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Preferred Alternative - Park Management Framework



Hiking alone in winter – experiencing solitude.



*New River Gorge
National River
affords exceptional
opportunities for
exploration, adventure,
discovery, solitude,
and community.*



Outfitted paddlers bound for adventure on the New River in the lower gorge.

*Opposite side: Tranquil setting on the New River at dusk.
Section Divider Photos: NPS/Gary Hartley*



The view from a raft provides visitors with a perspective much different than that from above. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

New River Gorge National River

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – PARK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

EXPLORATION EXPERIENCES – THE CONCEPT

Future management of New River Gorge National River will preserve areas from end to end within the park for primitive recreational experiences. Interspersed with these primitive areas will be cultural and interpretive resource focal areas where visitors can explore communities and other places that once populated the gorge, experience the river, and enjoy a variety of recreational experiences. A north to south through the park connector composed of improved scenic roads and trails will enable visitors to travel the length of the park, visiting these areas and accessing the backcountry. Partnerships with gateway communities and improved rim to river experiences will foster links to the park as a whole and to specific cultural and interpretive resource areas within the park. Other connecting trails outside the park – made possible through partnerships – will offer visitors opportunities to hike or bike from New River Gorge National River to the Bluestone National Scenic River, the Gauley River National Recreation Area, and other attractions in the region.



Peaceful forest trails, superb overlooks, and historic landscapes can all be found on nearly 100 miles of hiking trails in the park. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Exploration Experiences – Main Ideas

- **Way to Unify the Park and Improve Its Image** – emphasis on a through park connector and river gateways
- **Visitor Experience** – broad recreation experiences with opportunities to explore park history
- **Focus of Visitor Activities** – concentrated at river gateways and focal areas

ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

Visitor Experience

Primitive recreation experiences will be emphasized throughout the park along a new through park connector; river gateways and focal areas will be managed for a broad variety of interpretive and recreation experiences.

Natural Resource Management

Large tracts of intact forest along one or both sides of the New River throughout the park will be managed as backcountry (66.4%) with negligible new forest fragmentation.

Cultural Resource Management

Significant cultural resources in river gateways and focal areas will be restored or rehabilitated and adaptively reused; many sites along the through park connector will be managed as discovery sites which visitors will find and learn about as they explore remote areas of the park.

Visitor Use and Park Facilities





The through park connector will connect the park from end to end; other trails will connect the rim to the river and will provide access to recreation and interpretive sites near river gateways.

New facilities will be added near of river gateways and in focal areas.

Partnerships and Cooperative Actions

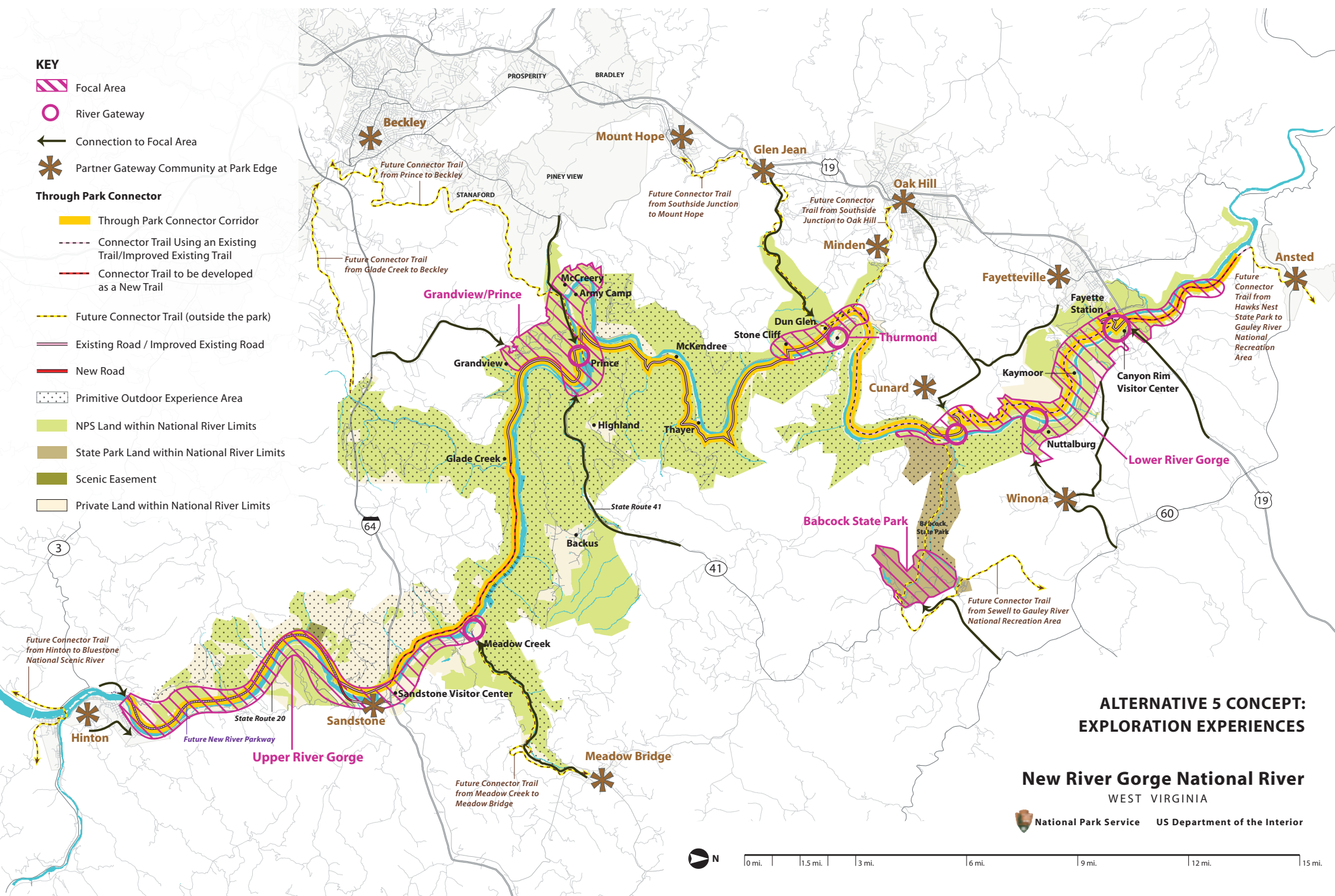
NPS and gateway communities will enter into cooperative partnerships. NPS will expand participation in regional economic development efforts and cooperative efforts with the state parks, public agencies, and visitor use groups.

KEY

-  Focal Area
-  River Gateway
-  Connection to Focal Area
-  Partner Gateway Community at Park Edge

Through Park Connector

-  Through Park Connector Corridor
-  Connector Trail Using an Existing Trail/Improved Existing Trail
-  Connector Trail to be developed as a New Trail
-  Future Connector Trail (outside the park)
-  Existing Road / Improved Existing Road
-  New Road
-  Primitive Outdoor Experience Area
-  NPS Land within National River Limits
-  State Park Land within National River Limits
-  Scenic Easement
-  Private Land within National River Limits



ALTERNATIVE 5 CONCEPT: EXPLORATION EXPERIENCES

New River Gorge National River
WEST VIRGINIA

 National Park Service US Department of the Interior



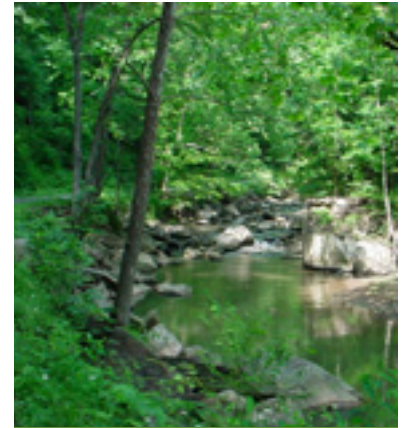
0 mi. | 1.5 mi. | 3 mi. | 6 mi. | 9 mi. | 12 mi. | 15 mi.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

The NPS uses management zones to describe the desired resource conditions and desired visitor experiences to be achieved in various areas of the park. The management zones identify the widest range of potential appropriate resource conditions, visitor experience, and facilities for access within the park that are consistent with its purpose, significance, and special mandates. The NPS has identified five management zones for New River Gorge National River.



The **Backcountry Zone** includes the park's large contiguous tracts of intact forest. (shown here near Sewell) (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



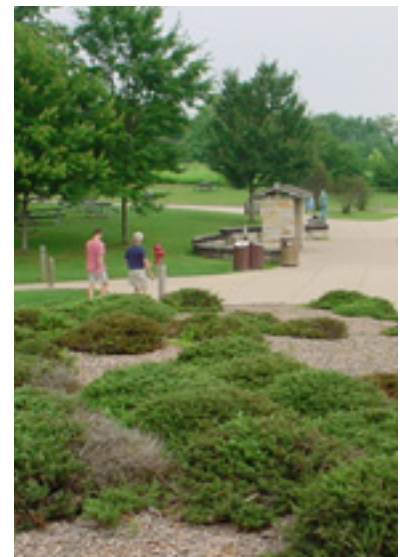
The **Frontcountry Zone** includes the park's large contiguous tracts of intact to somewhat fragmented forest. (shown here along Claypool Road in the Meadow Creek South area) (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



The **River Corridor Zone** includes the free-flowing New River and adjoining riparian areas where natural processes support a high integrity sustainable aquatic and riparian ecosystem. (shown here below Cunard) (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



The **Historic Resource Zone** includes the park's most important historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. (shown here at Nuttallburg) (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)



The **Park Development Zone** includes the locations in the park where the most intense and diverse visitor use occurs. (shown here at Canyon Rim Visitor Center) (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Management Zone Summary

Zone	Overall Zone Concept	Geologic Features	Waters of the New River System
Backcountry	The Backcountry Zone includes the park's large contiguous tracts of intact forest. The park's backcountry forest will be maintained with negligible site-specific forest fragmentation. Management actions will ensure that native plant species will continue to dominate the forest community and that there will be negligible effects on natural processes. Remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites will be protected; historic resources might be stabilized throughout the zone and interpreted where public access can be provided. Low impact recreation will occur in locations and at levels that have negligible to minor impacts on forest values. Visitor use will generally be low. In climbing areas, low impact managed climbing opportunities might occur, natural processes might be minimally modified, and visitor use is commensurate with resource protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural geologic processes/ features persist largely unaltered by human-induced impacts areas disturbed by mining are reclaimed and in some areas restored natural drainage patterns are restored in reclaimed areas high walls associated with mining are allowed to recover naturally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rainfall-runoff dynamics and sediment delivery occur at natural levels physical, chemical, and biological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural conditions
Frontcountry	The Frontcountry Zone includes the park's large contiguous tracts of intact to somewhat fragmented forest. The park's frontcountry forest will be maintained with minor site-specific forest fragmentation. Management actions will ensure that native plant species will continue to dominate the forest community. Minimal modification of natural processes could occur. As in the Backcountry Forest Zone, remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites will be protected; historic resources might be stabilized and interpreted where public access can be provided. Moderate impact recreation will occur in locations and at levels that have negligible to minor impacts on forest values. Visitor use will be generally moderate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural geologic processes/ features persist with minimal human-induced impacts (to provide roads and facilities for visitor use) areas disturbed by mining are reclaimed and in some areas restored natural drainage patterns are restored in reclaimed areas high walls associated with mining are allowed to recover naturally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rainfall-runoff dynamics and sediment delivery might be somewhat altered from natural levels physical, chemical, and biological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural conditions natural gradation of riparian plants occurs from water's edge to upland forest
River Corridor	The River Corridor Zone includes the free-flowing New River and adjoining riparian areas where natural processes support a high integrity sustainable aquatic and riparian ecosystem. Future management will continue to improve water quality in the New River so that it meets state standards for primary contact recreation and is no longer listed by the state as impaired. Remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites will be protected; historic resources might be stabilized and interpreted where public access can be provided. Low impact recreation will occur in locations and at levels that do not negatively impact river and riparian values. Visitor use will vary from low to high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural geologic processes/ features persist with minimal human-induced impacts natural drainage patterns are restored in reclaimed areas acid mine drainage (AMD) is eliminated and AMD impacts are mitigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the New River is free-flowing within the park rainfall-runoff dynamics and sediment delivery occur at natural levels the mosaic of hydrologic features reflects a natural stream ecosystem physical, chemical, and biological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural conditions hydrologic features provide a mosaic of habitats that supports a full range of naturally occurring aquatic organisms
Historic Resource	The Historic Resource Zone includes the park's most important historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. Management actions will preserve these resources while making them readily visible and accessible to visitors. Cultural landscapes and historic structures will be managed to retain and in some cases restore features that contribute to the public's understanding of the full range of activities that were important to the site. Where appropriate, the NPS might rehabilitate buildings so that they can be adaptively reused for purposes that are consistent with their history and in conformance with preservation standards. Special research efforts might be initiated to understand the fundamental values of these sites and their communities. Moderate impact recreation will occur in locations and at levels that do not negatively impact cultural resource values. Visitor use will generally be moderate to high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural geologic processes/ features persist with minimal human-induced impacts (to provide roads and facilities for visitor use) all significant natural and human-induced disturbed areas are stabilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rainfall-runoff dynamics and sediment delivery might be somewhat altered from natural levels finished conditions maintain predevelopment runoff and water quality conditions physical, chemical, and biological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural conditions undisturbed natural buffers protect riparian habitat where compatible with cultural landscape preservation
Park Development	The Park Development Zone includes the locations in the park where the most intense and diverse visitor use occurs. These areas are convenient and accessible. Visitor facilities might include visitor centers, river access facilities, campgrounds, picnic facilities, restrooms, roads, parking, and others. This zone also includes locations where park operations are based, including facilities such as park maintenance facilities and administrative offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural geologic processes/ features persist with minimal human-induced impacts (to provide roads and facilities for visitor use) all disturbed areas are stabilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finished conditions maintain predevelopment runoff and water quality conditions physical, chemical, and biological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural conditions undisturbed natural buffers protect riparian habitat where compatible with park

Management Zone Summary (continued)

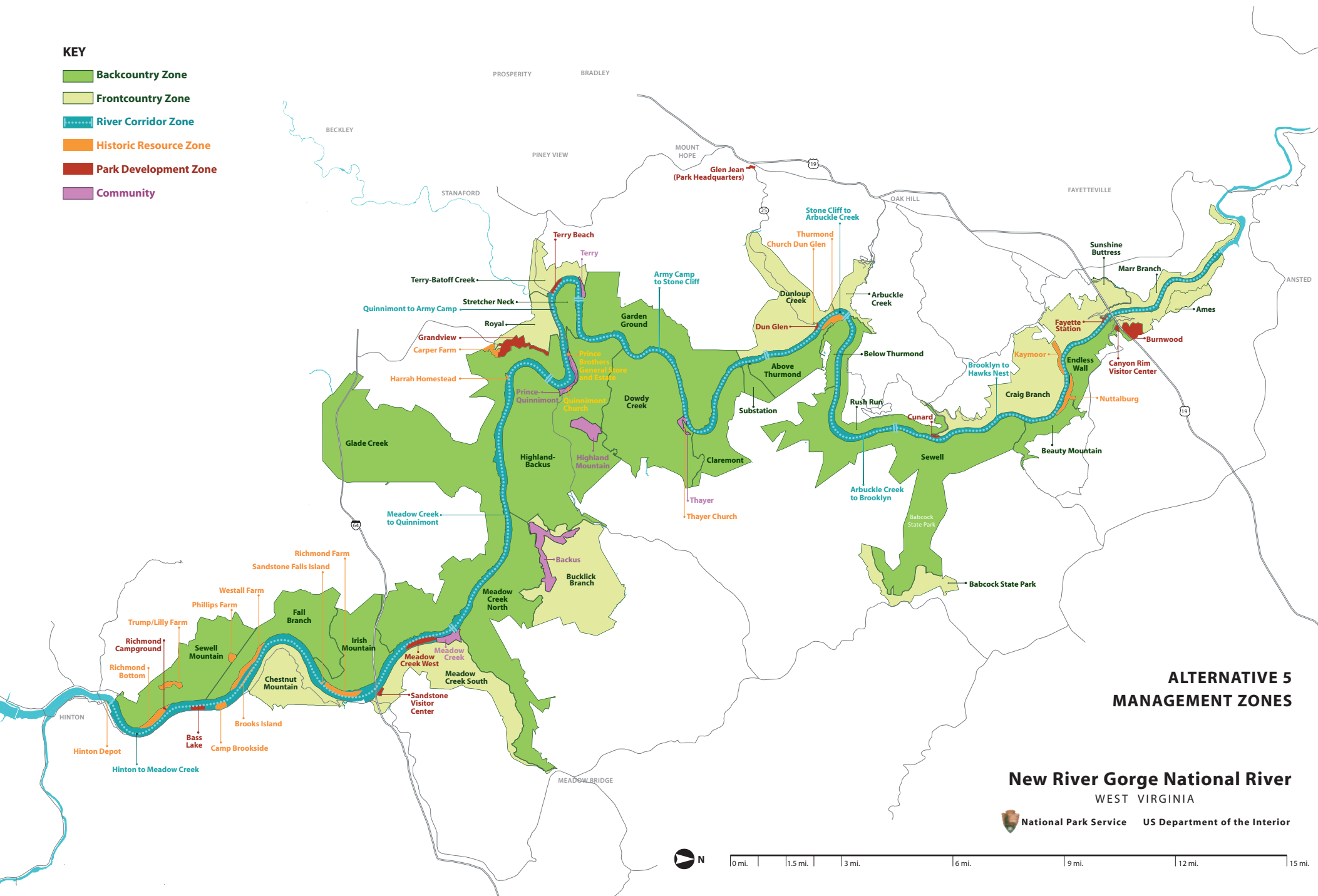
Zone	Forest	Cultural Resources	Views	Resources that Offer Exceptional Visitor Opportunities
Backcountry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> human-induced forest fragmentation and impacts to vertical understory structure and diversity are reduced or eliminated habitat mosaic supports a diversity and abundance of rare and native plant communities native plant diversity is increased prescribed fire occurs in fire-adaptive ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites are protected historic resources might be stabilized and interpreted where public access is possible when remaining elements of historic resources are stabilized, vegetation removal/development mimics natural processes and canopy gaps to limit fragmentation whenever possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of views are protected that allow visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience the extent of the gorge, river, forest, and rim understand the historic extent and appearance of cultural landscapes very limited management of vegetation maintains views daytime skies are predominantly free of human-induced adverse impacts nighttime skies are predominantly dark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unfragmented forest blocks largely free of human disturbance exist over a broad area unfragmented forest blocks support diverse and abundant wildlife, particularly forest interior dwelling birds cliff faces and rock walls persist largely unaltered by human-induced impacts the natural quiet remains substantially free of human intrusions
Frontcountry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> human-induced forest fragmentation and impacts to vertical understory structure and diversity are reduced native plant diversity is increased prescribed fire occurs in fire-adaptive ecosystems limited development for visitor use facilities might cause some forest fragmentation; facility design promotes forest continuity to limit potential for impacts to forest interior species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites are protected historic resources might be stabilized and interpreted where public access is possible when remaining elements of historic resources are stabilized, vegetation removal/development mimics natural processes and canopy gaps to limit fragmentation whenever possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of views are protected that allow visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience the extent of the gorge, river, forest, and rim understand the historic extent and appearance of cultural landscapes selective management of vegetation maintains views daytime skies are predominantly free of human-induced adverse impacts nighttime skies are predominantly dark, although artificial light might occur for visitor safety at some sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large contiguous forest blocks with some human disturbance exist over a broad area forest blocks support diverse and abundant wildlife cliff faces and rock walls persist largely unaltered by human-induced impacts the natural quiet remains substantially free of human intrusions
River Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the river and small stream banks bars in the river are protected cobble and flatrock communities persist prescribed fire occurs in fire-adaptive ecosystems limited development for visitor use facilities might cause some forest fragmentation; facility design limits potential for impacts to riparian species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites are protected historic resources might be stabilized and interpreted where public access is possible some natural features might incur minor modification in order to enable protection and/or stabilization of cultural resources, but modifications do not degrade aquatic or riparian resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of views are protected that allow visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience the extent of the gorge, river, forest, rim understand the historic extent and appearance of cultural landscapes limited management of vegetation maintains views daytime skies are predominantly free of human-induced adverse impacts nighttime skies are predominantly dark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the New River is free-flowing within the park hydrologic features provide a mosaic of habitats that supports a full range of natural aquatic organisms experiencing natural ecological interactions the natural quiet remains substantially free of human intrusions
Historic Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-historic human-induced forest fragmentation and impacts to vertical understory structure and diversity are reduced or eliminated rare plant communities are maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, or sites are made readily visible buildings might be adaptively reused for purposes that are consistent with their history landscapes and structures are managed to retain and introduce features that contribute to the public's understanding of the activities that were important to the site special research efforts might occur to understand the fundamental value of sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of views are protected that allow visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience the extent of the gorge, river, forest, and rim understand the historic extent and appearance of cultural landscapes selective management of vegetation maintains views daytime skies are predominantly free of human-induced adverse impacts nighttime skies are predominantly dark, although artificial light might occur for visitor safety at some sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimal intrusions occur to the natural soundscape
Park Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development footprints are limited to protect understory habitat structure so as to mimic natural plant and animal community diversity landscaping reflects natural plant communities and promotes grassland bird species limited mowing and minimization of multiple edge features occurs prescribed fire occurs in fire-dependent ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> historic properties are preserved and made readily visible and accessible some historic properties are used for public enjoyment and for park operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a range of views are protected that allow visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> experience the extent of the gorge, river, forest, and rim selective management of vegetation maintains views daytime skies are predominantly free of human-induced adverse impacts nighttime skies are predominantly black, although artificial light might occur for visitor safety at some sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimal intrusions occur to the natural soundscape

Management Zone Summary (continued)

