Department for any damage to or loss of natural vegetation, wildlife, mineral material, or for soil disturbance occurring on Leased Premises which might result from operation, development, or construction activities conducted under the authority of an oil and gas or mineral lease.

LAND RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION AND PROTECTION

8. The Department assures that it will comply with the Antiquities Act of 1906, Endangered Species Act, Historic Sites Preservation Act of 1966,

National Environmental Policy Act, The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act of 1978, and all other applicable Federal and State laws and orders.

THIRD-PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

9. a. The Department may enter into contracts, concession agreements, or permits with third parties to improve the Leased Premises for public-use purposes. The term of such contracts, agreements, or permits shall not extend beyond the end of the term of this lease agreement and shall specifically include all applicable provisions of this lease agreement and not be effective until approved by the Bureau. The Bureau reserves the right to require insertion of such provisions into said contracts, agreements, or permits that will serve to protect the interests of the Bureau in the Leased Premises.

b. Permits which the Department may issue shall require the permittee to comply with the terms of this agreement and shall be subject to cancellation at will upon 30 days advance notice and shall be void if this lease agreement is terminated, subject to written renewal by the Bureau.

c. If this lease agreement is terminated before expiration of the term of any contracts or concession agreements between the Department and a third party, the Department shall assign all its rights under such a third party to the Bureau.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

10. a. Activities on the Leased Premises shall be subject to all applicable Federal, State, and local rules and regulations. The Bureau may issue rules and regulations for Project purposes. The Department may, within limits of its authority, issue rules and regulations for occupancy, use, operation, maintenance, development, and improvement of the Leased Premises as are necessary or desirable for fish and wildlife propagation or enhancement or public use.

b. The right is reserved to the Bureau, its officers, agents, and employees to enter upon the premises at any time and for any purpose necessary or convenient to the overall purpose of the project and/or to make any other use of the land as may be necessary in connection with such purpose, and the Department shall have no claim for damages of any character on account thereof against the Bureau or any agent, officer, or employee thereof.

c. The Bureau shall not be responsible for damages to property or injuries to persons which may arise from or be incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted, or for damages to the property of the Department, or for damages to the property, or injuries to the person of the Department's officers, agents, servants, or employees or others who may be on the premises at their invitation or the invitation of any one of them, arising from or incident to the flooding of the premises by the Bureau or any other cause, or arising from or incident to any other Bureau or governmental activities.

REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

11. The Department shall submit annually to the Bureau, on a form provided by the Bureau, a report of public use of the Leased Premises and of facilities provided for the public.

FEES - STATE

12. a. Admission, entrance, or user fees may be charged by the Department for the entrance to, or use of, the premises or any facility constructed thereon; Provided, That prior approval of the Bureau is obtained.

b. All revenues received by the Department from entrance fees or from use of the Leased Premises shall be accounted for through general accounting procedures.

c. The Department will periodically cause an audit to be made by the State of Oklahoma's auditor or qualified accountant of its books and accounts for the preceding fiscal year and shall submit to the Bureau a report of each such audit setting forth the accountant's findings respecting the revenue, income, and other receipts and the expenditure for operation and maintenance to the Leased Premises and all facilities in connection therewith. Revenues derived from licenses and permits required by Oklahoma law and user fees relating only to State of Oklahoma financial requirements shall not be included as revenue within the meaning of this paragraph.

BOOKS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS

13. a. The Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, and any duly authorized representative of the Bureau shall have access to and the right to examine pertinent books, documents, papers, and records of the State of Oklahoma and the Department involving transactions related to this lease, which right shall continue until 3 years after termination of this lease or any extensions thereof. Pertinent books, documents, papers, and records shall be retained and recorded in accordance with the appropriate State law, statute, etc.

b. The Department shall include in all agreements granting any concession, license, permit, or lease pertaining to the operation, maintenance, development, or improvement of the Leased Premises a provision permitting the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, until the expiration of 3 years after termination of the respective agreement to have access to and the right to examine pertinent books, documents, papers, and records pertaining to such agreement and the Leased Premises. This provision shall not be applicable to (1) purchase orders not exceeding \$2,500 and (2) agreements or purchase orders for public utility services at rates established for uniform applicability to the general public.

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE

14. The Department shall not do or knowingly permit to be done by others anything which may jeopardize the health or safety of any person on the Leased Premises or which may damage or destroy any property or improvements in

or upon the Leased Premises. To the extent of its authority, the Department shall save the Bureau harmless from any claim on account of death, personal injury, or property damage by reason of anything done or knowingly suffered or omitted to be done by the Department in its exercise of the rights, powers, and privileges granted by this lease. Nothing in the lease shall be construed or interpreted as authorizing (1) the Department, its agents, or employees to act as the agent or representative of or on behalf of the Bureau or to incur any obligation of any kind on behalf of the Bureau; or (2) the Bureau, its agents, or employees to act as the agent or representative of or on behalf of the Department or to incur any obligation of any kind on behalf of the Department.