Zone	Overall Visitor Experience	Activities	Types of Facilities	Access
Backcountry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors are immersed in nature away from conveniences opportunities are present for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of wildness solitude adventure and personal challenge exploration and discovery self-discovery self-directed learning appreciation of scenic and panoramic views unstructured recreational activities trail-based recreation (hiking and biking) overnight stays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high solitude, self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities opportunities via backcountry hiking, footpaths, e.g. hiking, limited biking, and bird watching opportunities via developed trails for rock climbing opportunities for appreciation of area history through discovery of cultural resources within a predominantly natural setting overnight camping stock use is not permitted except in upland locations where appropriately designed single-track trails can limit damage from equestrian use opportunities exist for scientific research of mid-Atlantic deciduous forest, water, and rare plant communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> single-track hiking trails biking trails by exception, including stacked loop trails trailheads (at zone periphery) backcountry campsites (designated campsites with fire rings and vault toilet facilities – no road access) primitive campgrounds at zone periphery (developed campsites with tables, fire rings, and vault toilets – road access) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-motorized access via limited trails very limited motorized access along the zone perimeter and restricted to established state roads, administrative roads, and park roads very limited interior motorized access for administrative use only on established administrative and park roads
Frontcountry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors are in contact with nature fairly close to conveniences opportunities are present for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adventure and personal challenge exploration and discovery self-directed learning appreciation of scenic and panoramic views unstructured recreational activities trail-based recreation (hiking, limited biking, and limited equestrian use) overnight stays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-motorized activities opportunities via developed trails, e.g. hiking, limited biking, rock climbing, and equestrian use of designated trails opportunities for appreciation of area history through discovery of cultural resources within a predominantly natural setting overnight camping stock use is not permitted except in upland locations where appropriately designed single-track trails can limit damage from equestrian use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> roads and parking hiking trails biking trails, including stacked loop trails trailheads picnicking facilities restrooms overlooks (developed) backcountry campsites (see definition above) primitive campgrounds (see definition above) developed campgrounds (de-enveloped campsites with tables, fire rings, vault toilets, and RV hook-ups – road access) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-motorized access via limited trails and roads motorized access on state roads, administrative roads, and park roads
River Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors are in contact with nature but are fairly close to conveniences opportunities are present for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of wildness adventure and personal challenge exploration and discovery self-directed learning appreciation of scenic and panoramic views unstructured recreation trail-based recreation (hiking and limited biking) river and riverbank recreation (whitewater boating, fishing, and swimming) overnight stays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water-based activities (boating and fishing) opportunities via developed trails, e.g. limited hiking and limited biking opportunities for appreciation of area history through discovery of cultural resources within a predominantly natural setting overnight camping stock use is not permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> roads and parking trails and trailheads picnicking facilities restrooms boat launches and river access facilities fishing access backcountry campsites (see definition above) primitive campgrounds (see definition above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-motorized access via limited trails and roads very limited motorized access on state roads, administrative roads, and park roads
Historic Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors have some contact with nature but are fairly close to conveniences opportunities are present for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> educational experiences creating a sense and awareness of the past trail-based recreation (hiking and limited biking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning opportunities focused on topics at cultural resources sites within historic settings frontcountry activities, e.g. walking, sightseeing, and limited biking stock use is not permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> roads and parking trails and trailheads picnicking facilities restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> motorized access via state roads and park roads non-motorized access via trails
Park Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors are close to modern conveniences opportunities are present for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtaining visitor services visiting educational and recreational facilities staying overnight sightseeing trail-based recreation (hiking and limited biking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> diverse educational activities diverse recreational activities park operations overnight camping hiking and limited biking stock use is not permitted BASE jumping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> backcountry trails trails and trailheads picnicking facilities restrooms river access facilities changing stations park admin offices park maintenance facilities primitive campgrounds developed campgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> motorized access via state roads and park roads non-motorized access via trails motorized access via shuttle might occur at congested sites

KEY

- Backcountry Zone
- Frontcountry Zone
- River Corridor Zone
- Historic Resource Zone
- Park Development Zone
- Community



ALTERNATIVE 5 MANAGEMENT ZONES

New River Gorge National River
WEST VIRGINIA



National Park Service US Department of the Interior



0 mi. 1.5 mi. 3 mi. 6 mi. 9 mi. 12 mi. 15 mi.

PARKWIDE DESIRED CONDITIONS

Parkwide desired conditions provide guidance for fulfilling the park's purpose and for protecting the park's fundamental and other important resources and values. The desired conditions are the natural and cultural resource conditions that the NPS aspires to achieve and maintain over time. They are also the conditions necessary for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate those resources. To accomplish the desired conditions the park will implement numerous management strategies. Some strategies are already in place. Some strategies will be new.

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
OVERALL PARK MANAGEMENT	
1 Managers make sound decisions about resource management based on professional studies and adequate planning that are consistent with applicable policies and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare natural resource inventories and studies, historic resource inventories and studies, archeological inventories and studies, implementation plans, and other studies and plans that provide foundations for park management • Revise the park's strategic plan in accordance with the park's General Management Plan • Prepare a Resource Stewardship Strategy • Monitor natural resource, cultural resource, and visitor experience conditions and implement management measures as needed to achieve desired conditions
2 Park facilities and programs reflect a central theme that helps visitors better understand how the park is organized, the opportunities that are available, and how to travel in the complicated network of local roads and trails in the park's rugged terrain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement management actions to achieve the area-specific desired conditions consistent with the overall concept of the preferred alternative in the park's General Management Plan
GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND PROCESSES EXEMPLIFYING THE GEOLOGY OF THE APPALACHIAN PLATEAU	
3 Natural geologic process/features persist largely unaltered by human-induced impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect designated fossil localities where encountered • Identify locations prone to rock detachment • Manage high walls so that recovery occurs naturally • Stabilize all soils and landforms disturbed by facility development • Restore areas disturbed by ATVs; block vehicular access to rehabilitated ATV routes • Adhere to guidance in the Climbing Management Plan (NPS 2005b), particularly the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – install top anchors to reduce soil impacts – reduce proliferation of fixed anchors on cliff face – designate chalk-free zones • Generally allow areas impacted by mining to restore naturally • Where feasible, restore areas disturbed by mining by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – stabilizing refuse piles – removing overburden from drainages, – containing/eradicating invasive species, – controlling or mitigating acid mine drainage – implementing vegetation restoration • For mine benches, generally take the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – catalog and classify mine benches for condition and disposition – maintain benches for their historical context where appropriate – otherwise mitigate failing or hazardous mine benches where feasible
FREE FLOWING WATERS OF THE NEW RIVER SYSTEM AND ITS HYDROLOGIC FEATURES AND AQUATIC HABITATS	
4 The mosaic of hydrologic features, including the maintenance of a free-flowing segment of the New River, its tributaries, and associated processes, reflect a natural river/stream ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove man-made obstructions in the river that are no longer in use – such as abandoned bridge piers • Avoid or minimize alterations to the river channel when developing river launch facilities • Manage stormwater so that rainfall-runoff dynamics and sediment delivery and transport processes occur at natural levels • Restore natural drainage patterns where they have been disturbed (e.g., Marr Branch) • Allow tributary streams to migrate naturally • Monitor flows in Wolf Creek and take management actions as appropriate to mitigate impacts of municipal groundwater withdrawals • Protect upland wetlands and their processes • Determine and recreate natural flow regimes (including coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to permit periodic maximum flood) • Work with transportation planning, permitting, and resource management agencies to eliminate or minimize future placement of bridge piers in river and stream channels when bridges are repaired or replaced

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
5 Physical, chemical, and hydrological properties and dynamics of water reflect natural water quality conditions (water quality is improving)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing NPS ambient water quality monitoring program (including continuous water quality monitoring at Thurmond) • Implement water quality monitoring for streams not presently monitored (e.g. Short Creek, Fern Creek, Rush Run, Ephraim Creek, Fire Creek, Farleys Creek, Fall Branch) • Obtain water quality data from the WVDEP for Mann Creek • Assure funding for operation of the USGS stream gauge • Establish a perennial stream gauging program • Attain a better understanding of the hydrology of tributary streams, including flood characteristics and extents, flow characteristics, time and travel, river mileage, and channel morphology • Use a whole-watershed management strategy to protect the park's water resources with the goal of minimizing threats to water quality from sources both inside and outside the park • Conduct water and sediment sampling upstream and downstream in the park • Conduct ecological risk assessment to plants and animals using results from sampling • If dangerous levels of contaminants are found, conduct systematic sampling to find source area and mitigate, as appropriate • Continue to work with WVDEP, the Plateau Action Network, Fayette County, Summers County, Raleigh County, local communities, public service districts, and other appropriate groups to protect and enhance the water quality of the New River and its tributaries within the park • Eliminate direct discharge of primary sewage into tributaries and increase effectiveness of existing secondary treatment systems • Identify and mitigate failing waste pumping systems within the park • Implement a program to provide public education and technical assistance to landowners within and adjoining the park regarding maintenance of on-site disposal systems • Make excess capacity of NPS wastewater treatment facilities available for use by adjoining neighborhoods, where practicable • Expand availability of sanitation facilities at developed visitor facilities, as needed • Provide sanitation facilities at heavily used sites in remote areas of the park • Work with outfitters to provide sanitation facilities at privately-owned remote sites used for outfitted paddler river rest stops and camping • Evaluate mine drainage for negative impacts to surface water quality and mitigate where feasible
6 Hydrologic features provide a mosaic of habitats that supports a full range of natural aquatic organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model and/or map likely locations of special aquatic habitats, creating a dynamic map that is responsive to the transient nature of some of these habitats and the developing scientific data • Describe special aquatic habitats and develop best management practices capable of providing preliminary protection (these BMPs will be a "first defense" for habitats until their specific locations and characteristics could be identified and an individually appropriate protection plan can be provided) • Manage trails and other access to minimize impacts to special habitats, and integrate information on special aquatic habitats into trails and maintenance plans • Eliminate introduction of non-native species to aquatic ecosystems • Eliminate actions to supplement or maintain select non-native species in aquatic ecosystems • Allow select introduced species that may alter some processes and interactions (e.g. continue WV State black fly treatments) • Work with WV DNR, WV Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and other entities to ascertain the status of the candy darter population and to identify and implement measures needed to maintain the population
7 Wetlands, natural seeps, vernal pools, and ephemeral streams persist and rare species in these habitat features are protected	
8 A nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the river and small stream banks that includes a natural gradation of appropriate native plants and animals occurring from the water's edge to upland forest; leaves, coarse woody debris, and other organic materials accumulate and persist at natural patterns and levels in riparian habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop floodplain maps for lower reaches of the New River main stem and tributaries • Identify threatened and endangered critical habitats and limit activities that will adversely impact them • Determine and recreate natural flow regimes (including coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to permit periodic maximum flood) • Remove exotic plants from riparian areas • Identify threatened and endangered critical habitats and limit visitor access • Limit overnight camping and open fires to areas with durable surfaces and less sensitive habitat (i.e., sand, gravel, cobble, rock) and require use of a fire ring or fire pan) • Discourage illegal ATV and truck crossing of the CSX rail line to access campsites along the river • Partner with river users to control impacts of day use • Limit day use of river lunch stops downstream of Cunard to existing sites with durable surfaces and less sensitive habitat • Require visitors launching boats to use designated launch ramps and to keep vehicles out of the river • When restoring cultural landscapes within riparian areas, include a 50- to 100-foot wide buffer of native riparian habitat along the river • Maintain an unfragmented connection between the New River and the gorge rim from Terry Beach to Red Ash Island, from I-64 to Quinimont on river left, and along the Stone Cliff segment • Work with adjacent landowners to preserve critical riparian habitats • As private land is acquired remove all un-useable and non-historic structures and hazardous materials within riparian areas and restore native riparian habitat
9 Cobble prairie and flatrock communities persist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit camping, open fires, and developed park facilities in cobble and flatrock communities • Extend or add boardwalks to protect areas of the flatrock community where visitor use occurs (e.g., Sandstone Island) • Increase signage and patrols to protect flatrock communities • Partner with river users to limit access to flatrock communities • Implement an educational program on the value and global significance of the flatrock community • Remove exotic species within designated boundaries of the park's two flatrock communities • Identify and implement appropriate disturbance regimes to maintain the disturbance-mediated flatrock community • Evaluate results of current burn research on flatrock communities • Estimate flood conditions necessary to create primary succession conditions and work to perpetuate these flows • Inventory rare plant species and exotics/invasives to determine their respective roles in succession • Establish long-term monitoring plans • Study the growth and reproduction characteristics of existing rare plants in cobble and flatrock communities

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
9 Cobble prairie and flatrock communities persist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit camping, open fires, and developed park facilities in cobble and flatrock communities Extend or add boardwalks to protect areas of the flatrock community where visitor use occurs (e.g., Sandstone Island) Increase signage and patrols to protect flatrock communities Partner with river users to limit access to flatrock communities Implement an educational program on the value and global significance of the flatrock community Remove exotic species within designated boundaries of the park's two flatrock communities Identify and implement appropriate disturbance regimes to maintain the disturbance-mediated flatrock community Evaluate results of current burn research on flatrock communities Estimate flood conditions necessary to create primary succession conditions and work to perpetuate these flows Inventory rare plant species and exotics/invasives to determine their respective roles in succession Establish long-term monitoring plans Study the growth and reproduction characteristics of existing rare plants in cobble and flatrock communities
THE PARK'S FOREST	
10 Contiguous forest exists over a range of elevation and moisture gradients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize irreversible modifications of contiguous (unfragmented) forest blocks Locate development on sites outside or at the edge of contiguous (unfragmented) forest blocks Design facilities to promote forest continuity and to limit impacts to forest interior species Conduct prescribed burns in fire-dependent ecosystems (e.g., rimrock pine communities) Implement measures to limit impacts of right-of-way maintenance by others (non-NPS) to the park's forests Monitor soil and vegetation conditions in climbing areas and take management actions to mitigate climbing impacts Monitor soil and vegetation conditions in rimrock forest areas and take management actions appropriate to mitigate climbing impacts Work cooperatively with Babcock State Park to achieve backcountry forest management objectives
11 Habitat mosaic is maintained and continues to support an abundance and diversity of rare and significant animal and plant species and communities. Exemplary communities in this mosaic include: cliffs, abandoned mine portals, hemlocks, rimrock pine, mixed mesophytic forests, oak forests, riparian forests, and mature bottomland forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain native plant diversity Increase plant diversity in areas where the plant community has been compromised by exotic species, invasive natives, and non-native pests Detect forest pests, forest composition, and forest structure trends within specific forest types or on specific physiographic sites Maintain xeric oak-hickory forests Maintain and allow mixed-mesophytic forests to expand Maintain the high diversity of birds now supported by the park's natural communities Protect rare animals Maintain key abandoned mine portals to support sustainable populations of rare and significant species such as Allegheny woodrats, cave salamanders, Indiana bats, two species of big-eared bat, and other bat species Maintain Eastern Hemlock communities Maintain cliff communities and sustain populations of rare and significant species Maintain rimrock pine communities Maintain rights-of-way using environmentally-sensitive techniques Reduce wildlife-human confrontations Work collaboratively with WV DNR to monitor hunted game harvest, population status, and long-term viability of game species within the park
12 Natural ecosystems are unaffected by air quality – e.g. ozone, acid precipitation, fugitive dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and mitigate causes of air pollution impacts within the park Control fugitive dust emissions from construction sites and construction vehicles Design park facilities to facilitate traffic movement thereby reducing emissions from idling vehicles Submit park vehicles to emissions testing Establish a program to assess the incidence of foliar ozone injury to plants Implement measures to enable detection of ozone levels that are damaging to plants
13 Opportunities to experience natural quiet remain substantially free of human intrusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate levels of human-caused sound for various areas of the park Improve vegetative buffers along major roads carrying traffic through the park Reduce the acreage in the park that needs close mowing or "weed whipping" Use traffic calming measures to slow traffic on park roads and on state roads, where possible
14 Daytime and nighttime skies are predominantly free of human-induced impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with local governments and landowners to minimize actions that impact clear daytime skies (e.g., open burning) Work with EPA and state officials to ensure National Ambient Air Quality Standards are met to minimize haze caused by ozone and particulate pollution especially in summer months Limit artificial lighting to areas where security, human safety, and specific cultural resource requirements must be met Identify areas where artificial lighting is being used but is not necessary; remove artificial lighting from these areas and restore the natural lightscape Where artificial lighting is required, use minimal impact lighting techniques Work with park neighbors, WV DOT, FHWA, and other local/state/federal agencies to restore and maintain natural lightscape conditions Coordinate with WV DOT and the New River Parkway Authority to minimize impacts of lighting associated with the New River Parkway

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
HISTORIC PLACES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED CULTURAL RESOURCES	
15 Remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, sites, landscapes, and historic archeological sites are managed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within historic resource zones and park development zones – preserve, make accessible, and interpret the following resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ruins of coal tipples, conveyors, and headhouse structures related to the historic coal mining industry – ruins associated with the historic lumbering industry – ruins and landscapes associated with settlements and agriculture – CCC-era structures • Within historic resource zones – eliminate non-historic and modern structures and intrusions, except those needed for visitor use • Within backcountry zones, frontcountry zones, and river corridor zones, maintain in good condition the following resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ruins of coal tipples, conveyors, and headhouses structures related to the historic coal mining industry – ruins associated with the historic lumbering industry – ruins and landscapes associated with settlements and agriculture – CCC-era structures <p>Interpret the above-listed resources when public access is possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When removing vegetation and stabilizing historic resources in backcountry zones, frontcountry zones, and river corridor zones, limit forest fragmentation and modifications to natural features (e.g., aquatic or riparian resources) whenever possible • Preserve remnant coal outcrops for future interpretation • Stabilize hazardous features at coal mining sites using passive mitigation techniques • Gate and fence mine openings that are potentially accessible to visitors
16 Some historic railroad routes and lumbering roads are converted to trails; those that are not converted to trails recover naturally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert some significant historic railroad routes and lumbering roads located outside of backcountry zones to trails and rehabilitate them to their historic width, grade, and alignment • Convert some ephemeral railroad routes and lumbering roads in backcountry zones to single-track trails • Allow all other historic railroad routes and lumbering roads to recover naturally
17 Sensitive prehistoric and historic archeological sites and resources are stabilized and protected against destruction from vegetation, erosion, and human-induced disturbance; continuing research and fieldwork are emphasized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and protect sensitive prehistoric archeological sites and resources in their natural settings where they occur outside of park development zones • Preserve, protect, and interpret sensitive prehistoric archeological sites and resources where they occur within park development zones • Use techniques such as increased surveillance and proper routing of trails to prevent degradation through “pot hunting” and compaction • Manage vegetation at archeological sites to prevent degradation through soil erosion and tree fall • Educate visitors about the significance and fragility of archeological sites and resources • Continue research on topics and areas of the park about which relatively little is known
18 Resources that hold particular meaning to the park's traditionally associated people and groups are fully understood and managed in a sensitive manner and interpreted where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research for full understanding of ethnographic resources • Gather oral histories • Develop interpretation plans to include traditional people and the meaning of park resources to their heritage • Consult with traditionally associated people and groups and encourage them to participate in appropriate park activities • Establish procedures to provide access to resources that hold special meaning to traditionally associated people
19 The park's museum collections appropriately represent the significance of New River Gorge National River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and regularly update the scope of collections statement • Review the existing collections and ensure they are appropriate for the park • Collect only items necessary to understand and interpret the park's significance
20 The park's museum collections are properly housed and curated, made available for research, and appropriately tell the park's story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Park Museum collections Management Plan (NPS 2008) as it relates to New River Gorge National River • Implement the <i>New River Gorge Collection Management Plan</i> (NPS 2004a)
EXTRAORDINARY SCENIC RESOURCES AND VIEWS	
21 Panoramic views of the river, forest, and rim in and around the gorge are protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement vegetation management measures to maintain views of the river, forest, and rim, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – very limited management in backcountry zones – limited management in river corridor zones – selective management in frontcountry zones and park development zones – selective management in historic resource zones consistent with the cultural landscape treatment • Work collaboratively with local governments and landowners to protect scenic resources in and around the gorge
22 Views of cultural landscapes are protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement vegetation management measures to maintain views of cultural landscapes, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – very limited management in backcountry zones – limited management in river corridor zones – selective management in frontcountry zones, historic resource zones, and park development zones • Work collaboratively with local governments and landowners to protect views of cultural landscape resources in the park

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORATION, ADVENTURE, DISCOVERY, SOLITUDE, AND COMMUNITY	
23 Visitors to the park enjoy the many high quality experiences it has to offer – to explore history, to seek adventure, to feel solitude, to be challenged, and to share life experiences with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the classic park experiences consistent with the preferred overall management concept in the park's GMP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – paddling the river – Sandstone Falls – Grandview – Endless Wall – Canyon Rim – Fayette Station Road • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for visitors to have the park's important visitor experiences consistent with the preferred overall management concept in the park's GMP, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – appreciating life in the gorge – the human history story – appreciating/experiencing the wildness of the landscape – experiencing the power of the river – experiencing scenic beauty
24 Interpretive and educational programs increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and expand the park's diverse and active interpretive program and continue to refine, expand and improve existing programs and media, including ranger-led interpretive programs, publications, exhibits, interactive media, web sites, and programs utilizing emerging technology, etc. • Increase effective venues for providing ranger-led programs to expanded audiences, such as local residents and visitors who come to the park primarily for recreation. Examples might include developing amphitheatres in major park camp-rounds or partnering with community libraries, school auditoriums, theaters or other venues capable of seating large groups. • Continue to develop new education programs which benefit area youth and sustain and increase the park's priority and commitment to formal education and curriculum-based programming for students and teachers from elementary to college levels. Expand the in-class, curriculum-based, K-6 education program, middle school watershed program, and other in-school programs. • Increase and improve in-park, on-site educational programs and support school field trip opportunities through partnerships and/or grants or other funding and by developing an on-site program areas, such as the Dun Glen/Thurmond area, which offer easy access to prime examples of the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources and are within an easy drive for many schools. • Findings of scientific research enhance management decisions and increase public appreciation and understanding of the park's resources • Natural resource education on stewardship and contemporary resource preservation is emphasized with visitors and with local community residents • In-person and via the internet, visitors encounter a variety of intriguing media that stimulate their understanding of the park's fundamental and other important resources and its stewardship mandate. • Prospective visitors are able to obtain timely and relevant information to help in trip planning and travel to the park
25 Park visitors are actively encouraged to visit other natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation sites in the region and to understand their relationship to New River Gorge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to make information about other sites in the region available to visitors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – at all visitor centers and visitor contact facilities – on the park website • Include information about other sites in the region as part of the park's interpretive media and programs • Increase training and distribution of park information to partners and tourism professionals. • Assist regional CVBs and other tourism professionals in development of regional pod casts, travel cds, and other media promoting all of the highlights, resources, recreational opportunities and significant stories of the region. For example, travel narratives on cd, pod cast available at West Virginia Travel Plazas, or programs on local cable television access channels.. • Expand partnerships with organizations promoting Appalachian arts, culture, and history to provide interpretive opportunities, including living history programs, cultural exhibitions, art shows, and musical programs.
26 Visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate park visitor use and development to establish no hunting areas and safety zones at and around high visitor use areas, residential areas, and administrative use areas • Adopt and enforce non-conflicting state hunting regulations on park lands that are open for hunting; publish park specific regulations and closures in the Superintendent's Compendium • Work with the WV DNR to include notice of park-specific regulations in their annual hunting and trapping regulations summary • Inform park visitors, neighbors, and cooperators of parklands regarding those areas that are open to hunting and those areas that have been identified as no hunting or safety zones • Provide information related to the State of West Virginia's General Hunting Regulations, especially as they relate to hunter and visitor safety • Using a variety of media, provide early and easy access to clear, complete, and efficient way-finding and directional information that will help to make any experience with the park hassle-free. Maintain and expand visitor information at visitor centers, in publications, on the web, and through roving interpretation to help ensure a safe visit and avoid injury. • Expand partnerships with other agencies, such as COE and US Coast Guard, to present public programs on key issues, such as water safety and hunting safety. • Improve NPS identity at key recreation access sites, such as the Cunard and Fayette Station river launches. • Maintain staff law enforcement and emergency response skills commensurate with levels and patterns of visitor use • Maintain cooperative agreements with emergency service providers providing support for fire protection, law enforcement, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and management of hazardous material incidents • Continue to collaborate with WV DNR and commercial whitewater outfitters to enhance safety and river navigation training for river guides • Continue to collaborate with private paddling user groups to enhance safety and river navigation training for trip leaders • Continue to require accreditation for commercial rock-climbing guide services and individual guides • Maintain park roads to ensure visitor safety; close roads when slope failures threaten integrity • Make improvements to visitor use areas where circulation deficiencies pose safety hazards Seek to provide visitors safe and legal access to the river where active rail lines are present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – discourage visitor illegal crossing of active rail lines – where possible seek to develop underpasses or overpasses by which visitors can safely and legally cross active rail lines – seek to acquire legal crossing of active rail lines in locations where visitor illegal crossings are concentrated • Protect visitors from hazardous materials that may be present in buildings and at abandoned industrial sites

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
27 Conflicts among visitor user groups are minimized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor visitor experience conditions in park management zones and implement management measures as needed to achieve desired conditions • Monitor and manage use of backcountry river lunch stops, campsites, and fishing areas to minimize visitor conflicts • Work collaboratively with commercial and non-commercial interests to manage climbing, hiking, biking, and other special uses to minimize visitor conflicts • Work collaboratively with WV DNR to manage whitewater paddling use on the New River, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – periodic updates to the Limits of Acceptable Change River Management Plan (WV DNR 1998a) – annual monitoring and data collection needed to evaluate the indicators of social and resource conditions on the river – appropriate river management responses based on annual reports of river conditions • Continuously manage hunting in a manner to reduce or eliminate user conflicts
APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES	
28 Visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, the minimum necessary to serve visitor needs and protect resources and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible restrooms at visitor use sites • Where practicable, provide restroom facilities at recreation sites that are heavily used as lunch stops, campsites, or fishing areas • Seek to provide adequate parking at visitor use sites • Make improvements to existing river access facilities to reduce visitor crowding and to mitigate existing impacts on park resources • Work collaboratively on an ongoing basis with commercial outfitters and private paddler groups to identify and address issues related to river access and use • Enhance connectivity in the park through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new road links • Manage traffic circulation and parking to reduce impacts on park resources and provide for safe visitor use while mitigating intrusion of auto traffic on the visitor experience • Provide visitors with a variety of travel modes to access the park and specific visitor use sites • Provide a variety of trails that enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park • Provide river access facilities that enable paddlers of all skill levels to experience the river • Provide a variety of camping experiences for different types of visitors
29 Where feasible, new development is sited away from geologic hazard zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create database with existing landslide data sets • Conduct annual analysis to identify new landslide activity • Review historic photographs to establish past landslide locations and to determine where mine spoils are located • Mitigate hazards where appropriate
30 Accessible facilities enable disabled visitors to experience the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to make accessibility improvements at existing facilities with the goal of making all visitor facilities at developed visitor use areas accessible to visitors and employees with disabilities • Make all practicable efforts to provide disabled access at new visitor facilities • Take all feasible steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with hearing, visual, and cognitive disabilities
31 Appropriate recreational use continues to be welcomed in places where it does not impact resources or interpretive activities; all public activities in the park are determined to be appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before permitting new public activities in the park, use NPS criteria to determine if and when they are compatible • Cooperate with local groups to find alternative locations for special events • Prohibit activities in the park that will damage park resources or that will not contribute to public understanding of park resources and values
32 Visitor facilities are designed and located with minimal impact on park resources and are aesthetically pleasing and functional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current practices, facilities, and available resources for sustainable design and maintenance • Use sustainable design and construction methods, techniques, and materials for all new development projects • Seek LEED certification when rehabilitating existing structures and facilities or building new structures and facilities
33 Commercial services in the park are limited to those that are necessary and compatible with the park purpose. If possible, commercial support services are based outside the park rather than inside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider activities that might be appropriate concessions and develop a commercial service plan • Using NPS procedures, advertise for and establish appropriate concessions
PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS	
34 The public appreciates the park and understands its significance as a unit of the national park system; local citizens find the park relevant to their interests and concerns, and assist in showcasing their heritage as an integral part of the park's interpretive and resource management programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressively build the capacity of the recently created Friends of New River Gorge group • Implement an Experience New River Gorge Program designed to provide community leader, business owners, and leaders of stakeholder groups an inside look at and greater understanding of park operations and its mission • Expand educational programs to reach more local youth • Sponsor or cosponsor frequent special events in communities within the park and in gateway communities outside the park • Expand the amount and distribution of informational materials about the park both locally and throughout southern West Virginia region • Expand coverage of park events and issues in the media • Establish information kiosks in communities within the park and in gateway communities outside the park • Meet routinely with local community and park user groups to discuss issues and to identify management responses, as appropriate • Work with local communities to secure funds to restore and enhance historic and cultural features that are compatible with the park's themes

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
35 The scope and contribution of volunteer programs in resource management, interpretation and visitor services, maintenance, and administration are enhanced; the volunteer program is popular; all ages can participate in meaningful ways to benefit resources and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the tasks that volunteers can perform in the park • Develop and implement a plan for identifying and recruiting volunteers, especially those with the potential to become long-term and willing to commit to a regular work schedule • Aggressively build the capacity of the recently created Friends of New River Gorge group • Increase the use of interns from organizations such as local colleges, high schools, and other appropriate institutions • Allocate NPS staff time for volunteer training • Encourage staff involvement in community activities that support park-related values
36 Collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop and implement plans for historic resource treatment and interpretation in collaboration with non-profit and private sector partners, such as for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – early settlement/agricultural resource sites in the New River Parkway corridor (now River Road corridor) – Prince Brothers General Store – Thurmond • Identify opportunities where partnerships with non-profit and private entities could benefit the park and its partners
37 Mutual park management goals are efficiently realized through collaboration among the NPS, Hawks Nest State Park, and Babcock State Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop shared strategies for dealing with common NPS/State Park resource management issues • Provide official trail connection between park units • Provide complementary visitor experiences and interpretive programs • Make information about all three parks available to visitors • Avoid redundancy in visitor services and facilities
38 State and county resource management and regulatory agencies assist the NPS with accomplishing its mission at the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work cooperatively with state and county resource management and regulatory agencies 1) to make use of public programs available to landowners to manage resources and/or restore disturbed areas on private property, and 2) to enforce environmental regulations pertaining to the use of private property within the park • Work cooperatively with state resource management agencies to accomplish various resource management goals related to water quality management, wildlife management, and cultural resource management.
39 Park user groups assist the NPS with accomplishing its mission at the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with the International Mountain Biking Association to develop new single-track trails • Work collaboratively with members of the professional rock climbing community to implement actions recommended in the Climbing Management Plan • Work collaboratively with the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters to address issues related to use of the river for outfitted paddling • Work collaboratively with the West Virginia Wildwater Association to address issues related to use of the river by private paddlers • Identify other user groups with whom the NPS could work collaboratively to accomplish the park's mission
40 Stewardship of remaining private lands within the park is sensitive to the resources and values that are fundamental or important to the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While taking all necessary steps to not interfere with property rights, implement a program of working with landowners to promote sensitive stewardship of resources and values that are fundamental or important to the park where they occur on private property
41 Communities remaining within the park are sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not seek to acquire property within the communities remaining within the park boundary except where it includes fundamental and other important resources or values that are threatened by past or imminent private landowner stewardship action • Work cooperatively with local leaders and residents to implement actions in the communities remaining within the park that will sustain community character, protect natural and cultural resource, and encourage – as appropriate – development of visitor amenities and interpretive media
42 NPS and the its gateway communities work cooperatively to define and accomplish shared goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a leadership role in enhancing civic engagement to promote better understanding and communication between the NPS and its neighbors outside the park • Provide technical assistance to the three counties and six gateway communities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – address issues of mutual concern – accomplish long-term goals that are compatible with the park's purpose – encourage community efforts to implement smart growth strategies – encourage community efforts to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems
43 Collaborative partnerships within the region result in a seamless network of regional parks, open spaces, trails and heritage sites within southern West Virginia that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects and enhances biodiversity • creates an array of educational and appropriate recreational opportunities • supports a vibrant and sustainable tourism economy • leverages funds and/or capacity of partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a leadership role in convening partner groups having common and/or overlapping interests in the region • Facilitate collaborative goal setting, decision-making, and development of an overall vision for the region as a tourist destination (and how it will be marketed) • Provide technical assistance to partner groups with communications, seeking grants, and training, as appropriate • Facilitate develop of coordinated visitor programs that tell complementary stories of the region's heritage • Facilitate development of a network of scenic roads and trails that connects the region's attractions and that informs visitors stopping at attractions about other places of interest and the programs offered throughout the region • Prioritize working with partners to provide connections between the Gauley, Meadow, New, and Bluestone Rivers via designated trails and scenic roadways

Parkwide Desired Conditions and Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Them (continued)

Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
PARK OPERATIONS	
44 Staffing from all sources is adequate in numbers and deployment to implement and support the management objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for additional permanent full-time resource management personnel • Seek funding to create a new permanent full-time position with the primary responsibility to oversee the park's partnerships
45 The park is actively seeking non-appropriated funds to support its preservation and interpretation mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and allocate staff resources to facilitate obtaining alternate support, such as through cooperative and interagency agreements, grants, donations, cost recovery, concessions, fees, earned income, and similar opportunities
46 Management facilities support efficient park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Burnwood Center Development Concept Plan • Design new management facilities to preserve the natural and cultural environments, to provide for resource conservation, to provide for energy efficiency, to limit chemical emissions, and to foster education about sustainable design • Make water and sewer service available to management facilities where park staff are based
47 The park addresses climate change by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, using sustainable practices, working to understand the effects of climate change, and engaging the public on the issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model strategies and technologies that reduce the park's environmental impact • Participate in the Climate Friendly Parks Program; inventory park-based greenhouse gas emissions and create and enact an action plan of sustainable strategies to mitigate those emissions • Encourage scientific studies and inventories to identify and document changes caused by climate change, to predict potential changes, and to assist in identifying potential responses to climate change • Engage park employees, partners, visitors, gateway communities, and the general public on the issue of climate change, informing them of what responses are being taken at the park and encouraging them to take action to reduce their own carbon footprint
48 Historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where practicable rehabilitate historic structures for adaptive reuse • Where practicable manage historic buildings to produce income that offsets the costs of their ongoing maintenance • Rent houses to employees and other tenants at market rates • Rent rehabilitated commercial buildings for commercial uses at market rates • Lease fields and farm buildings through the NPS agricultural and historic leasing programs
49 Park staff, volunteers, interns, contractors, and partners work in a safe and secure environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all park facilities and structures are maintained according to applicable regulations for their use, such as office, work space, meeting space, etc. • Mitigate health and safety risks of all facilities and structures according to a comprehensive integrated pest management plan and program
LAND PROTECTION	
50 The park boundary and land acquisition strategy is sufficient to protect the nationally significant qualities of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally acquire land within the authorized park boundary • Generally do not acquire land within the six remaining communities in the park (Hinton, Meadow Creek, Backus, Highland, Prince/Quinnimont, Terry, and Thurmond) except when a property includes resources and values that are fundamental to the park that require protection or a property is needed to implement management actions in the GMP • Make needed administrative or legislative changes to the park boundary • Update the park's Land Protection Plan to ensure that its recommendations adequately protect the significant qualities of properties • Focus land acquisition efforts on the highest priority properties still to be protected and on properties needed to implement the park's general management plan • Seek to acquire railroad rights-of-way as soon as possible following their abandonment • Coordinate with the state of West Virginia to explore the potential for transfer of Babcock State Park to the NPS • Work collaboratively with local governments and landowners to protect scenic resources and important resource areas in and around the gorge • Explore the feasibility of boundary expansion to encompass important resource areas in and around the gorge, particularly rare species habitats and high quality watersheds • Develop access right-of-way agreements or easements for areas where traditional access routes jeopardize resource values

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Parkwide natural resource desired conditions will be achieved over time by expanding park management to include the actions noted above. Management actions will address the issues challenging the park related to maintaining natural processes and restoring natural systems.

Unfragmented Forest Protection

By zoning a core group of forest areas as backcountry forest, the park will protect its most intact and unfragmented forest areas. In general, management actions for the backcountry forest will seek to:

- maintain large contiguous tracts of intact forest with negligible site-specific forest fragmentation
- ensure that native plant species dominate the forest community
- ensure that the habitat mosaic supports a diversity and abundance of rare and native plants communities and a high diversity of birds
- ensure that the effects on the park's unfragmented forest as a result of activities occurring within the park are negligible to minor

Blocks of intact and unfragmented forest will extend along most of the length of the park on one or both sides of the river. The backcountry zones will be managed to protect and restore unfragmented forest blocks largely free of human disturbance and to offer opportunities for visitors to be immersed in nature, relying on non-motorized access.

Frontcountry forest zoning will generally apply to locations where visitor activities will be concentrated. In frontcountry areas large contiguous forest blocks will generally be maintained, although development for visitor use facilities might occur that will cause limited forest fragmentation. Visitors will access the frontcountry forest by roads and by trails.

Riparian Corridor Protection

The park's riparian area will be protected through zoning of seven riparian corridor zones that will encompass riparian areas along most of the New River. In general, management actions will seek to:

- ensure that a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the river
- ensure that natural processes support a high integrity sustainable aquatic and riparian ecosystem
- ensure that hydrologic features provide a mosaic of habitats that supports a full range of natural aquatic organisms experiencing natural ecological interactions
- ensure that the effects on the park's riparian resources as a result of activities occurring within the park are negligible to minor

Water Quality Management

Future management of the park will include an expanded water quality management effort by the NPS, focused in five areas.

AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM. NPS will continue to collect ambient water quality data. If funding permits, NPS will seek to 1) increase the number of fecal coliform samples analyzed, 2) expand the network of sampling stations to include all tributaries to the New River, 3) increase monitoring during high flows associated with storm events and snow-melt, 4) make quality assurance and quality control a more visible component of the monitoring program, 5) maintain one water quality database at park headquarters, and 6) enter monitoring data into the EPA's STORET database.

New River Gorge National River Management Zoning Summary

Management Zone	Area (acres)
Backcountry	47,541 (66.4%)
Frontcountry	17,438 (24.4%)
River Corridor	5,525 (7.7%)
Historic Resource	599 (0.9%)
Park Development	443 (0.6%)



Visitors have many opportunities to swim, fish, boat, camp, and picnic along the river. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AT VISITOR USE AREAS. NPS will seek 1) to expand availability of sanitation facilities at developed visitor facilities, and 2) to support remote activities in frontcountry and backcountry zones, such as river rafting, hiking, biking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, trail maintenance, firefighting, ranger stations, and similar activities. Highest priority for providing sanitation facilities will be high visitor use areas, including publicly-owned river rest stops heavily used as lunch stops by outfitted paddlers, heavily used trailheads, and heavily used backcountry campsites. NPS will also work cooperatively with the owners of heavily used lunch stops that remain in private ownership to provide and maintain adequate sanitation facilities. At Thurmond wastewater collection and treatment will be provided to existing and new visitor use facilities, houses, and commercial uses.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. NPS will expand its program of working cooperatively with WVDEP, the Plateau Action Network, Fayette County, Summers County, Raleigh County, local communities, public service districts, and other appropriate groups to protect and enhance the water quality of the New River and its tributaries in the park vicinity. Expanded technical assistance will include some or all of the following: 1) data collection, mapping, and analysis (such as GIS services), 2) assistance with securing grants for various water quality management studies and plans, 3) land use planning assistance to address point and non-point sources of pollution, 4) scoping and administering contracts for professional services, and 5) hosting special events or programs to assist local governments with watershed-based water quality management planning.

LTEMs (Long Term Ecological Monitoring System) sampling is conducted annually to monitor the health of aquatic ecosystems. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS. NPS will seek to implement a program to provide public education and technical assistance regarding the importance of maintaining on-site wastewater disposal systems (OSDSs). The program will target landowners in the park and in nearby communities along the New River and its tributaries where fecal coliform counts are high and the suspected source is malfunctioning OSDSs. As part of this program, the NPS will assist local communities with securing grants for funding for OSDS maintenance and system replacements.

JOINT USE OF NPS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES. Where practicable the NPS will make excess capacity in park wastewater treatment facilities available for treatment of wastewater flows from private lands in adjoining neighborhoods. This may happen only where 1) excess capacity is not reasonably expected to be needed to support park operations or visitor use, 2) additional flows will enhance operational efficiency of NPS wastewater treatment facilities, and 3) costs for treatment of effluent originating outside the park will be reimbursed to the NPS. In addition, where practicable and where it will benefit plant efficiency and function, the NPS will plan new treatment facilities in the park so as to provide treatment capacity for wastewater flows from development on private lands within and adjoining the park.

Wildland Fire Management

Promotion of ecosystem health could be facilitated with the application of prescribed fire as a management action in fire dependent forest communities to promote native vegetation diversity. For example, both rim pine (Virginia pine, pitch pine) communities and xeric oak forests could benefit from the use of prescribed fire.

Wildland fire in the park will be managed to diminish risk and consequences of severe wildland fires and, when possible, restore and protect the natural biological diversity and the natural disturbance regime of park ecosystems. To meet resource objectives, planned ignitions will be considered as a method of restoring and maintaining cultural landscapes, such as historic farms, vistas, old fields, etc.

The NPS is responsible for providing primary wildland fire protection on federal lands. Local volunteer fire departments, in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Forestry Fire, provide fire protection for private properties adjacent to federal lands. A community-based approach to wildland fire issues will involve close collaboration and cooperation with neighboring agencies having a vested interest in areas of wildland fire issues.

A controlled burn near the Sandstone Visitor Center helps rid the native landscape of unwanted invasive species and supports resource management goals. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)





Commercial Row at Thurmond (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



Prince Brothers Store at Prince (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)



Fatty Lipcomb House at Thurmond (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)



White Church Site at Nuttallburg (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Parkwide cultural resource desired conditions will be achieved over time by expanding cultural resource management to include the actions noted above as examples of changes needed to achieve desired conditions. Management actions will generally address the management issues challenging the park relevant to stabilizing and otherwise treating cultural resources. Existing cultural resource management programs will continue consistent with applicable federal and state of West Virginia laws and regulations, National Park Service policies, and adopted NPS plans for the park.

Cultural Resource Treatment Contexts

HISTORIC RESOURCE ZONES. Seventeen cultural resource zones are identified in the park. These zones include the cultural resources that are fundamental or other important resources in the park. Management actions in these zones will preserve cultural resources while making them readily visible and accessible to visitors. In general the cultural resource management actions likely to be structures and cultural landscapes when compared to the actions that will be taken to treat resources that are found in discovery sites.

DISCOVERY SITES. Cultural resources representative of the park's early settlement/agricultural and industrial era are abundant throughout the park and occur in all five of the park's management zones. Some will be managed and interpreted as discovery sites. Visitors will come upon and find discovery sites as they experience the park, primarily from trails and to a lesser extent from roads. Treatment actions at these sites will seek to balance natural and cultural resource management demands with the goal of maintaining ruins and mitigating degradation of cultural resources by natural resources and processes. Other management actions will be taken to protect cultural and natural resources from visitor impacts as well as to protect visitors from potential hazards. Interpretive waysides will be installed to tell the park's stories.

Focus of Cultural Resource Management Actions

Cultural resource management actions will focus on treatment and interpretation of representative early settlement/agricultural resources in the southern end of the park and representative discovery sites along the through park connector, trails at or near river gateways, and along rim to river trails.

RESOURCES IN RIVER GATEWAYS. In general, historic structures in river gateways will be restored or rehabilitated and adaptively reused through the NPS historic leasing program for commercial and/or residential uses. Representative structures to be rehabilitated and reused will include Prince Brothers General Store, Commercial Row in Thurmond, and houses in Thurmond that remain in good condition. Partners will be sought to assist with rehabilitation. At Nuttallburg, a variety of management actions will be implemented to treat resources, to tell the story of mining in the gorge, and to provide safe visitor access facilities.