INSURANCE

15. The Department shall provide in its agreements with concessionaires, permittees, licensees, and lessees for carrying such public liability, fire, theft, vandalism, and other insurance as is customary for similar operations under comparable circumstances, which insurance shall be subject to the approval of the Department. In the event of major or total destruction of any improvement constructed with Federal funds, it shall be mutually determined whether the insurance shall be paid to the Bureau or used for restoration or construction of a similar facility. The Department will comply with the Oklahoma Tort Claims Act and other State laws.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

16. Upon request of either the Bureau or the Department, the parties hereto agree to meet to review the administration of the areas designated as Leased Premises. Periodic management reviews will be scheduled by the Bureau with the Department.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE

17. The Department shall provide or contract for operation of all necessary electrical power, garbage services, water, sewage facilities, solid waste disposal, and other utilities required for all areas under its administration.

ASSIGNMENT LIMITED - SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OBLIGATED

18. The provisions of this lease agreement shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, but no assignment or transfer of this lease agreement or any part or interest therein to anyone except a party hereto shall be valid until approved by the Bureau.

COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

19. The Department warrants that it has not employed any person to solicit or secure this lease upon agreement for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee. Any breach of this warranty shall give the Bureau the right to annul the lease or, in its discretion, to deduct from any amount payable under this lease by the Bureau to the Department the amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

AUTHORITY OF FUNDS

20. The performance of all obligations of the Bureau created by this agreement or arising therefrom shall be subject to the availability of funds for such purposes. The performance of all obligations of the Department created by this agreement or arising therefrom shall be subject to the laws of the State of Oklahoma and subject to the availability of appropriation of funds for such purpose.

EXHIBITS

21. Exhibits A, B, and C are considered as continued conditions of this lease with each exhibit being attached hereto.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

22. a. During the performance of this lease agreement, the Department agrees as follows:

(1) The Department will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Department will take affirmative action to insure that applicants are employed, and that the employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Department agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Bureau setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

(2) The Department will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Department, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(3) The Department will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the Bureau advising the said labor union or workers' representative of the Department commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(4) The Department will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(5) The Department will furnish all information and reports required by said amended Executive order and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to

its books, records, and accounts by the Bureau and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the Department's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended, in whole or in part, and the Department may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in said amended Executive order and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in said Executive order or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The Department will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of said amended Executive order so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Department will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions of noncompliance; Provided, however, That in the event the Department becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction, the Department may request the Bureau to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the Bureau.

b. Inclusion of the above nondiscrimination clause in subcontracts may be by reference to Section 201 of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended, dated September 24, 1965. Subcontracts below the third tier, other than subcontracts calling for construction work at the site of construction, are exempt from the requirement of the clause.

c. (1) Definitions:

(a) The term "Department" shall mean the employees, agents, lessees, sublessees, and contractors, and the successors in interest.

(b) The term "Facility" shall mean any and all services, facilities, privileges, accommodations, and activities available to the general public and permitted by this agreement.

(2) The Department shall not:

(a) Publicize any Facility operated hereunder in any manner that would directly or inferentially reflect upon or question the acceptability of any person because of race, creed, color, ancestry, or national origin;

(b) Discriminate by segregation or other means against any person because of race, creed, color, ancestry, or national origin in furnishing or refusing to furnish such person the use of any such Facility.

(3) The Department shall post the following notice in such a manner where any Facility is available so as to insure that its contents will be conspicuous to any person seeking employment or use of any Facility. Such notice will be furnished the Department by the Bureau.

NOTICE

THIS IS A FACILITY OPERATED IN AN AREA UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

NO DISCRIMINATION BY SEGREGATION OR OTHER MEANS IN FURNISHING OF ACCOMMODATIONS, FACILITIES, SERVICES, OR PRIVILEGES ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, ANCESTRY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IS PERMITTED IN THE USE OF THIS FACILITY. VIOLATIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE, IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH. COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240.

(4) The Department shall require in all of its contracts or other forms of agreements for the operation of a Facility pursuant to this agreement, inclusion and compliance with provisions identical with those stated in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) herein.

NOTICES

23. Any notice, demand, or request authorized or required by this contract shall be deemed to have been given, on behalf of the Department when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, Bureau of Reclamation, 714 South Tyler Street, Suite 201, Amarillo, Texas 79101, and on behalf of the Bureau or the United States, when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Executive Director, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 500 Will Rogers Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. The designation of the addressee or the address may be changed by notice given in the same manner as provided in this article for other notices.

OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

24. No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit that may arise herefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the day and year first hereinabove written.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Department of the Interior

By EUGENE HINDS
Regional Director, Southwest Region
Bureau of Reclamation

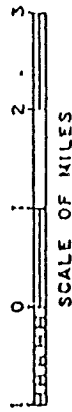
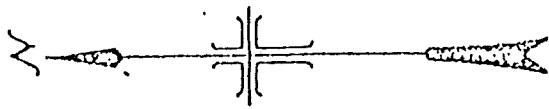
CONCURRENCE:

MC GEE CREEK AUTHORITY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
Department

By *Jim Reynolds*
Title *Chairman*

By *Abe L. Hesser*
Title Abe L. Hesser, Executive Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

McGEE CREEK PROJECT OKLAHOMA

EXHIBIT "A"