DISCOVERY SITES. Cultural resource management actions will include stabilization and interpretation of cultural resources as discovery sites (from 30 to 35 sites). Resources that have been nominated to or determined eligible for the National Register will be given priority as potential discovery sites. Visitors will come upon and find these sites as they experience the park from the through park connector, trails at or near river gateways, and from rim to river trails. Discovery sites will include a variety of cultural resources representative of the different archeological resources, cultural landscapes, historic structures, and ethnographic resources that tell the park's stories.

CAMP BROOKSIDE. Also in the southern end of the park, at Camp Brookside the NPS will work in partnership with an educational institution to rehabilitate camp buildings for adaptive reuse for education purposes or for use as a youth training camp.

EARLY SETTLEMENT/AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES. Cultural resources in the southern end of the park will generally be managed to tell the park's early settlement/ agricultural stories. Actions will include:

- one representative farmhouse will be restored
- other representative farmhouses will be rehabilitated and leased through the park's leasing program
- the cultural landscape associated with restored farmhouses (farm fields, fence lines, and orchards) will be restored
- as properties in the Richmond Bottom and Westfall Farm areas are acquired the cultural landscape will be rehabilitated
- interpretative media will be installed
- some fields will be planted in warm season grasses and managed to encourage open land birds

Park Museum Collections and Archives

The park's museum collections and archives will be relocated from Glen Jean Bank. In accordance with the NPS Northeast Region's collection management strategy, infrequently used items in the collection will be moved to the multi-park shared facility at Appomattox Courthouse. NPS will construct a new research room for on-site storage of the park's core unexhibited collections.

Public Outreach

In addition to these specific strategies, resource conservation efforts will be implemented through public outreach and education to better inform the public of the threats to the park's cultural resources and the efforts undertaken to protect them. Public outreach and educational efforts will be emphasized within the cultural and interpretive resource focal areas to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for these valuable representative coal, timbering, and railroading resources at or near river gateways at Thurmond, Grandview/Prince, and Hinton.



The Richmond Hamilton Farm, in the upper gorge, provides a good example of early subsistence farming along the New River. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



Established as a summer recreational camp for children of Union Carbide employees, today Camp Brookside is being restored as a youth camp for the park. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



Cultural ruins and scattered mining apparatus speak to a time when the gorge was the center of industrial activity. (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)

PROTECTING SCENIC RESOURCES

Viewshed studies indicate extensive areas in the park vicinity where new development – if it should occur in the future – will be visible from the park and will potentially impact the park setting, the visitor experience, and important resource areas. Addition of these areas to the park is impracticable because of potential community impacts and cost. In lieu of boundary adjustments and land acquisition the NPS will seek to protect scenic resources from impacts of new development on these lands by working cooperatively with communities and private landowners. Actions will include some or all of the following:

- Coordination with owners of land possessing outstanding scenic values in and around the gorge
 - notify owners regarding the outstanding scenic value of their property and the public interest in protecting those values
 - provide information to owners regarding the use of conservation easements to protect scenic values
 - where owners are potentially contemplating sale or development of land with scenic values, provide information regarding sustainable design and construction that will avoid or minimize impacts to scenic values
 - collaborate to seek modifications to land development proposals to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to outstanding scenic values
- Coordination with local governments
 - share information identifying lands with outstanding scenic values in and around the gorge
 - seek to involve NPS early on in the development review process when lands with outstanding scenic values are proposed for development
 - provide comments on potential adverse impacts of proposed development on outstanding scenic values
 - seek to involve NPS early on in the development review process when lands with outstanding scenic values are proposed for development
 - provide technical assistance with changes to the land development review process that will emphasize early coordination and issue identification upfront in the review process, before landowners have invested funds for preliminary site planning and design
 - seek agreements in principle that rezonings will generally not be granted for development projects involving lands with outstanding scenic values
 - provide technical assistance with development of land development policies and regulations to promote sustainable design and construction practices on lands with outstanding scenic values (i.e., clearing, grading, landscaping, erosion control, storm-water management, lighting, materials, building massing and colors)
 - provide technical assistance with development of an overlay district for lands with outstanding scenic values which provides for land development while simultaneously better protecting scenic values
 - when future revisions are contemplated to existing zoning regulations and land use plans, provide technical assistance with development of revised regulations and plans that will reduce or transfer the by- right development potential of lands with outstanding scenic values to property where such values are not present

- Coordination with professional advisors to owners of lands with outstanding scenic values in and around the gorge (i.e., attorneys, accountants, realtors, appraisers, engineers, surveyors, architects, and landscape architects)
 - share information identifying the outstanding scenic value of properties in and around the gorge and the public interest in protecting those values
 - provide information regarding the use of conservation easements to protect scenic values as an alternative to land development
 - encourage use of sustainable design and construction practices on lands with outstanding scenic values that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to those values
 - encourage early coordination with local regulatory entities before preparing preliminary development plans for owners of lands with outstanding scenic values



Overlooks throughout the park provide panoramic views of the New River Gorge as it slices through the Allegheny Plateau. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

New River Gorge National River Focal Areas

- **Upper River Gorge**
- **Grandview/Prince**
- **Thurmond**
- **Babcock State Park**
- **Lower River Gorge**

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Experiencing the Park

Park management will emphasize a combination of primitive outdoor experiences in the park's forest complemented by diverse opportunities for visitors in and around five specific focal areas. Backcountry forest in much of the park will offer the most primitive outdoor experiences where visitors will be immersed in nature with few modern conveniences. Frontcountry forest will offer a broad variety of less primitive recreational experiences, such as family activities, biking and equestrian use. In contrast, five focal areas will make available to visitors concentrated opportunities for cultural, natural, scenic, interpretive, and recreation experiences in specific areas of the park. The historic context for each focal area will define the stories that will be told, focusing as appropriate on the park's early settlement/agricultural or industrial themes. At a river gateway within each focal area visitors will learn about the resources and recreation opportunities. From river gateways visitors will move out into the broader focal area and the park on the water by boat, on trails by foot or bicycle, or on scenic roads. The new through park connector will enable visitors to explore the park from end-to-end. It will also connect focal areas and provide expanded access to cultural resources, scenic vistas, and natural features within the forest. As visitors explore the park on the through park connector and other new trails they will learn about the park's history when they come upon cultural resource "discovery sites" where interpretive media will tell the park's stories.

Partnerships between the NPS and the park's gateway communities will seek to enhance the park experience by providing better visitor orientation, by promoting services needed by visitors in gateway communities, by fostering improved wayfinding signage, and by promoting complementary interpretive and recreational experiences at other attractions in southern West Virginia.

Visitor Orientation

Visitor orientation will focus on describing opportunities for recreation and for exploring the park along the through park connector and on roads and trails within the five focal areas. Emphasis will also be on potential primitive recreational experiences and on rim to river trails, within and near river gateways, and along new trails emanating from river gateways. Visitors will learn about recreation opportunities, places where they can discover the park's significant natural and cultural resources, and the areas where different recreation activities will be possible.

New park brochures and informational materials will describe the through park connector, the park's focal areas, rim to river experiences, and river gateways. They will also emphasize connections to other trails outside the park, such as trails to the Gauley River National Recreation Area.

Visitor centers at Canyon Rim and Sandstone will continue as the primary venues where visitor orientation will occur. From these locations visitors will be directed to the through park connector, focal areas, rim to river trails, and river gateways. Working collaboratively with WV DOH, the park will seek to place signage along public roads directing visitors to rim to river trails and river gateways as they leave visitor centers and as they approach the park from US 19, US 60, I-64, and WV SR 41.

Visitor orientation will also occur at partner gateway communities and in river gateways. Information about the park will be available at small visitor contact facilities and/or kiosks.



Places where Visitors will Generally Experience the Park

THROUGH PARK CONNECTOR. The through park connector will unify the park, providing visitors the opportunity to explore the park from one end to the other as a multi-day backpacking or biking trip. Alternatively visitors could explore the park on the through park connector in a series of day trips originating from trailheads throughout the park.

PRIMITIVE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE AREA. The Primitive Outdoor Experience Area will encompass much of the park's forest from end to end of the park, including both backcountry and frontcountry areas. Visitors have opportunities to experience wildness, solitude, adventure, exploration, and discovery. Recreation will be unstructured and trail-based. When in backcountry areas visitors will be immersed in nature, away from modern conveniences. When in frontcountry areas visitors will be in contact with nature but fairly close to modern conveniences.

Visitors hike a rim-to-river trail near Nuttallburg. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Large bottomland farms such as the Richmond-Hamilton began disappearing in the late 19th century, replaced with railroads and coal mines. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



UPPER RIVER GORGE FOCAL AREA. The Upper River Gorge Focal Area will encompass the river corridor in the southern end of the park from Hinton to Meadow Creek. Visitors will learn about early settlement and farming history at a representative restored farmhouse in the New River Parkway corridor (existing River Road corridor). From New River Parkway (now River Road) and from improved recreation sites along the parkway and at Sandstone Falls, visitors will have opportunities to view the river, learn about the park's natural resources, and picnic. New hiking and biking trails will enable visitors to explore the park's forest and to visit the restored farmsteads on foot or by bicycle. Opportunities for camping will be available at two new developed campgrounds.

GRANDVIEW/PRINCE FOCAL AREA. The Grandview/Prince Focal Area will encompass the area from the rim to the river on river left from Grandview to Terry Beach, as well as the river corridor area from Quinnimont to Prince on river right. Prince will serve as a river gateway (see below) where visitors will be oriented to the area and the park's railroading and lumbering stories will be told at rehabilitated historic structures and at cultural resource "discovery sites". Visitors could explore the park on a variety of new trails, including the through park connector and rim to river trails from Grandview to Mill Creek and from Army Camp to Pinnacle Rock. Access to the river will be enhanced by replacement of the McCreery river access with a new river access at Terry Beach. Camping opportunities will be enhanced by expansion of existing primitive campgrounds and development of a new developed campground at Terry Beach.

THURMOND FOCAL AREA. The Thurmond Focal Area will encompass the river corridor from Stone Cliff through Thurmond. Thurmond will be a river gateway (see below) as well as a major visitor attraction where the railroading story will be told (see Classic Park Experiences below). Visitors will continue to have opportunities for camping at Stone Cliff and for picnicking at the river at both Stone Cliff and Dun Glen. Visitors could explore the park from Southside Junction where a trailhead will be provided for the through park connector as well as from trails from Thurmond to Sewell and from Thurmond to other cultural resource "discovery sites". Visitors will be able to stay overnight in lodging provided in rehabilitated historic buildings operated through the historic leasing or concessions program. Commercial services will also be available in rehabilitated historic buildings.

LOWER RIVER GORGE FOCAL AREA. The Lower River Gorge Focal Area will encompass the river corridor and Endless Wall area in the northern end of the park from above Cunard to Hawks Nest State Park. Visitors will learn about the gorge's industrial history related to mining, lumbering, and railroading. River gateways will be located at Cunard, Nuttallburg, and Fayette Station. An expanded network of trails will enhance access to cultural resource "discovery sites" in remote forested areas.

BABCOCK STATE PARK FOCAL AREA. The Babcock State Park Focal Area will encompass the southern portion Babcock State Park. NPS will work in partnership with the state park to ensure that national park visitors know about and include Babcock in their visit to the area. Visitors will continue to have a traditional park experience at Babcock offered by the state, including developed recreation activities such as camping, hiking, biking, swimming, and learning about the park's natural resources and cultural resources.

RIVER GATEWAYS. River gateways will be places within the park's focal areas where visitors will be oriented to the focal area and from which they will move out into the park via trails, roads, and/or the river. At river gateways visitors will learn about recreation activities and the opportunities in the vicinity to explore the park and to experience its resources and history. Visitor facilities – such as river accesses, trailheads, day use areas, scenic vistas, and campgrounds – will be clustered in or very near river gateways. Historic resources will be rehabilitated for visitor use. Some river gateways will offer commercial services for visitors, such as lodging, food service, grocery stores, sport shops, and guide service.

RIM TO RIVER TRAILS AND ROADS. Rim to river experiences will occur along roads and trails that connect plateau areas above the rim to the river below. Traveling these routes by vehicle, foot, or bicycle, visitors could appreciate the wildness of the park, its beauty, and the power of the river evidenced by the rugged terrain and the depth of the gorge. Waysides along rim to river trails and cultural resource "discovery sites" will tell the park's stories. Many rim to river roads and trails will begin at the park's gateway communities and will end at its river gateways.

PARTNER GATEWAY COMMUNITIES. Partner gateway communities will include the communities adjoining or near the park where visitors arrive from outside the region, where many stay while visiting the park, and where many receive initial orientation to the area. Small visitor contact facilities and/or information kiosks will provide information on recreation activities, visitor facilities, and interpretive programs at New River Gorge as well as at other attractions in the region. Gateway communities will typically offer commercial services for visitors – varying from a full range of services in larger gateways to very limited services in smaller gateways. Gateway communities and the NPS will enter into cooperative partnerships to ensure that both parties will benefit from one another's actions to protect park resources, to enhance the visitor experience, and to generally contribute to the park's position as a major tourist attraction in the region.



Fayetteville, a gateway community where many visitors find a full range of visitor services.
(Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



Many remote areas of the park are visible from overlooks along the canyon rim. (Photo: NPS/ Gary Hartley)

Important Park Experiences that Visitors will have

APPRECIATE/EXPERIENCE THE WILDNESS OF THE LANDSCAPE. A sense of wildness dominates the landscape setting in most areas of the park. Blocks of intact and unfragmented forest along most of the length of the park on one or both sides of the river will be managed as backcountry forest, preserving their wild character and enhancing the perception of the park's wildness as visitors experience the park. Overall, backcountry forest blocks will compose approximately 66.4 percent of the park.

While paddling the river visitors will be transported to remote and wild areas in the upper, middle, and lower gorge, relying on the existing network of river accesses which take possible a variety of paddling experiences in a wild landscape setting. Addition of a new river access in the Upper River Gorge Focal Area near the Meadow Creek River Gateway will expand opportunities for new fishing float trips, family float trips, and beginning paddler float trips in the middle gorge. In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area, replacement of the McCreery river access with a new river access at Terry Beach will facilitate private paddlers safely accessing the river for trips in the middle gorge. New access to the river might also be added in the Lower River Gorge Focal Area at Surprise, in the event that transportation system improvements at Cunard do not adequately alleviate crowding at the existing Cunard river access.

Visitors venturing into the park's forest will explore the park making their way along a greatly expanded network of trails at times near the water's edge and at times looking into the gorge. Over time, and as property and rights-of-way are acquired, NPS will seek to develop trails on both river right and river left, from the new New River Parkway Bridge to Hawks Nest. These trails will connect and provide a loop trail that will provide for several days of hiking in the park. The loop trail will ultimately utilize existing bench roads, rim-top trails, and river level roads, and provide a variety of hiking experiences. Camping along the route will be facilitated so that people could enjoy multi-day hikes in the park.

Initially a new through park connector will enable visitors to travel the length of the park; while a few connector segments will follow scenic roads, it will still provide an opportunity for multi-day backpacking trips. Other new trails will offer visitors rim to river hiking experiences at numerous locations throughout the park. New trails will also offer visitors hiking experiences at numerous locations in and around river gateways. Exploration of the park by bicycle – pending adoption of a special regulation and subject to a development of a trail management plan – will occur on a variety of trail types in frontcountry zones and will occur only on singletrack trails in backcountry zones. Bikers could also explore the park on new stacked loop biking trails in the Bucklick Branch and Craig Branch areas. Visitors could also explore the park by horseback in the Bucklick Branch area and in the Chestnut Mountain area.

Visitors camping in the forest will experience nature and the sense of solitude that comes from spending extended time in the outdoors at existing campsites and at new camping facilities, including:

- in the Upper River Gorge Focal Area, a new developed campground at the river's edge
- in the Grandview/Prince Focal Area, 1) a new developed campground at Terry Beach, and 2) expansions to existing campgrounds
- in the Lower River Gorge Focal Area, a new developed campground on the plateau

From existing developed overlooks and a new developed overlook at Brooks Falls expansive vistas of rugged terrain, dense forest, and the turbulent river in the gorge below will evoke appreciation of the wild landscape. New opportunities for views evoking a sense of wildness will be added along rim to river trails and in trails near river gateways.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE RIVER. Throughout the park the power of the river is evident wherever visitors can be on the river, be at the river's edge, or view the river from afar. The New River will carry paddlers along its freeflowing course through the gorge cut by its waters deep in the Appalachian Plateau. Those who ride the river as it descends through the gorge will feel its power and experience the thrill of adventure and discovery as the water flows turbulently over and amidst massive boulders transported through time from the cliff walls above. River experiences will be available from the existing network of river accesses for paddlers of all skill levels during most spring, summer, and fall months. Addition of a new river access in the Upper River Gorge Focal Area near the Meadow Creek River Gateway will expand opportunities for new fishing float trips, family float trips, and beginning paddler float trips in the middle gorge. In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area, addition of a new river access at Terry Beach will reduce crowding at the McCreery river access and facilitate private paddlers safely accessing the river for trips in the middle gorge. New access to the river might also be added in the Lower River Gorge Focal Area at Surprise, in the event that transportation system improvements at Cunard do not adequately alleviate crowding at the existing Cunard river access.



Diamond Point offers visitors views of challenging rapids, popular climbing routes, the cultural remnants of the last mining operation in the gorge at Kaymoor, and occasionally, a peregrine falcon. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



The New River attracts top-notch kayakers from all over the country, particularly during high spring flows. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

At the river's edge visitors could see, smell, and hear the river, feeling its power as they sense around them the scale of the gorge shaped by the flowing water. From the existing network of river accesses and day use areas at the river's edge visitors will experience the river as it flows calmly yet powerfully on its course northward; elsewhere visitors will experience a wild river flowing turbulently around rocks and boulders. In Upper River Gorge Focal Area, the river's edge experience will be enhanced in the River Road corridor by day use area improvements included in the New River Parkway project (as in Alternative 1) and by addition of a new river access at Meadow Creek West. In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area a new river access at Terry Beach will enhance access to the river's edge in the Prince River Gateway area. In the Lower River Gorge Focal Area enhancements to the Brooklyn River access will enhance access to the river's edge in the Cunard River Gateway Area.

From existing developed overlooks and a new developed overlook at Brooks Falls the depth of the gorge, the exposed cliff walls, and the massive boulders in the river below, will evidence the river's power to shape the landscape. New opportunities for views evidencing the river's power to shape the landscape will be added along rim to river trails and along trails near river gateways.

EXPERIENCE SCENIC BEAUTY. Throughout the park its scenic beauty is evident from roads, trails, overlooks, and the river. From existing roads visitors will have scenic views of the park's forest, streams, and rugged landforms, with occasional glimpses of the river. In the middle of the park opportunities to experience the scenic quality of the park's landscape will be enhanced through cooperation with the WV DOH aimed at making improvements to McKendree Road, designating the road as a state scenic backway, and establishing the road as segment of the new through park connector. Also, in the Upper River Gorge Focal Area, as visitors travel New River Parkway (existing River Road) from Sandstone to Hinton the scenic beauty of the park will be evident in the dramatic landscape visible from the New River Bridge and along the parkway. Also, in the Lower River Gorge Focal Area, efforts will be made to enhance opportunities for scenic vistas along Fayette Station Road by working with WV DOH to add pull-outs.

Young hikers enjoying views of the New River Gorge Bridge and the park's scenery from Long Point. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)





Visitors traveling on existing trails will continue to have scenic views of the park's forest, streams, and rugged landforms, with occasional glimpses of the river. Visitors will also enjoy the park's scenic resources from the new through park connector, rim to river trails, and new trails near river gateways.

Bikers can experience "hidden history" throughout the park, as many coal mines and coke ovens lie near popular trails. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

Visitors will continue to have panoramic scenic views of the park's landscape from existing developed overlooks and from a new developed overlook at Brooks Falls. New opportunities for panoramic scenic views will be added along rim to river trails and along trails near river gateways.

APPRECIATE LIFE IN THE GORGE – THE HUMAN HISTORY STORY. Throughout the park there are cultural resource sites where human history stories could be told.

Visitors to the park's river gateways and focal areas will have opportunities to learn about life in the gorge by visiting rehabilitated cultural resources that are leased through the NPS historic leasing program.

In the Upper River Gorge Focal Area visitors will learn about early Appalachian settlement by visiting historic farms where interpretive programs and exhibits will be available. The farmhouses will be restored to period condition and set within restored cultural landscapes.

In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area visitors will learn about life in a railroading and lumbering town at the rehabilitated Prince Brothers General Store and other nearby sites.

In the Lower River Gorge Focal Area visitors will:

- learn about life in a railroading town during the park's industrial era at the Thurmond River Gateway
- learn about life in a mining town during the park's industrial era at the Nuttallburg River Gateway where mining structures and town ruins will be stabilized.

Visitors will also learn about the history of life in the gorge when they come upon and find cultural resources discovery sites along the through park connector, along trails at or near river gateways, and along rim to river trails (approximately 30 to 35 sites).

Classic Park Experiences

PADDLING THE NEW RIVER. Paddlers will continue to experience the power of the river and the park's wild character and natural beauty as they float the river, stopping to picnic, fish, visit natural and cultural sites of interest, and/or camp. Opportunities for paddlers of all skill levels will be enhanced by addition of a new river access in the middle of the park (at Meadow Creek West) that will expand opportunities for new fishing float trips, family float trips, and beginning paddler float trips. If needed to address capacity issues at Cunard, addition of a new river access at Surprise will enhance outfitted paddler trip logistics and the overall river experience in the lower gorge on peak visitation days and during low flow periods by reducing congestion on the river and by extending the length of full-day outfitted paddler trips. Addition of a new river access at Surprise will also increase visitor access along that road for camping and fishing and allow the improvement of several recreation sites upstream of Brooklyn by providing restrooms and formalized trail access. Several recreation sites along Glade Creek Road (Royal Pullout, Mill Creek, Grassy Shoals) will be enhanced by adding vehicle parking, formalized trail access, and restrooms. Opportunities for disabled paddlers will be enhanced by addition of disabled boater access at the Cunard and McCreery (Terry Beach) river accesses. The condition of river recreation sites popular for river lunch stops, camping, and fishing will be enhanced by improving access and providing restroom facilities where practicable. More frequent river patrols will provide visitor education and, as needed, increased enforcement of existing regulations related to group size, trash removal, and human waste removal where restrooms are not available.

SANDSTONE FALLS. The boardwalk and recreational facilities at Sandstone will continue to bring visitors to the water's edge where they can feel the power of the river, experience its beauty, and learn about the park's significant natural resources (as in Alternative 1). The visitor experience will be enhanced by expansion of the existing boardwalk.

At the Sandstone Falls Visitor Center visitors will continue to be oriented to the park with an emphasis on the combination of primitive outdoor experiences in the park's forest complemented by diverse opportunities for visitors in and around specific focal areas.

GRANDVIEW. Social gatherings, cultural events, and recreational activities at Grandview will continue in a setting where visitors can experience the scenic beauty of the park, the wildness of its landscape, and the power of the river. Park visitors will enjoy safer access to the Turkey Spur overlook. Theatre goers will continue to enjoy productions at an updated Cliffside Amphitheatre.

KAYMOOR AND NUTTALLBURG. Nuttallburg will be highlighted as a river gateway in the north end of the park where the park's industrial story will be told. Trails will provide visitor access to historic mining areas at Kaymoor and Nuttallburg (as in Alternative 1). Nationally significant mining resources at Nuttallburg will be interpreted for visitors and made more accessible through parking and trail improvements.

THURMOND. Thurmond will become a major visitor attraction in the north end of the park where the railroading story will be told. Contamination at Commercial Row structures will be remediated and the buildings rehabilitated so that commercial activities can return to the town (through the park's leasing program). The town will be home to some NPS staff that will live in rehabilitated historic houses. Visitors might also be able to stay in the town in lodging made available in rehabilitated historic houses. Historic buildings that are not rehabilitated will be stabilized and restored on the exterior only.

CANYON RIM. At Canyon Rim visitors will continue to be oriented to the park at the visitor center with an emphasis on the combination of primitive outdoor experiences in the park's forest complemented by diverse opportunities for visitors in and around specific focal areas. Visitors will continue to have opportunities to view the river and the gorge from existing overlooks.

FAYETTE STATION ROAD. Fayette Station Road will continue to be a major visitor attraction in the north end of the park where visitors will experience the historic travel route across the river, learn about the park's industrial heritage, view the river, and feel its power. Improvements to Fayette Station Road and parking facilities, as well as implementation of shuttle service during periods of high visitor use, will make for a safer visitor experience with more opportunities to experience the park's scenic resources and with fewer opportunities for visitor conflicts. A new day use area adjacent to the river will increase opportunities for visitors to experience the river and to watch paddlers as they emerge from the river at the end their float trip through the gorge.

EXPERIENCING THE CLIFFS. The massive sandstone cliffs in the Endless Wall area and elsewhere will continue to attract visitors seeking to experience their beauty as well as the thrill of adventure, exploration, and solitude of rock climbing. Access to the Endless Wall will be made easier and safer by adding parking and by establishing designated and maintained trails to climbing routes. Climbing and other visitor activities in the Endless Wall area will also be limited to day use.

Rock climbers young and old enjoy exploring over 1400 climbing routes along the park's sandstone cliffs. (Photos: NPS/Gary Hartley)



New River Gorge National River Backcountry, Frontcountry, and River Corridor Zones – Access Management Prescriptions

• In Backcountry Zones

Motorized Access. Very limited motorized access for visitors and administrative use (restricted to established state roads, administrative roads, and park roads); parking located along zone perimeters

Non-Motorized Access. Non-motorized access for visitors and administrative use via established trails and new singletrack trails (to be primarily located on existing unmaintained trails); bikes permitted only on singletrack trails; trailhead parking located along zone perimeters

• In Frontcountry Zones

Motorized Access. Motorized visitor and administrative access and parking in zone interiors (largely utilizing established state roads, administrative roads, and park roads); new road development to serve new visitor use areas

Non-Motorized Access. Non-motorized access via established trails and new trails of a variety of types (to be primarily located on existing unmaintained trails); bikes permitted on a variety of trail types; horses permitted in some upland areas in the Bucklick Branch, Craig Branch, and Chestnut Mountain areas.

• In River Corridor Zones

Motorized Access. Very limited motorized access (via established state roads, administrative roads, and park roads); new road development to serve new visitor use areas

Non-Motorized Access. Non-motorized access for hikers and bikers via existing and new trails of a variety of types (to be primarily located on existing unmaintained trails); horses not permitted

• In Historic Resource Zones

Motorized Access. Motorized access via state roads and park roads

Non-Motorized Access. Non-motorized access for hikers and bikers via existing and new trails of a variety of types (to be primarily located on existing unmaintained trails); horses not permitted

• In Park Development Zones

Motorized Access. Motorized access via state roads and park roads; motorized access via shuttle might occur in congested areas

Non-Motorized Access. Non-motorized access for hikers and bikers via existing and new trails of a variety of types (to be primarily located on existing unmaintained trails); horses not permitted

VISITOR FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Conditions at recreation sites currently used by visitors for picnicking, swimming, camping, fishing, and other recreation uses will be enhanced and maintained in good condition. Recreation sites will be inventoried, monitored, and evaluated based on a variety of factors including size, amount of ground cover loss, damage to trees or to other resources, and amount of litter/human waste present. While most sites will remain largely undeveloped, others will have access improved and restrooms installed nearby. Additional visitor facilities will include camping, picnicking, and river access facilities in support of rim to river experiences, in and around river gateways, and in focal areas. All practicable efforts will be made to provide access for the disabled at new facilities.

Motorized and Non-Motorized Access

Park management zoning will provide the framework for decision-making as to where motorized and non-motorized access will be appropriate for visitors and administrative use. Management actions will generally maintain existing patterns of motorized access within the park, while permitting expansion of motorized access for visitors and/or administrative use in park development zones, historic resource zones, river corridor zones, and frontcountry zones. When considering access to the park, areas of frontcountry will have greater potential access because roads and parking facilities will be permitted in interior areas of zones. In contrast, in backcountry areas, roads and parking will be limited to the perimeter of the forest blocks defined by the park's subareas. Approximately two-thirds (66.4%) of the park will be zoned backcountry where roads and parking will be limited to zone perimeters and where only non-motorized access could occur in the zone interior.

Public Roads

NPS will work cooperatively with the WV Division of Highways and the Federal Highway Administration to design and construct:

- New River Parkway from I-64 to Hinton, including a bridge over the New River and various parking and visitor use facilities
- improvements to McKendree Road (WV SR 25) from Stone Cliff Bridge to Prince and to designate it a state scenic byway
- improvements to WV SR 25 from Glen Jean to Southside Junction.
- improvements to WV SR 25/2 in Thurmond
- pull-outs on WV SR 41 from Stannaford to McCreery
- widening and addition of pull-outs and actions to allow two-way traffic on WV SR 82
- addition of parking at Thurmond in conjunction with replacement of the Thurmond Bridge

Alternative Transportation

FAYETTE STATION ROAD. NPS will also evaluate the feasibility of alleviating existing congestion on Fayette Station Road (WV SR 82) through implementation of an alternative transportation system (ATS) during peak visitation days. If feasible, the ATS will be composed of a concession-based shuttle operating on the Fayette Station Road loop. It will primarily serve private paddlers and other visitors; outfitted paddlers will likely continue to ride from the take-out on outfitter-operated buses. The shuttle will likely pick-up and drop-off riders at a satellite parking facility located on NPS property on the plateau near the Fayette Station Road/US 19 intersection. It will make frequent stops, such as at points of interests with interpretive waysides, river overlooks, climbing areas, trailheads, the old Fayette Station Bridge, the Fayette Station day use area, and the Fayette Station river access.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OPTIONS. In the future, the NPS will complete an alternative transportation study to consider alternative transportation system options in the park. This will include study of a variety of travel modes, such as enhanced trail and bicycle access, use of visitor shuttles, and use of existing rail lines for visitor excursion trains. Existing rail lines that could be evaluated for reuse by excursion trains as a means of enhancing visitor access to the park possibly include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mt. Hope to Southside Junction (if and when the CSX Corman line right-of-way is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)
- Meadow Bridge to Meadow Creek (if and when the CSX Meadow Creek spur line is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)
- Stanaford to Prince/Quinnimont (if and when the CSX Piney Creek spur line right-of-way is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)



On peak visitation days, the river access at Cunard can become crowded with boats and people excited for their trip down the New River. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

River Access Sites

CUNARD RIVER ACCESS. At Cunard existing problems with inadequate parking for private paddlers on peak visitation days will be alleviated by:

- expanding the existing private paddler parking area and adding private paddler parking along the Fisherman's Trail access road
- implementing an alternative transportation system (ATS) composed of a concession-based shuttle that will operate on the Cunard Road, picking up and dropping off riders at a satellite parking area on the rim (at the site of the proposed Cunard boundary adjustment); the shuttle will primarily serve private paddlers and other visitors – outfitted paddlers will continue to ride to and from the river access on outfitter-operated buses
- expanding parking for fishermen and private boaters at Brooklyn

If after making these improvements visitor crowding issues during peak visitation days are still not adequately addressed, then the NPS will consider adding a new river access at Surprise, including – as appropriate and as practicable – extension of Cunard Road and electrical service beyond Brooklyn and development of a river launch, drop-off areas and parking facilities (for outfitted paddlers and private paddlers), comfort/changing stations, picnicking facilities, and water supply.

FAYETTE STATION RIVER ACCESS. The existing visitor parking area above the CSX right-of-way on the Fayette Station Road will be improved to address parking needs for private paddlers on non-peak days.

THAYER RIVER ACCESS. Existing parking at the Thayer Campground and river access will be expanded.

ADDITIONAL RIVER ACCESS SITES. Other river access improvements will include a new access at Meadow Creek West near the Sandstone Visitor Center, at Terry Beach, and at Mermaid Beach (part of the New River Parkway project).

Trailhead Parking

Existing parking will be expanded at the Gwinn Ridge trailhead, the Glade Creek trailhead, and the Brooklyn river access. New parking facilities will be developed in locations where boundary adjustments are proposed to address visitor needs for parking to access climbing areas at Junkyard, Ambassador, Buttress, Fern Buttress, Keeney Creek, Dowdy Bluff, and Polls. Other new trailheads will provide adequate parking for visitors at the endpoints of all existing and new trails, at numerous locations along the new Through Park Connector, and in gateway communities where connections are made to the park. Where trailhead parking occurs in backcountry zones it will be located at the edge of zones so as to minimize forest fragmentation.

The parking area at Sandstone Falls can become crowded with visitors seeking to enjoy the highest falls on the New River. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



Parking at Other Park Attractions

GRANDVIEW. At Grandview, a number of pedestrian and vehicular circulation issues exist that pose potential visitor safety issues and that diminish the quality of the visitor experience on busy days. The NPS will address these issues by implementing a number of improvements to the main parking lot, to directional signage, to the main overlook trail (Turkey Spur Road), to bus drop-off facilities, and to the visitor contact station.

SANDSTONE FALLS. Existing problems with inadequate parking at visitor facilities will be alleviated by expanding the existing parking area.

Hiking Trails

New trails will offer visitors opportunities to explore the park's cultural resources in remote areas of the park and to have a variety of recreation experiences in the park's frontcountry and backcountry.

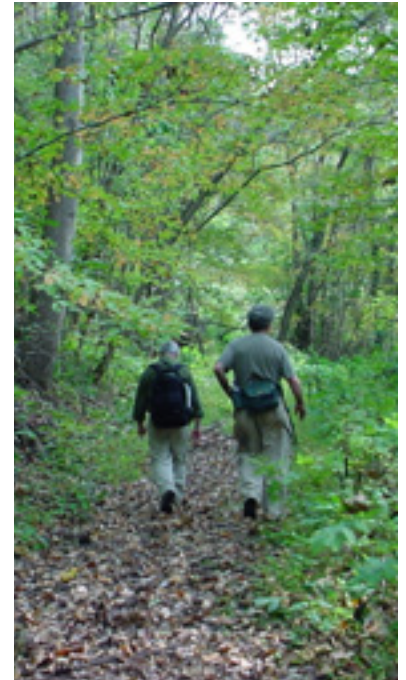
THROUGH PARK CONNECTOR. In the future, hikers will be able to travel from end to end of the park, generally at or near the river – on a new through park connector. A few segments will be scenic roads, making it possible for visitors unable to hike or bike to explore some of the remote areas of the park. The through park connector will generally be composed of the following segments (from upstream to downstream):

- New River Parkway (existing River Road) – from Brooklin (near Hinton) to the new New River Parkway bridge
- a new trail from the new New River Parkway bridge to the Glade Creek Campground
- existing Glade Creek Road from the Glade Creek Campground to WV SR 41 and WV SR 41/8 – from Glade Creek Road to Terry
- existing WV SR 41 and McKendree Road from Glade Creek Road to Southside Junction
- existing trails and administrative roads from Southside Junction to the Bridge Trailhead (at Fayette Station Road)
- existing Fayette Station Road from the Bridge Trailhead to a new trailhead at Teays Landing
- new trail from a new trailhead at Teays Landing to Hawks Nest State Park

Over time, and as property and rights-of-way are acquired, NPS will seek to develop trails on both river right and river left, from the new New River Parkway Bridge to Hawks Nest. These trails will connect and provide a loop trail that will provide for several days of hiking in the park. The loop trail will ultimately utilize existing bench roads, rim-top trails, and river level roads, and provide a variety of hiking experiences. Camping along the route will be facilitated so that people could enjoy multi-day hikes in the park.

RIM TO RIVER TRAILS. In addition to the trail system expansion will include new park trails to provide rim to river experiences and experiences in and around river gateways. All new trails will generally use existing unmaintained trails, where possible, or the most sustainable alternative considering terrain and park resources. Possible new trails offering visitors rim to river experiences will include:

- a loop trail connecting Richmond-Hamilton Farm, Vallandigham Farm, Trump-Lilly Farm, and Phillips Farm
- a trail from the Sandstone Visitor Center to Hump Mountain
- a trail from Grandview to Mill Creek
- a trail from Army Camp to Pinnacle Rock
- a trail from Cloverdale Road to the Upper Glade Creek Trails
- a trail from Mt. Hope to Southside Junction (if and when the CSX Corman Line right-of-way is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)
- a trail from Meadow Bridge to Meadow Creek (if and when the CSX Meadow Creek line right-of-way is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)
- a trail from Stanaford to Prince/Quinnimont (if and when the CSX Piney Creek spur line is abandoned and acquired by the NPS)
- a trail from GW Carver (via Babcock State Park) to Sewell to Caperton to Keeney Creek (in cooperation with Babcock State Park)
- improvements to the Glade Creek trailhead



Common trees and shrubs found along park trails include hickory, maple, pine, oak, hemlock, dogwood, rhododendron, and willow. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

TRAILS IN AND AROUND RIVER GATEWAYS. Possible new trails offering visitors experiences in and around river gateways will include:

- a trail to Fayette Mine
- a trail from Thurmond to Sewell
- a trail along Davis Branch (in the Meadow Creek North area) (with trailhead facilities)
- a trail from Dowdy Creek to Highland Mountain
- a trail from the Stone Cliff coke ovens to Stone Cliff Mine
- a trail to the Beauty Mountain Overlook
- trails to scenic waterfalls, overlooks, and other natural places of interest

The boardwalks at Sandstone Falls will also be expanded.

TRAILS IN CLIMBING AREAS. The existing informal trails in climbing areas will also generally expand to provide designated access that will protect rim rock pine vegetation and the Allegheny woodrat (a state-designated species of concern) including:

- in the Endless Wall area, a designated trail at the base of Endless Wall and a new trail to Ambassador Buttress (with trailhead facilities)
- in the Sunshine Buttress area, a designated trail at the base of Sunshine Buttress and a new trail to Sunshine Buttress (with trailhead facilities)
- in the Bubba City area, a designated trail at the base of the Bubba City climbing area and a new trail loop (with trailhead facilities in the Bubba City area)
- in the Junkyard area, trailhead facilities for existing climbing trails

NATURE TRAILS. The Laing Loop Nature Trail in the Burnwood area will be expanded.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. NPS will also work collaboratively with its gateway community partners, state agencies, railroad companies, and private landowners to develop trail connections from the park to nearby communities and other visitor attractions, such as Hawks Nest State Park, Babcock State Park, the Gauley River National Recreation Area, Ansted, Oak Hill, Mount Hope, Beckley, and Meadow Bridge. NPS will also provide technical assistance to the city of Hinton to help secure a trail connection from the city to the river. As NPS and its regional partners develop both the long distance continuous trails in the park and those connecting the park to the region, a network of farm or community based accommodations such as small bed-and-breakfasts could be developed to support trail users.



Dedicated in 2008, the eight mile White Oak Rail Trail passes through the middle of the City of Oak Hill. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Equestrian Trails

The need for additional equestrian trails will be addressed by providing new equestrian loop trails with trailhead facilities in the Bucklick Branch, Craig Branch, and Chestnut Mountain areas.

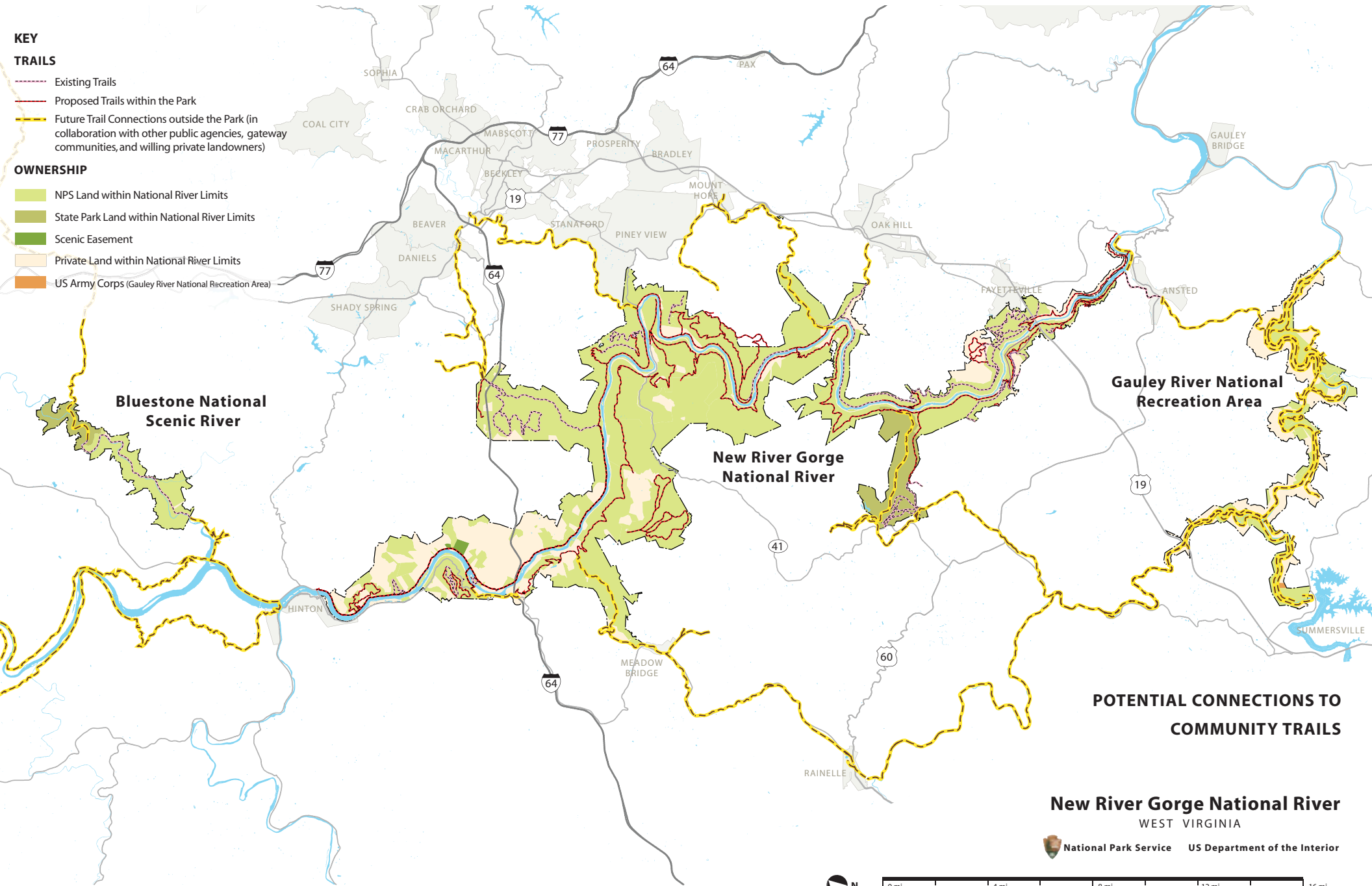
KEY

TRAILS

- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails within the Park
- Future Trail Connections outside the Park (in collaboration with other public agencies, gateway communities, and willing private landowners)

OWNERSHIP

- NPS Land within National River Limits
- State Park Land within National River Limits
- Scenic Easement
- Private Land within National River Limits
- US Army Corps (Gauley River National Recreation Area)



**Bluestone National
Scenic River**

**New River Gorge
National River**

**Gauley River National
Recreation Area**

**POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS TO
COMMUNITY TRAILS**

New River Gorge National River
WEST VIRGINIA

 **National Park Service**  **US Department of the Interior**





Bikers along the Kaymoor Trail enjoy the waterfalls near Wolf Creek. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

Biking Trails

Many members of the public and park user groups have requested that the NPS consider designation of additional routes for biking in the park. In response to these concerns the GMP planning team considered and evaluated alternative actions for expansion of biking opportunities in the park as part of the alternatives analysis. The NPS consulted the general public and park user groups interested in biking during development of the biking options. The GMP's third newsletter presented the biking options to the public and encouraged people to provide comments. Public meetings held in November 2007 included a presentation of the biking options under consideration and a question-and-answer session. Most comments related to biking supported addition of expanded biking in the park, particularly expansion of singletrack and stacked loop trails.

Alternative 5 (Preferred Alternative) includes potential joint hiking and biking use of existing and new trails subject to general design principles identified for biking. A number of possible new biking opportunities are identified. The final location of new biking trails will be identified in the biking component of the park's new trail management plan. Following completion of the plan, a special regulation will be promulgated pursuant to 36 CFR Chapter 4 §4.30 adding the newly designated routes to the list of routes where biking is permitted in the Superintendent's Compendium. The NPS will seek partnerships with local communities and biking groups to plan, build, and maintain the park's new biking trails.

During development of the park's new trail management plan the NPS will determine where joint use trails will be developed. The following principles will generally guide their design:

- in frontcountry zones, river corridor zones, historic resource zones, and park development zones – biking could occur on a variety of trail types
- in backcountry zones – biking could occur only on singletrack trails
- in historic resource, river corridor, and park development zones – biking could occur on a limited basis on a variety of trail types

An exception to these assumptions will be that no biking will be permitted on trails in the Endless Wall backcountry zone.

In addition, possible new biking opportunities will include:

- a continuous trail open to biking from end to end of the park (the through park connector) composed of a combination of trail types (see preceding section)
- development of stacked loop trails in the Bucklick Branch, Garden Ground, and Craig Branch areas
- development of new rail trails with biking access on railroad rights-of-way once they are abandoned and acquired by the NPS, including:
 - the CSX Corman line from Mt. Hope to Southside Junction
 - the CSX Meadow Creek line from Meadow Bridge to Meadow Creek
 - the CSX Piney Creek spur line along WV SR 41 from Stanaford to Prince/Quinnimont
- opening of the existing Glade Creek Trail to biking
- development of new trail connections between the three national park units, state parks, rail communities, state agencies, county governments, and private landowners

Camping Facilities

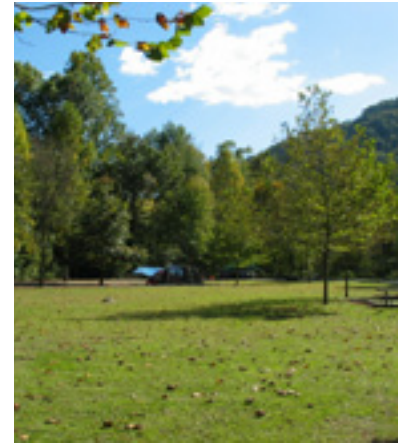
Pending completion of a future camping management plan, camping will continue to be permitted at undesignated campsites anywhere in the park and at primitive campgrounds. The camping management plan will evaluate the appropriateness of alternative parkwide camping management strategies. The park might need to consider regulations restricting group size, designating or reserving sites, restricting fires to fire rings or fire pans, or eliminating use in areas with sensitive resources. All sites in the backcountry will require visitors to pack out all trash and solid human waste. Some sites might require substantial visitor education efforts to reduce impacts to acceptable levels.

Anticipated camping improvements include the following:

- In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area
 - a new developed campground at the Bass Lake site (if and when it could be acquired by the NPS from a willing seller) or at a park development zone in the New River Parkway corridor (existing River Road corridor), such as at Richmond Bottom
 - a new developed public campground at Meadow Creek West, including an amphitheatre, picnic facilities, and a public river access site (including a river launch, with disabled boater access), parking, comfort/changing stations, and utilities
- In the Grandview/Prince Focal Area
 - a new developed campground and river access at Terry Beach (if and when the required property could be acquired by the NPS from a willing seller)
 - improvements and expansions to existing primitive campgrounds at Glade Creek, Mill Creek, Grandview Sandbar, and Army Camp
- In the Thurmond Focal Area
 - closure of the existing Dun Glen campground (because of its location in the floodplain) with rehabilitation of existing day use facilities
 - relocation of the existing primitive campground at Stone Cliff (from the riparian zone to the bench level), including a primitive campground, picnic facilities, and comfort stations
- In the Lower River Gorge Focal Area
 - a new developed campground located at the existing NPS Burnwood day use/ operations area (to address the need for camping facilities in proximity to rock climbing areas and cultural resource attractions in the lower gorge)
 - a new day use area near the Fayette Station river access
 - at Cunard existing problems with inadequate parking for private paddlers on peak visitation days will be alleviated by implementing a number of improvements (see River Access Sites)
- Backcountry Camping
 - several groups of designated backcountry campsite groups along the Through Park Connector
 - several groups of designated backcountry campsite groups along the Dowdy Creek Highland Mountain Trail

Day Use Facilities

Some day use areas that provide river access for picnicking and fishing will be rehabilitated and potentially expanded, such as Dungen, Fayette Station, and Brooklyn.



From top:

In the 1950s, the US Army operated a training and testing ground for the quick assembly of floating bridges in the area now known as Army Camp campground and day-use area. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Stone Cliff Campground offers six walk-in sites and one vehicle site for campers seeking easy access to the New River. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Driving Scenic Roads

NPS will continue to make available the five designated scenic drives within and around the park. Once the New River Parkway project is complete, the NPS will develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton, and enabling visitors to enjoy more scenery and visit historic communities in the southern end of the park.

Visitors on the scenic drive along Fayette Station Road enjoy crossing the historic Fayette Station Bridge, built 88 years before its replacement, the New River Gorge Bridge. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



New River Bridge Tour

The park's 1982 GMP noted that, "Another opportunity to view the gorge could be from an existing maintenance catwalk underneath the U.S. 19 bridge near Canyon Rim." The GMP recommends that the NPS "investigate the feasibility of safe visitor access with the West Virginia Department of Transportation." The state of West Virginia has indicated that they will like to enter into an agreement with the NPS to provide such a bridge tour.

The NPS will work with the WV DOT in developing the potential to enhance educational and recreational opportunities through use of the maintenance catwalk beneath the New River Bridge on U.S. Route 19. NPS will issue a Commercial Use Authorization or other permit of contract for this service. Guided tours on the walkway will require a safety system to be installed and maintained by a professional operator. The design and nature of the safety system coupled with the physical limitations of the catwalk will necessitate limiting a commercial use authorization or other permitting method to a single operator (company). Therefore, NPS will use competition to select the tour operator.

New River Gorge Bridge Walk offers daily walking tours across the maintenance catwalk underneath the New River Gorge Bridge, 851 feet above the New River. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



HUNTING AND FISHING

Legislation establishing the park states that hunting “may” be allowed at New River Gorge National River. Because of this, the NPS had to determine if hunting is an appropriate activity within the park as part of the GMP planning process. To meet the requirement, an assessment of hunting in the park was prepared (Hooper et al 2006). Then the GMP planning team considered a range of options for hunting. These included continuation of the park’s existing hunting program, an enhanced hunting program, a modified hunting program, and elimination of the hunting program on NPS lands within the park. The GMP’s third newsletter presented the hunting options to the public and encouraged people to provide comments. Several hundred people attended each of three public meetings held in November 2007; almost every commenter opposed the inclusion of an alternative that would eliminate hunting. Based upon findings of the assessment of hunting and the public comments received at and following the public meetings, Congress adopted Section 7115 of Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, authorizing hunting at New River Gorge National River. The newly amended hunting and fishing section of the New River Gorge National River legislation (codified at 16 United States Code Section 460m-20) now reads:

“The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the boundaries of the New River Gorge National River in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, and he may designate zones, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any rules and regulations of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate state agency responsible for hunting and fishing activities. The Secretary shall permit the state of West Virginia to undertake fish stocking activities carried out by the state, in consultation with the Secretary, on waters within the boundaries of the national river. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction of the state of West Virginia with respect to fish and wildlife.”



Hunting is a popular fall activity, especially in remoter sections of the park where rangers conduct regular patrols to enforce state and federal laws. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

Hunting and fishing must now be allowed within the park, although the NPS must ensure that these activities are conducted consistently with other resource management and public safety concerns, etc. Therefore, certain areas of the park may be closed to hunting, or certain species may be restricted from harvest, or other limitations may be placed on hunting and fishing within the park. In all cases except emergencies, the park will consult with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources prior to adopting regulations covering fishing and hunting. While hunting and fishing will generally be consistent with state laws, limits, permit requirements, etc., some differences could arise within the park. Therefore, recreational visitors interested in hunting or fishing within the park are encouraged to review the park specific regulations codified at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 7.89 and specific closures or limits which are contained in the *Superintendent's Compendium* (available on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/neri/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>).

Hunting will continue largely as it is today except for the following:

- the historic Grandview State Park area will be open to limited bow hunting via a permit/lottery system
- upland gamebird habitat will be increased by creating/restoring early successional habitat in historic resource zones (where such management is consistent with the park's cultural landscape restoration goals)

The Richmond-Hamilton farm is a typical frontier Appalachian farm found on the rich bottomland adjacent to the New River. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



- the NPS and WV DNR will collaboratively monitor park-specific game harvest and hunter use levels, using a voluntary hunter registration/permit process and designated hunt units; this process will include distribution of information to hunters (hunt unit maps, regulations, etc.) and a voluntary end-of-season hunter questionnaire provided by the NPS
- the NPS and WV DNR will develop a cooperative game management plan specific to designated hunt units in the park that will also identify management strategies to improve hunter satisfaction and enhance outreach opportunities to both hunters and non-hunters

The parkwide desired future conditions presented above provide the framework within which hunting will occur at New River Gorge. Some of these desired future conditions include:

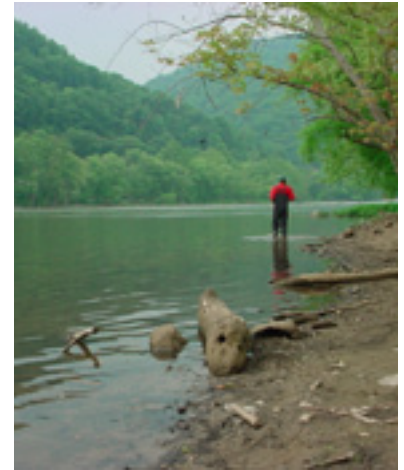
- habitat mosaic is maintained and continues to support an abundance and diversity of rare and significant animal and plant species and communities
- visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park
- conflicts among visitor user groups are minimized
- appropriate recreational use continues to be welcomed in places where it does not impact resources or interpretive activities

Strategies to achieve these desired future conditions include:

- work collaboratively with WV DNR to monitor hunted game harvest, population status, and long-term viability of game species within the park
- evaluate park visitor use and development; establish no hunting areas and safety zones at and around high visitor use areas, residential areas, and administrative use areas
- adopt and enforce non-conflicting state hunting regulations on park lands that are open for hunting
- publish park specific regulations and closures in the Superintendent's Compendium
- work with the WV DNR to include notice of park specific regulations in its annual Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary
- inform park visitors, cooperators, and neighbors of park lands that are open to hunting and those that have been identified as no hunting or safety zones
- provide information related to the state of West Virginia's General Hunting Regulations, especially as they relate to hunter and visitor safety
- continuously manage hunting in a manner to reduce or eliminate user conflicts

The NPS will continue to administer hunting within the park in accordance with the hunting and fishing regulations of the WV DNR. As part of a concerted effort to ensure the safety of visitors to the park, designated safety zones that are closed to hunting will continue to be identified and will be listed and mapped in the Superintendent's Compendium. Generally, safety zones will include public gathering locations such as parking lots, trailheads, campgrounds, visitor centers, and picnic areas and will radiate out from these sites in a concentric circle an additional 500 feet. The identification and designation of safety zones will continuously be evaluated based on visitor use patterns and when new Additional efforts to ensure public safety will include but not be limited to specific law enforcement operations targeted at ensuring compliance with state hunting regulations. These operations may include special enforcement operations to target safety violations, vehicle checkpoints to identify unsafe practices such as the presence of loaded weapons carried within vehicles, and identification of potential alcohol use associated with hunting activities. Park rangers will conduct vehicle and foot patrols within high visitor use areas, including park roads and trails, to insure compliance with designated no hunting zones and safety zones. All no hunting zones and safety zones will be identified on maps made available to the public. Maps and related safety information will be posted on bulletin boards at trail heads, parking lots and hunting areas. Maps and related information will also be available at park headquarters and visitor centers. In addition, downloadable versions of the maps and related information will be posted on the park's internet web site.

The NPS will work with WV DNR to list all safety zone closures and other park specific safety and resource related regulations in the state's printed and on-line hunting regulations in an attempt to better inform the hunting public and visitors to the park. This information will also be made available at visitor centers within the park and at park headquarters. Additionally, the NPS will develop a hunting specific section on the official park website that will provide complete information on the hunting program of the park, all safety measures, wildlife conservation concerns, and relevant links to the WV DNR website.



Fishing within the park will continue in accordance with fishing regulations of the WV DNR (shown here – fisherman at Helms Beach in the Upper Gorge).



From top:

Park biologists and volunteers conduct annual fish surveys to monitor the health of the ecosystem. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

Only on Bridge Day - A visitor prepares to descend the 700 foot long Highline which stretches from the beams of bridge to the gorge down below. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

PARTNERSHIPS

Relevance of the Park to Local Visitors

In the future the NPS will take a number of actions intended to make the park more relevant to its local and regional users by strengthening the connection between the public and the mission of the NPS at New River Gorge National River. By strengthening this connection, the public's sense of ownership and pride in the park should increase as should its commitment to the stewardship of the park and its resources and values. Management actions aimed at communicating the NPS mission will generally include expansion of programs already underway at the park, although some actions will be new. The general types of actions will include:

- **Friends of New River Gorge.** The NPS will aggressively build the capacity of the recently created Friends of New River Gorge group by identifying, recruiting, and providing technical support to energetic and talented local leaders with the capacity to grow the organization. The Friends of New River Gorge could assist with many activities important to strengthening the park's connection to the community, such as 1) recruiting and managing volunteers, 2) reaching out to local communities and park user groups, 3) informing elected officials of park issues, 4) supplementing NPS staff capability, 5) conducting market research and awareness building, 6) delivering programs and staging events, 7) procuring equipment and services, 8) leveraging community support and talents to develop facilities (with NPS oversight), and 9) raising funds for programs, projects, capital needs, operations, and land acquisition from external sources.
- **Experience New River Gorge Program.** The NPS will implement a new program designed to provide community leaders, businesses owners, and leaders of major stakeholder groups an inside look and greater understanding of how the park is operated, how its resources are managed, and the issues facing the park. This will be accomplished through a sequence of immersion experiences during which local leaders will have behind the scenes, hands-on experiences in management of park resources and visitor activities. "Graduates" of the program will become ambassadors of the park and help to communicate to the broader public an understanding of the park and its issues.
- **Educational Programs.** The NPS will expand the scope and frequency of its environmental education programs to reach the local youth who will be the future stewards of the park. The curricula will be expanded to enhance student awareness of the national park system as a whole, the significance of New River Gorge National River as a unit of the national park system, and the ways in which youth could contribute to its stewardship.
- **Special Events.** The NPS will seek to sponsor or cosponsor special events in communities within the park and within its gateway communities on an annual or more frequent basis. The focus or attraction of these events will differ from community to community and could be organized around historic themes, natural resource themes, recreational activities, or the need to address specific issues.
- **Informational Materials.** The NPS will expand public awareness of the park by 1) producing a greater variety of informational materials describing the park's significance, resources and opportunities, 2) by making sure that these materials include language that relates the park to the overall national park system, and 3) by more widely distributing these materials throughout southern West Virginia.
- **Media Relations.** The NPS will seek to expand coverage of park events and issues in newspapers and on television by developing relationships with editors and managers of local media outlets and by providing stories of interest.

- **Information Kiosks in Local Communities.** The NPS will seek to establish information kiosks at prominent locations in communities within the park and in its gateway communities. These kiosks will provide information about the park, including an overview of its significance as a unit of the national park system, its resources, stewardship guidance, visitor opportunities, and ways to become a park volunteer.

Gateway Community Partnerships

Community neighbor partners at New River Gorge National River include Summers, Raleigh, and Fayette Counties, as well as the six nearby incorporated communities that are the park's gateways – Hinton, Sandstone, Meadow Bridge, Beckley, Mount Hope, Glen Jean, Oak Hill, Minden, Cunard, Fayetteville, Winona, and Ansted. In the future the NPS will expand efforts to work cooperatively with these entities to define and accomplish shared goals. In the broad sense these goals will be:

- to address mutual interests in the quality of life of community residents, including matters such as compatible economic development and resource and environmental protection to anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts
- to protect park resources and values
- to provide for visitor enjoyment

NPS will take a leadership role in enhancing civic engagement to promote better understanding and communication between the NPS and its neighbors. Various civic engagement techniques will be utilized to enable members of the public to express concerns when they are affected by the park's actions and for the NPS to document its concerns and share them with all who are interested or involved.

NPS will encourage gateway communities to undertake measures to increase their sustainability and to address the threat of climate change. Through supportive partnerships with the parks, communities will be encouraged to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria air pollutants and to improve the resource use efficiency of their public and private buildings and facilities.

NPS will also make available technical assistance to the three counties and the park's gateway communities, as appropriate, to address issues of mutual concern. This could include the following types of technical assistance:

- innovative community planning aimed at 1) sustaining and enhancing the character of gateway communities, 2) providing for visitor services in gateway communities, and 3) avoiding potential adverse impacts of development in the counties and gateway communities on park resources and values (particularly avoiding impacts on scenic resources in and around the gorge)
- computer mapping and database management using ArcGIS software (in support of community planning efforts)
- regional planning designed to provide a seamless network of parks (see Regional Tourism Partnerships below)
- watershed-based water quality management planning
- transportation system planning, including assistance with enhancement of road and trail connections between gateway communities and the park and design of alternative transportation systems where they will enhance park access
- potential improvements in energy efficiency and resource-use efficiency and in implementing aspects of sustainable design, using strategies that the parks themselves have already implemented successfully



From top:

The Hinton Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, has over 200 buildings displaying varying architecture of American Gothic, Classical, High Victorian, and Greek revival styles. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

Planning activities help the NPS and gateway communities address mutual interests in the quality of life for community residents. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

- documenting the significance of related cultural resources adjoining or outside the park, as well as assessing/implementing treatment options for those properties found to be significant
- securing grants for projects and/or programs that will jointly benefit the park's neighboring communities and the park itself

Partnerships between the NPS and the park's gateway communities will also seek to enhance the visitor experience by providing better visitor orientation, by promoting services needed by visitors in gateway communities, by fostering improved wayfinding signage, and by promoting complementary interpretive and recreational experiences at other attractions in southern West Virginia. Small visitor contact facilities and/or information kiosks will provide information on recreation activities, visitor facilities, and interpretive programs at the park as well as at other attractions in the region.



Increasing visitation helps sustain local economies and business owners. (Photo: NPS/Richard Segars)



Regional Tourism Partnerships

The NPS recognizes that New River Gorge National River (and the other two national park units) in southern West Virginia is a major attraction within the region's growing tourism industry and that the health of the tourism industry is vital to the economic welfare of the region. The NPS will continue to seek to expand visitor opportunities at New River Gorge National River for appropriate types and levels of visitor use, including development of quality visitor facilities. The NPS anticipates that over time visitation to the park will increase, helping to sustain and further contribute to the region's attraction as a multi-day tourist destination.

In the future the NPS will expand its participation in regional economic development planning efforts underway by the various regional planning agencies and organizations in southern West Virginia. The NPS will 1) take a leadership role in convening partner groups having common and/or overlapping interests in the region, 2) will work to help facilitate collaborative goal setting, decision-making, and development of an overall vision for the region as a tourist destination (and how it will be marketed), and 3) will provide technical assistance to these groups with communications, seeking grants, and training, as appropriate.

NPS will strengthen and enhance the connections between the park and the National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA). The NCHA and the park will cooperate to preserve and interpret coal heritage sites both within the park and in adjacent communities. The NCHA will undertake actions to provide for appropriate economic development in gateway communities, and to link them to the national and state park via trails, driving tours, and other mechanisms. Working in partnership with the NCHA, the park will focus on educational activities for children and adults.

NPS will also work collaboratively with its gateway community partners, state agencies, railroad companies, and private landowners to develop trail connections from the park to nearby communities and other visitor attractions, such as Hawks Nest State Park, Babcock State Park, the Gauley River National Recreation Area, Ansted, Oak Hill, Mount Hope, Beckley, and Meadow Bridge.

The primary goal of the NPS in these efforts will be to assist with development of a seamless network of regional parks, open spaces, trails, and heritage sites within southern West Virginia that will increase protection and enhancement of biodiversity and create a greater array of educational and appropriate recreational opportunities. Other goals of the NPS will be to generally promote sustainable and informed tourism that incorporates socioeconomic and ecological concerns and to encourage and showcase environmental leadership by the NPS and the tourism industry.

Other Partnerships

HAWKS NEST AND BABCOCK STATE PARKS. In the future the NPS will expand its collaboration with Hawks Nest State Park and Babcock State Park. Collaboration will focus on:

- developing shared strategies for dealing with common resource management issues (e.g., invasive species control, wildfire management, water quality management, etc.)
- providing official trail connections between park units
- providing complementary visitor experiences and interpretive programs
- making information about all parks in the region available to visitors
- avoiding redundancy in visitor services and facilities



Established in 1935, Hawks Nest State Park offers panoramic views of the New River and Hawks Nest Lake below. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY AGENCIES. The NPS will expand its collaboration with state and county resource such as those pertaining to water quality management, wildlife management, game management and harvest monitoring, air quality management, and cultural resource management. Collaboration will also focus on making state resource management programs and assistance available to owners of private land in the park. It will also focus on local enforcement of state and county environmental regulations. Of particular concern to the NPS will be collaboration regarding county enforcement of public health regulations pertaining to design and maintenance of on-site wastewater water disposal systems within the park as well as within the upstream watersheds of tributaries flowing into the New River within the park. Other concerns will be implementation of management and regulatory programs related to erosion and sedimentation control, stormwater management, timber harvesting, abandoned mine land reclamation, protection of cultural resources, protection of rare and endangered species habitat, and hunting.

The NPS will also increase collaborative efforts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with WV DNR regarding the water requirements of the national river.

NON-PROFIT AND PRIVATE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS. Collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners will expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences. Opportunities exist associated with restoration/rehabilitation of cultural resources where there is a potential for commercial adaptive reuse that will generate funds to support long-term sustainability of resources. For example, partnerships could assist the NPS with accomplishing desired conditions at Camp Brookside, Thurmond, Prince Brothers General Store, and early settlement/agricultural sites in the New River Parkway corridor (now River Road corridor).

As NPS and its regional partners develop both the long distance continuous trails in the park and those connecting the park to the region, a network of farm- or community-based accommodations such as small bed-and-breakfasts could be developed to support trail users. Similar systems in Europe allow visitors to have meals and non-camping alternatives, geared to single-night stays, relieving hikers, and bikers of the need to carry tents, cooking gear, and heavy provisions.

ORGANIZED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS. In the future the NPS will expand its collaboration with organized park stakeholder groups – particularly those that are representative of major park visitor groups and that have expertise and resources to assist the NPS with providing appropriate visitor facilities, with protecting resources from adverse visitor use impacts, and with enhancing visitor safety. These will include but not be limited to the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters (WVPRO), the West Virginia Wildwater Association, the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), and members of the local professional rock climbing community. NPS will further increase collaborative efforts with biking stakeholder groups for development of stacked loop trails.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. During development of the GMP, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) emerged as a significant partner at the park. The BSA announced plans to bring the national jamboree to a site adjacent to the park in 2009, with plans to host its first Jamboree there in the summer of 2013. In addition, the BSA will develop its fourth high adventure camp at the same location, providing boys and girls with the opportunity to experience rafting, climbing, hiking, and biking within the park. As this partnership develops, the NPS will collaborate to provide experiences for these youth.

More than 1,000 Boy Scouts paid their own way to West Virginia in 2011 to construct the Arrowhead Trail, a 12.8 mile stacked-loop mountain bike trail. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)



SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES INSIDE THE PARK

The Partnerships section above identifies the general types of actions that the NPS will seek to implement to strengthen the connection between gateway communities and communities within the park, their residents, and the mission of the NPS at New River Gorge National River.

Hinton

As the park's largest gateway community located partially in the park, Hinton will receive high priority in NPS's efforts to work cooperatively with its gateway community partners. The NPS will continue to provide technical assistance to the city of Hinton with rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Hinton Depot and will continue to work cooperatively with the city to accomplish mutual goals regarding management and use of the New River waterfront area. In addition the NPS and the city of Hinton will work collaboratively on several specific initiatives, including but not limited to the following:

- identification and implementation of appropriate treatments for significant cultural resources within the park boundary
- development of safe and legal pedestrian access to the New River waterfront
- development of a hiking and biking trail on river right from Hinton to Camp Brookside
- development of a hiking and biking trail on river left from the Hinton Bridge to the New River Parkway (working cooperatively with the New River Parkway Authority and the WV DOH)
- continued support for existing successful special events – such as Hinton Railroad Days – as well as development of new special events that will attract visitors to the park and the city
- implementation of interpretive programs focused on Hinton's railroading history

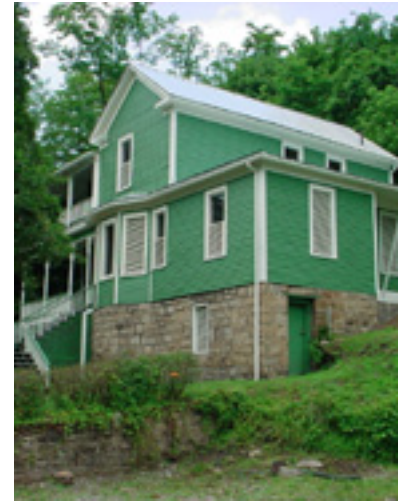
In general the NPS will not seek to acquire private land within the park boundary in Hinton except where:

- a property includes resources and values that are fundamental or important to the park that require protection from pending private actions that will adversely impact those resources, or
- a property is needed to implement management actions in the GMP

More specifically, the NPS will be interested in acquiring land owned by the CSX at the Hinton Yard, if and when it is no longer required for railroad operations. Similarly, the NPS will be interested in acquiring historically significant railroad-related structures in the vicinity of the Hinton Depot and the Hinton Yard.

Thurmond

The small enclave of occupied private residences at Thurmond will remain as "a community within a park attraction". Thurmond will become a major visitor attraction in the north end of the park where the railroading story will be told. Visitation levels will dramatically increase. Visitor lodging will likely be available in restored houses. Visitors will be more likely to explore areas of the town where private residents live. The town's permanent residential population will increase as a result of NPS staff living in some restored houses. The NPS will continue to work cooperatively with residents – including NPS staff residents – to address issues associated with living in the historic town. The NPS will also develop a community water system and a community wastewater collection and treatment system. These services will be extended to all private residences and new occupied visitor facilities, houses, and commercial uses on a fee basis.



Once among the greatest railroad towns along the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, Thurmond recaptures the days when steel rails, steam, and coal were the major themes in our nation's history. The houses that remain tell the stories of the coal boom – and bust. (Photos: WRT/E. Clarke)



The communities of Prince and Meadow Creek lie entirely within the park boundary. (Photos: WRT/E. Clarke)

Other Communities in the Park

The NPS will work cooperatively with local leaders and landowners in the communities that remain within the park boundary to define shared goals and to implement strategies to accomplish shared goals. The remaining communities that are entirely within the park (other than Hinton and Thurmond discussed above), include Meadow Creek, Backus, Highland, Prince/Quinnimont, Terry, and Thayer. In general the NPS will not seek to acquire private land within these communities except where:

- a property includes resources and values that are fundamental or important to the park that require protection from pending private actions that will adversely impact those resources, or
- a property is needed to implement management actions in the GMP

In the future, collaboration between the NPS and these communities will generally seek to sustain community character, protect natural and cultural resources, and encourage, as appropriate, development of visitor amenities and interpretive media. The types of actions that could occur include the following:

- technical assistance with organization of a community partner group in each of the park's communities (if one does not already exist) that will represent residents in the collaborative effort with the NPS
- collaborative development of a community vision plan that provides a shared understanding among local residents and the NPS regarding the future of the community within the context of the surrounding park
- technical assistance with managing change in the community - such as redevelopment and new development – to reduce potentially adverse impacts on natural resources, cultural resources, local residents, and park visitors
- technical assistance with development of strategies and plans to address specific issues associated with visitor activities within or adjoining the community
- technical assistance with documenting the significance of cultural resources and for assessing and implementing treatment options for privately-owned historically significant buildings, archeological sites, and other cultural resources
- technical assistance with obtaining grants for infrastructure improvements for water supply, wastewater management (including centralized treatment systems and/or individual on-site disposal systems), roads, and utilities
- technical assistance with control of invasive plant and animal species
- technical assistance with private sector development of appropriate visitor services
- provision of NPS visitor facilities that enhance visitor experience and help to reduce potential conflicts between visitors and local residents, such wayfinding signage, information kiosks, comfort stations, parking facilities, and trail connections to adjoining park attractions, as appropriate

Some or all of these activities will be priorities in the eight communities within the park.

Collaborative priorities for communities within the park are summarized in the table below.

Collaborative Priorities for Communities inside the Park

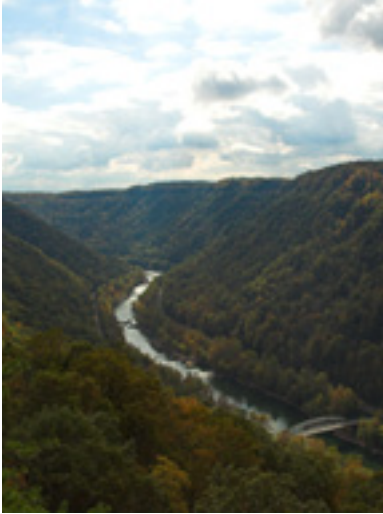
Collaborative Actions by the NPS and Local Communities within the Park											
Provide Technical Assistance to Communities for											
Community	Alternative 5 Setting	Collaboration Priority	Form Community Partner Group	Developing a Community Vision Plan	Managing Change	Managing Visitor Impacts	Documenting Resources	Obtaining Grants	Managing Invasive Species	Providing Private Sector Visitor Services	Develop NPS Facilities, as Needed
Hinton	a major gateway community partly within the park at its southern end; no major existing or new visitor use facilities	1	•			•	•	•		•	
Meadow Creek	a "river gateway" at the downstream end of the Upper River Corridor Focal Area (minimum visitor through traffic); Sandstone Visitor Center and numerous new visitor facilities in vicinity	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Prince/Quinnimont	a "river gateway" in the center of the Grandview/ Prince Focal Area (visitor and public through traffic on WV SR 41); numerous existing and new visitor facilities in vicinity; rehabilitate and lease the Prince Brothers General Store; restore the cultural landscape at the Prince Brothers General Store and the Prince Estate; work cooperatively with AMTRAK to maintain customer service to Prince and provide interpretation at the Prince Station; provide roadside interpretation along WV Route 41 from Stanaford to Prince/Quinnimont	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Terry	adjoining a new recreation node within the Grandview/Prince Focal Area (no visitor through traffic); numerous existing and new visitor facilities in vicinity	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Thayer	along the through park connector (McKendree Road Scenic Backway); a few existing and new visitor facilities in vicinity	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Backus	on plateau surrounded by primitive outdoor experience area; no existing or new visitor facilities in vicinity	3	•	•			•		•		
Highland	on plateau surrounded by primitive outdoor experience area; no existing or new visitor facilities in vicinity	3	•	•			•		•		
Thurmond	a major "river gateway" within a park focal area; restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures will dramatically increase visitation and the number of residents living in the town	1					•	•	•	•	•

1 – High Priority

2 – Medium Priority

3 – Low Priority

• – action recommended, as funding allows



More than 300,000 visitors enjoy the view from the Canyon Rim Visitor Center overlook every year. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

LAND PROTECTION

Park Boundary Adjustment

As part of the GMP planning process the NPS reviews the park boundary and – if appropriate – makes recommendations for potential boundary adjustments. Boundary adjustments may be made for the purposes of protecting significant resources and values, enhancing opportunities for public enjoyment related to the purposes of the park, to protect park resources critical to fulfilling the park’s purpose, and/or to address operational and management issues. The GMP planning team completed a boundary study which identified seven potential boundary adjustments (encompassing 222.2 acres) needed to enhance the visitor experience and to address operational issues (NPS 2009b). Findings also indicated there are three areas (encompassing 75.4 acres) where it would be appropriate to delete certain privately owned lands from the park (NPS 2009b).

Conserving Resources in and around the Park

Further boundary analysis considered the park’s enabling legislation which states that one element of the park’s purpose is “to conserve outstanding resources and values in and around the New River Gorge” (PL 95-625 Section 1101). The legislation further states that “the Secretary shall on his own initiative, or at the request of any local government having jurisdiction over land located in or adjacent to the gorge area, assist and consult with the appropriate officials and employees of such local government in establishing zoning laws or ordinances which will assist in achieving the purposes of this title” (PL 95-625 Section 1104).

The potential for new development on private land threatens the ability of the NPS to conserve outstanding resources and values in and around the gorge. The public has expressed considerable concern regarding the impacts of new development on these resources and values. Viewshed and natural resource studies indicate extensive areas in the park vicinity where new development – if it should occur in the future – would be visible from the park and would potentially impact the park setting, the visitor experience, and important resource areas. Addition of these areas to the park is impracticable because of potential community impacts and cost.

In lieu of boundary adjustments and land acquisition the NPS will seek to protect park resources from impacts of new development on these lands by working with communities and private landowners. Cooperative actions will focus on land use planning that will encourage sustainable design of new development and that will reduce the impact of new development on scenic values and important resource areas.

Land Protection Priorities

Land protection will continue as funding permits until most land remaining within the park boundary is protected through voluntary sale of property to the NPS or through voluntary conveyance of conservation easements to the NPS or to a qualified non-profit land trust. The exception will be that the NPS will generally no longer seek to acquire private property within the six communities remaining inside the park.

In the future the land protection program will focus efforts on the highest priority properties still to be protected. High priority will also be placed on working with willing sellers of private property that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- the property includes significant resources and values that are fundamental or important to the park
- the property is needed to implement the recommendations of the general management plan the property will provide safe and legal access to the New River

- the property is needed to enhance park operations and management
- the property is within the six proposed boundary adjustments
- the property is in imminent threat of change to non-park uses as a result of pending private investment, and/or
- the property is a large property whose acquisition will contribute significantly to federal ownership within the park boundary

Priorities for working with willing sellers will be further refined to focus on acquiring properties that are important to addressing specific park issues, such as:

- early settlement/agricultural cultural resources in the south end of the park
- industrial and mining town ruins in the north end of the park
- sites needed for trailheads, trail connections, or recreational sites along the through park connector and along other new trails offering visitors experiences in and around river gateways
- a site for a developed campground near the river in the south end of the park
- Babcock State Park (if and when the state of West Virginia no longer desires to own and manage the property, as previously occurred at Grandview and Sandstone Falls State Parks)
- the Prince Amtrak Station
- abandoned railroad rights-of-way



The 1946 Art Deco-inspired Amtrak passenger station at Prince features tall ceilings and windows, radiant heating in the floors and ceilings, and terrazzo flooring. (Photo: NPS/ Gary Hartley)



Stewardship of Private Land Remaining within the Park Boundary

Approximately 17,000 acres within the park boundary remain in private ownership. In the future the NPS will seek to acquire these lands where they are outside of the six existing communities that remain in the park. Until such time as these lands can be acquired from willing sellers the NPS will work cooperatively with landowners to promote sensitive stewardship of the privately-owned resources and values that are fundamental or important to New River Gorge National River. The program will focus on:

- private lands with significant fundamental and other important resources and values
- private lands that are highly susceptible to change, such as tracts with commercially viable mineral or timber resources or developable lands in proximity to the park's gateway communities where there is a strong market for residential or commercial development
- private lands with a history of prior disturbance, such as surface mining and recent clearcutting

While taking all necessary steps to ensure that the NPS will not interfere with private property rights, the goals of this program will be as follows:

- to improve communications with private landowners in order to promote their understanding of the NPS mission, policies and plans for the park
- to enable the NPS to better understand and address landowner concerns
- to respond to requests of individual landowners in dealing with park-related issues
- to work with landowners, as requested, in assessing conditions and resources on their properties and in helping them to evaluate their options for future uses
- to help facilitate strategies used by landowners that will result in protecting fundamental and other important resources and values on their lands while achieving reasonable economic and other goals, as appropriate
- to explore opportunities for cooperative agreements between the NPS and private landowners that will help achieve management goals for the park
- to organize and maintain a working group composed of outfitters and other commercial operations owning land within or near the park in order to promote dialogue and resolution of issues related to resource protection, visitor activities, and recreation development

A number of approaches will be considered for developing this program, such as management entirely by NPS staff in coordination with the NPS Lands Office, management in cooperation with a charitable non-profit organization, or management entirely by a non-profit organization.

The program is designed to foster sensitive stewardship of the special natural resources and unique features within the park that remain in private ownership. As the enabling legislation provides, timber harvest, mining, and development incompatible with the purposes of the park are prohibited. Since the NPS is directed to protect park resources and federal lands from damage or harm, including threats arising from adjacent lands, it will utilize available legal and constitutional approaches to address land protection matters, should the collaborative programs described not resolve an issue.



AREA-SPECIFIC DESIRED CONDITIONS AND NEEDED CHANGES

Many visitors enjoy the brilliant colors that October brings with the changing of the seasons. (Photo: NPS/Gary Hartley)

The following table identifies the desired resource conditions and desired visitor experiences for specific areas of the park. The area-specific desired conditions focus on fundamental and other important resources and values and the visitor experience opportunities associated with them that will be appropriate in particular locations based on proposed management zoning.

The table also identifies the general types of actions in specific areas of the park that will be needed and allowable to achieve desired conditions. These are examples of the actions needed to move from existing conditions to desired conditions. Identifying the types of needed and allowable changes helps to provide a sense of what management actions might occur and what development might look like, to identify the impacts of these actions, and to estimate the general costs of implementing the actions.

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
DEVELOPMENT AREAS			
Richmond Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> newly acquired site with limited infrastructure no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a developed campground (one campground would be developed north of I-64 in a park development zone on river left, such as Richmond Bottom, OR at Bass Lake on river right)
Bass Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bass Lake Campground (private) no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a developed campground (one campground would be developed north of I-64 in a park development zone on river left, such as Richmond Bottom, OR at Bass Lake on river right) provide a public river access (including facilities for disabled boaters) provide picnicking facilities and hiking trails near the river
Sandstone Visitor Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandstone Visitor Center parking, picnicking facilities, and public restrooms NPS operations facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a rim-to-river trail from the Sandstone Visitor Center to Lower Hump Mountain
Meadow Creek West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park river access facilities enable paddlers of all skill levels to experience the park accessible facilities enable disabled visitors to experience the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a developed campground offer amphitheatre-based interpretive programs provide a public river access facility including a river launch, parking, road improvements, comfort/changing station, utilities, picnicking facilities, and disabled boater access
Grandview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> day-use facilities (picnicking facilities, recreational facilities, playground, trails, overlooks, restrooms) (high use – demand for picnic shelters exceeds capacity) amphitheatre (used for Theatre West Virginia productions) (needs rehabilitation) visitor contact station (functionally obsolete) main overlook not ADA accessible road system and parking (pedestrian and vehicular circulation issues occur during peak visitation periods) public water supply and wastewater treatment facilities NPS operations facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic circulation and parking is managed to reduce impacts on park resources and provide for safe visitor use while mitigating intrusion of auto traffic on the visitor experience visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park accessible facilities enable disabled visitors to experience the park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make improvements to address existing pedestrian and vehicular issues, possibly including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relocate visitor contact station redesign and upgrade trail to main overlook (including making the trail ADA accessible) redesign main visitor parking lot install vehicular directional signage add a bus drop-off lane at Cliffside Amphitheatre provide a Grandview to Mill Creek rim-to-river trail (with trailhead facilities)
Terry Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McCreery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (high use) demand exceeds capacity during peak visitation periods leading to safety issues and visitor conflicts private paddler safety issues due to pedestrian crossing of WV SR 41) NPS unable to acquire property needed to relocate parking and address safety issues Terry Beach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> private river access (low use) undesignated camping (low use) no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience in the park conflicts among visitor user groups are minimized river access facilities enable paddlers of all skill levels to experience the river visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a public river access facility at Terry Beach, including a river launch, parking, road improvements, comfort/ changing station, utilities, picnicking facilities, and disabled boater access provide a developed campground at Terry Beach

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Dun Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River just above the river level Dun Glen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> day-use facilities (picnicking, parking, restrooms) group campground(in floodplain) park operations facility (in remnants of Dun Glen Hotel) (block access to river – functionally obsolete) park housing (dorms) (functionally obsolete) visitors frequently illegally cross over CSX Corman Spur Line at Southside Junction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the river visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park management facilities support efficient park operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector close existing campground and restore riparian habitat as it becomes obsolete, relocate existing park housing elsewhere in the park rehabilitate day-use facilities (restrooms, picnic shelter, parking, access road) as park operations buildings become functionally obsolete, consider relocating existing park operations functions to Burnwood and demolishing buildings
Glen Jean (Park Headquarters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> park headquarters, headquarters annex (Glen Jean Bank), and operations facilities Glen Jean Bank (listed on National Register) (good condition) all structures located within 25-year floodplain park collection facility in Glen Jean Bank (within the floodplain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the park's museum collections are properly housed and curated, made available for research, and appropriately tell the park's story interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpret the Glen Jean Bank provide roadside interpretation along WV SR 25 from Glen Jean to Thurmond
Cunard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (high use) crowded conditions during most summer weekends, especially when river levels are low inadequate private paddler parking inadequate boat slide capacity limited river access for disabled boaters visitor conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conflicts among visitor user groups are minimized accessible facilities enable disabled visitors to experience the park traffic circulation and parking is managed to reduce impacts on park resources and provide for safe visitor use while mitigating intrusion of auto traffic on the visitor experience visitors use a variety of travel modes to access the park and specific visitor use sites visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acquire property adjacent to the existing Cunard River Access and provide an additional boat launch facility provide additional private paddler parking along the Fisherman's Trail access road provide facilities for disabled boaters to access the river at Cunard block ATV access to Cunard via the New River railroad bridge during periods of high visitor use provide a concession-based shuttle from satellite parking areas to the river access site if after making the above-listed river access improvements identified for Cunard and Brooklyn, capacity issues still remain on peak visitation days, then consider developing a new public river access facility at Surprise (see Arbuckle Creek to Brooklyn River Corridor Zone below) provide interpretation along the Cunard Access Road from the community of Cunard to the Cunard River access interpret the Cunard tipple and coke ovens
Fayette Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayette Station Road (high use) (traffic volumes and types of vehicles generally exceed the roadway's design capacity) river access (high use) day-use facilities (parking, picnicking, public restrooms) CSX Main Line (active) visitors (primarily private paddlers) frequently illegally cross the CSX Main Line to reach the river access Bridge Day landing area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic circulation and parking is managed to reduce impacts on park resources and provide for safe visitor use while mitigating intrusion of auto traffic on the visitor experience visitors use a variety of travel modes to access the park and specific visitor use sites visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work cooperatively with the CSX Corporation to secure safe pedestrian access to existing visitor parking work cooperatively with WV DOH to facilitate improvements to WV SR 82 (widening and addition of pull-outs – actions to allow two-way traffic) during periods of high visitor use provide a concession-based shuttle from satellite parking areas to the river access site continue to work cooperatively with partners to provide safe opportunities for Bridge Day visitor activities rehabilitate the existing parking area above CSX right-of-way designate an existing trail as a segment of the through park connector provide a day-use area adjacent to the New River provide a trail (with trailhead facilities) to Fayette Mine

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Burnwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environmental education based at picnic pavilions (functionally obsolete) Laing Loop Nature Trail park operations facilities (functionally obsolete) public water supply and wastewater treatment facility (serving Burnwood and the Canyon Rim Visitor Center) (excess capacity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand the existing Laing Loop Nature Trail provide a developed campground (with connection to existing Burnwood water and wastewater systems)
HISTORIC RESOURCE AREAS			
Hinton Depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hinton Station (owned by the city of Hinton) (active AMTRAK station) CSX Main Line (active) and rail yard former round house site abandoned coal tipple no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS and its gateway community neighbors work collaboratively to define and accomplish shared goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide technical assistance to the city of Hinton with rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Hinton Depot work cooperatively with the city of Hinton to accomplish mutual goals regarding management and use of the New River waterfront area develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton
Richmond Bottom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richmond-Hamilton Farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> farmhouse (habitable condition), split-log barns (period condition), other outbuildings (period condition) fields not leased for agriculture no park facilities no interpretive programs Vallandigham Farm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> log cabin (not habitable), log smokehouse, other outbuildings vegetation impacting site no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> views of cultural landscapes are protected visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Richmond-Hamilton Farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work cooperatively with WV DOH to make improvements as part of the New River Parkway project, including visitor access and parking facilities restore farm fields, fence lines, and orchards restore the farmhouse and barns to period condition maintain outbuildings in period condition interpret the cultural landscape provide access and parking for visitors provide a farm loop trail at Vallandigham Farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitate the cultural landscape rehabilitate the farmhouse (for reuse through the NPS historic leasing program) maintain outbuildings in period condition provide access and parking for visitors as other properties at Richmond Bottom are acquired or otherwise protected, remove modern structures and maintain farm fields and plantings lease all restored and rehabilitated farm fields for agricultural use develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton provide a farm loop trail with trailhead facilities at farmstead destinations located along the trail
Trump-Lilly Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> farm, outbuildings, farm fields, and orchard excellent example of post-bellum subsistence farmstead in uplands of the New River listed on National Register farmhouse not habitable approximately 10 percent of historic fields are presently open no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance views of cultural landscapes are protected interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restore the cultural landscape rehabilitate the farmhouse (for reuse through the NPS historic leasing program) provide a farm loop trail lease restored farm fields for agricultural use

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Camp Brookside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site retains original camp structures, generally in good condition landscape features are indicative of a typical recreational camp good example of post-World War II social welfare programs established by American companies potentially eligible for the National Register NPS ranger station and maintenance storage building no interpretive programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance views of cultural landscapes are protected interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources cobble and flatrock communities persist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in partnership with an educational institution, rehabilitate buildings for adaptive reuse for environmental education purposes; potential uses include, but are not limited to, conference facilities, classrooms, and student overnight accommodations
Westfall Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> privately-owned; recently subdivided and some new homes constructed no park facilities Cochran Farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outbuildings, cemetery, small pond (filling in) most of site is an open field with no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance views of cultural landscapes are protected visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Cochran Farm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restore the cultural landscape provide access and parking for visitors as properties within the historic extent of the farm are acquired or otherwise protected, remove modern structures and maintain farm fields and plantings lease restored fields for agricultural use
Sandstone Falls Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most visited site in upper gorge park day-use facility with parking, and picnicking boardwalk and interpretive trail takes visitors through rare Appalachian flatrock community and provides vistas of Sandstone Falls river access below falls restrooms functionally obsolete lack of visitor control leads to riparian zone impacts parking inadequate during periods of high visitor use and other times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cobble and flatrock communities persist visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide additional parking expand boardwalk trails replace and expand restroom facilities
Harrah Homestead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wood-frame house, wood-frame outbuildings, log smokehouse (all in very poor condition) vegetation impacting site no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors views of cultural landscapes are protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restore the cultural landscape and the exterior of the house and ancillary buildings as a display of life outside of the towns in the gorge
Prince Brothers General Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wood-frame store (recently stabilized on exterior) last surviving commercial building of its type along the New River listed on National Register (for its architectural design) no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences views of cultural landscapes are protected interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitate the Prince Brothers General Store (for reuse through the NPS historic leasing program) restore the cultural landscape at the Prince Brothers General Store

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Thurmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> town mostly owned by the NPS, although some houses remain in private ownership and are occupied year-round entire town site included within the Thurmond Historic District (listed on National Register) restored Thurmond Depot (used as NPS visitor center) (listed individually on National Register) Commercial Row (stabilized on exterior) (listed individually on National Register) remnants of C&O train yard and passenger depot various frame houses (variable condition – some in poor condition, some recently stabilized on exterior only) vegetation (kudzu) negatively impacted site structures at Commercial row have lead and asbestos contamination inadequate water supply and wastewater treatment systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience in the park park staff, volunteers, interns, contractors, and partners work in a safe and secure environment remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes are preserved or protected; some are made accessible to visitors historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance collaborative partnerships with non-profit and private partners expand the park's capacity to protect park resources and provide high quality visitor interpretation and experiences views of cultural landscapes are protected interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park communities in the park are sustained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitate commercial row buildings (for reuse through the NPS historic leasing program) rehabilitate houses that are currently in good condition for reuse for park housing, park dormitory housing, or visitor lodging through the NPS historic leasing program restore other remaining historic structures (on the exterior only) provide a trail from Thurmond to Sewell Trail (including trailhead facilities) provide safe drinking water and wastewater disposal via a community water system (deep wells) and a community wastewater management system (50,000 gallons per day advanced sewage treatment system)
Nuttallburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> former site of Nuttallburg Mining Complex and town of Nuttallburg site included within the Nuttallburg Coal Mining Complex and Town Historic District (listed on the National Register) major mine buildings are extant; ongoing NPS stabilization project no other building remain, although stone foundations of town buildings and a bank of coke ovens remain intact; impacted by erosion and mudslides road traces and historic railroad grades remain vegetation (kudzu) negatively impacted site rare species present in the vicinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and the cultural landscape are preserved or protected views of the cultural landscape are protected interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience in the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park native plant diversity is maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement the Nuttallburg Visitor Use Area Implementation Plan, generally including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> long-term stabilization of the headhouse, conveyor, and tippie treatments to stabilize other building foundations and ruins rehabilitation of major town road traces trail construction and maintenance construction of visitor access and parking facilities development of interpretive media long-term invasive plant control
RIVER CORRIDOR AREAS			
Hinton to Meadow Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New River fishing (high use) Akers river access and day-use facilities (low use) Tug Creek river access (low use) Brooks Falls river access, day-use facilities, undesignated camping (in floodplain) (poor condition) (high use) Hellems Beach river access, day-use facilities, and campground (campsites in floodplain – use over capacity during peak visitation periods) (high use) Sandstone Falls river take-out (moderate use) Meadow Creek private river access (low use) future WV DOH-funded reconstruction of River Road as New River Parkway, including a bridge across the New River and recreation site enhancements CSX Main Line on river right (active) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the New River visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park river access facilities enable paddlers of all skill levels to experience the river a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park NPS and its gateway community neighbors work collaboratively to define and accomplish shared goals visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Hellems Beach, remove the existing campsites and restore site designate New River Parkway (existing River Road) as a segment of the through park connector at Brooks Falls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve existing river access facilities provide new restroom facilities provide a through park connector segment (with trailhead facilities) from I-64 to Glade Creek Road work cooperatively with WV DOH to make improvements as part of the New River Parkway project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Mermaid Beach, provide a hardened boat ramp, parking for vehicles with trailers, and picnicking facilities at Longbottom Overlook, provide parking work cooperatively with the City of Hinton and the CSX Corporation to secure safe legal public access to the river across the CSX right-of-way

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Meadow Creek to Quinnimont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glade Creek Road Scenic Backway Glade Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (moderate use) Glade Creek campground and day-use area (high use) (demand for camping typically exceeds capacity) Glade Creek Trail and Trailhead (high use) Mill Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (low use) undesignated camping occurs in floodplain) no restrooms walk-in camping at Grassy Shoals, Mill Creek, and Royal Pull-Out CSX Main Line on river right (active) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a through park connector segment (with trailhead facilities) from I-64 to Glade Creek Road designate Glade Creek Road as a segment of the through park connector at Glade Creek, expand the existing campground at Mill Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a Grandview to Mill Creek rim-to-river trail (with trailhead facilities) provide a vault toilet
Quinnimont to Army Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glade Creek Road Scenic Backway Grandview Sandbar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (moderate use) day-use facilities (low use) campground (high use) (demand frequently exceeds capacity) Army Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (moderate use) day-use facilities (low use) campground (demand for camping typically exceeds capacity) CSX Main Line on river right (active) CSX Piney Creek spur line on river left (active) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Army Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand the existing campground provide a river-to-rim trail from Army Camp to Pinnacle Rock (with trailhead facilities) at Grandview Sandbar, expand the existing campground
Army Camp to Stone Cliff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (low use) day-use area and campground (undesignated sites) (demand frequently exceeds capacity)(no public restrooms) CSX Main Line on river right (active) visitors frequently illegally cross CSX Main Line to reach Depot Beach, Apple Orchard, McKendree, and Todd Beach (for camping) river rest stop at Dowdy Creek where paddlers frequently illegally cross under CSX Main Line to reach Dowdy Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work cooperatively with the CSX Corporation to secure safe legal public access to the river across the CSX right-of-way at Dowdy Creek, Depot Beach, Apple Orchard, McKendree, and Todd Beach at Thayer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate campsites in the area now used for primitive camping provide a vault toilet improve existing river access, parking, and picnicking facilities
Stone Cliff to Arbuckle Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone Cliff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> river access (high use) campground and day-use area (in floodplain) (high use) Stone Cliff Trail and trailhead (low use) CSX Main Line on river right (active) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the New River visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Stone Cliff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> close the existing campground and restore riparian habitat provide a campground on the bench level provide a picnic area work cooperatively with the CSX Corporation to secure safe legal public access to the river across the CSX right-of-way at Southside Junction
Arbuckle Creek to Brooklyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACE river access (private) Brooklyn to Southside Junction Administrative Road CSX Main Line on river right (active) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park traffic circulation and parking is managed to reduce impacts on park resources and provide for safe visitor use while mitigating intrusion of auto traffic on the visitor experience connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads a nearly continuous strip of natural riparian habitat occurs along the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> if after making the river access improvements at Cunard (see Cunard Development Zone above) and at Brooklyn (see Brooklyn to Hawks Nest River Corridor Zone below), capacity issues still remain on peak visitation days, then consider developing a new public river access facility at Surprise, including as appropriate and as practicable, river launch, parking, road improvements, comfort/changing station, utilities, picnicking facilities, and disabled boater access

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Brooklyn to Hawks Nest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undesignated camping (moderate use) river fishing (no day-use facilities) (moderate use) Teays Landing river access (private) CSX Main Line on river right upstream of Cunard and on river right and river left downstream of Cunard (active) visitors frequently illegally cross over CSX Main Line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to reach the lower railroad area (for fishing and boating) to reach Short Creek (for camping and fishing) to reach Kaymoor via the tunnel under the tracks (for hiking) and day-use area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park acquire Teays landing river access from willing sellers a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Brooklyn, provide new picnicking facilities with parking and pedestrian access to the river at Teays Landing, provide a trail segment for the through park connector (with trailhead facilities) acquire Teays Landing river access from willing sellers work cooperatively with the CSX Corporation to secure safe legal public access to the river across the CSX right-of-way in the lower railroad area, at Short Creek, and at Kaymoor work cooperatively with the WV DOT to provide tours of the New River Bridge using the bridge's maintenance catwalk
FOREST AREAS			
Sewell Mountain (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Branch Trail and Trailhead (moderate use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton provide a farm loop trail
Fall Branch (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Branch Trail and Trailhead (moderate use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work cooperatively with WV DOH to make improvements as part of the New River Parkway project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Fall Branch Access, provide parking, picnicking facilities, and interpretive media develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton
Chestnut Mountain (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandstone Overlook – parking demand exceeds capacity Gwinn Ridge Trail provides access for hiking Gwinn Ridge Trailhead – parking demand exceeds capacity Lick Creek - water quality impaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide an equestrian loop trail expand parking capacity at the Gwinn Ridge Trailhead, including facilities for horse trailers provide roadside interpretation from I-64 to Hinton develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton
Irish Mountain (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail segment of the through park connector from New River Parkway (existing River Road) to the Glade Creek drainage provide a trailhead for the through park connector provide a designated backcountry campsite group develop a loop driving tour following the parkway and the existing WV SR 20, linking Sandstone and Hinton
Meadow Creek South (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadow Creek – water quality impaired fish stocking in Meadow Creek (moderate fishing use) hunting area (on plateau) CSX Meadow Creek rail line (active) no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a trail from Sandstone Visitor Center to Meadow Creek a rim-to-river trail from the Sandstone Visitor Center to Lower Hump Mountain a rim-to-river trail from WV SR 20 to Glade Creek (using the Meadow Creek rail line right-of-way, if and when it is abandoned) provide a trailhead for the Meadow Creek Rail/Trail

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Meadow Creek North (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hunting area (on plateau) no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail along Davis Branch provide a trailhead for the new Davis Branch Trail
Glade Creek (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> popular hunting and fishing area (moderate fishing use) fish stocking in Glade Creek by WV DNR and Glade-Pinch Trout Association fish stocking in Mill Creek by WV DNR Glade Creek Trail provides fishing access and a connection from the rim to the river (admin vehicles permitted on upper section) Polls Plateau Trail, Kates Plateau Trail and Kates Falls Trail provide access for primitive camping and hunting Lower Glade Creek Trailhead Upper Glade Creek Trailhead (demand exceeds capacity) Cloverdale Road area used for access to Kates Plateau Trail although no trailhead facilities are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> remaining elements of historic buildings, structures, and the cultural landscape are preserved or protected historic buildings and cultural landscapes are managed to produce income that offsets the cost of their ongoing maintenance views of the cultural landscape are protected hydrologic features provide a mosaic of habitats that supports a full range of natural aquatic organisms a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete studies to understand impacts of stocking on native trout fish stocking; continue to support stocking by WV DNR and park partners, if deemed appropriate provide trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a segment of the through park connector from the New River Parkway to Glade Creek a segment of the Grandview to Mill Creek rim-to-river trail a trail from Cloverdale Road to the upper Glade Creek Trail open Glade Creek Trail to biking provide trailheads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expand parking capacity at Glade Creek Trailhead provide a trailhead at Cloverdale Road
Bucklick Branch (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hunting area no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a stacked loop bike trail (with trailhead facilities) provide an equestrian loop trail (with trailhead facilities)
Highland-Backus (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River on the gorge wall hunting area no designated trailheads – one site with no developed facilities is heavily used for parking by hunters no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector provide trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from Davis Branch to Quinnimont from Quinnimont to Dowdy Creek work cooperatively with WV DOH to improve McKendree Road and designate it a state scenic backway
Stretcher Neck (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a river-to-rim trail from Army Camp to Pinnacle Rock
Dowdy Creek (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River on the gorge wall hunting area no designated trailheads – two sites with no developed facilities are heavily used for parking by hunters no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail from Dowdy Creek to Highland Mountain provide a trailhead for the Dowdy Creek to the Highland Mountain Trail provide several designated backcountry campsite groups along the Dowdy Creek Highland Mountain Trail designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector work cooperatively with WV DOH to improve McKendree Road and designate it a state scenic backway
Claremont (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River just above the river level fishing – Buffalo Creek (low use) no designated trailheads – two sites with no developed facilities are heavily used for parking by hunters no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector
Substation (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River just above the river level no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Royal (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSX Piney Creek spur line (active) Piney Creek - water quality impaired no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a segment of the Grandview to Mill Creek rim-to-river trail a segment of the WV SR 41 to Glade Creek rim-to-river trail (using the CSX Piney Creek spur line right-of-way, if and when it is abandoned) provide trailheads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the Grandview to Mill Creek Trail for the WV SR 41 to Glade Creek Trail provide roadside interpretation along WV SR 41
Terry-Batoff Creek (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSX Piney Creek spur line (active) Piney Creek - water quality impaired no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a segment of the new WV SR 41 to Glade Creek rim-to-river trail (using the CSX Piney Creek spur line right-of-way, if and when it is abandoned) provide roadside interpretation along WV SR 41
Garden Ground (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone Cliff Trail (low use) no designated trailheads – one plateau site with no developed facilities heavily used for parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a designated backcountry campsite group provide a stacked loop bike trail (with trailhead facilities) provide a segment of the through park connector from the Stone Cliff Trail to Terry
Dunloup Creek (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River at the river level Thurmond-Minden Trail and Trailhead (high use) Southside Trail (high use) fish stocking in Dunloup Creek by WV DNR (moderate fishing use) CSX Corman spur line (active) recurring flooding along Dunloup Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector if and when the CSX Corman Line is abandoned provide a rail/trail from Mt. Hope to Southside Junction provide a trailhead for the Mt. Hope to Southside Junction Rail/Trail provide roadside interpretation along WV SR 25 from Glen Jean to Thurmond
Arbuckle Creek (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thurmond-Minden Trail and Trailhead (high use) Southside Trail (high use) Arbuckle Creek – impaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate an existing trail as a segment of the through park connector provide a designated backcountry campsite group
Rush Run (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn Mine Trail and Trailhead (high use) Southside Trail (high use) Cunard Access Road Cunard Trailhead parking area provides critical habitat for rare mammals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate an existing trail as a segment of the through park connector provide roadside interpretation along the Cunard Access Road from the community of Cunard to the Cunard River access
Craig Branch (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayette Station Road "classic park experience" (high use) numerous park trails (high use) South Nuttall climbing area (low use) Kaymoor climbing area (moderate use) Butcher Branch climbing area (high use) Longmont Trailhead Bridge Trailhead Wolf Creek Trailhead (demand frequently exceeds capacity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park a variety of camping experiences are available for different types of visitors visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate an existing trail as a segment of the through park connector provide a designated backcountry campsite group provide a stacked loop bike trail and a new equestrian loop trail (with shared trailhead facilities) improve the existing Wolf Creek Trailhead
Above Thurmond (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McKendree Road (WV SR 25) parallels the New River near the river level hunting area (on plateau) no designated trailheads – one site with no developed facilities are heavily used for parking no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park connectivity in the park is enhanced through improvements to existing public roads and park roads and addition of new roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate McKendree Road as a segment of the through park connector provide trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from the Stone Cliff coke ovens to Stone Cliff Mine from Stone Cliff Mine to Thurmond
Below Thurmond (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no park facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop trail from Thurmond to Sewell

Area-Specific Desired Conditions and Needed Changes

Management Zone/ Site-Specific Area (upstream to downstream)	Existing Conditions and Facilities	Desired Conditions	Examples of Changes Needed to Achieve Desired Conditions
Sewell (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hunting area (plateau above Fire Creek, Ephraim Creek, Mann Creek, and Keeney Creek) no NPS facilities partially included within Babcock State Park (facilities include trails) fish stocking in Glade Creek and Mann Creek by WV DNR (moderate use) provides critical habitat for rare mammals rare rimrock pine communities occur in cliff areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mutual park management goals are effectively realized through collaboration among the NPS, Hawks Nest State Park, and Babcock State Park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail from Thurmond to Sewell provide a trail (with trailhead facilities) from GW Carver (via Babcock State Park) to Sewell to Caperton to Keeney Creek (in cooperation with Babcock State Park)
Babcock State Park (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babcock State Park (facilities include cabins, campground, Glade Creek Grist Mill, swimming beach, boat rentals, picnic facilities, trails, horseback riding concession) fish stocking in Glade Creek by WV DNR (moderate use) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mutual park management goals are effectively realized through collaboration among the NPS, Hawks Nest State Park, and Babcock State Park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail (with trailhead facilities) from GW Carver (via Babcock State Park) to Sewell to Caperton to Keeney Creek (in cooperation with Babcock State Park)
Beauty Mountain (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beauty Mountain climbing area Beauty Mountain overlook (no designated trail) provides critical habitat for rare mammals rare rimrock pine communities occur in cliff areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park interpretive and educational programs are expanded to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail (with trailhead facilities) to the Beauty Mountain overlook provide a trail from Nuttallburg to Fayette Mine provide roadside interpretation along WV SR 85/2 from Lookout to Winona to Nuttallburg implement the Nuttallburg Visitor Use Area Implementation Plan, generally including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trail construction and maintenance construction of trailhead facilities
Endless Wall (Backcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayette Station Road (high use) (traffic volumes and types of vehicles generally exceed the roadway's design capacity) Ambassador Buttress climbing area (low use) Diamond Foot/Cirque climbing area (moderate use) Endless Wall climbing area (high use) Endless Wall Trail and Nuttall Trailhead (high use) Fern Creek Trail and Trailhead (high use) proliferation of undesignated trails accessing Ambassador Buttress and at the base of the Endless Wall provides critical habitat for rare mammals rare rimrock pine communities occur in cliff areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cliff communities are maintained and sustain populations of rare and significant species rimrock pine communities are maintained a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibit bike use designate a trail at the base of Endless Wall provide a trail to Ambassador Buttress (with trailhead facilities) provide a trail to Fayette Mine
Sunshine Buttress (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayette Station Road (high use) (traffic volumes and types of vehicles generally exceed the roadway's design capacity) New River Bridge Trail (low use) Sunshine Buttress climbing area (low use) no designated trails to climbing routes at the top or base of Sunshine Buttress provides critical habitat for rare mammals rare rimrock pine communities occur in cliff areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cliff communities are maintained and sustain populations of rare and significant species rimrock pine communities are maintained a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate a trail at the base of Sunshine Buttress provide a trail to Sunshine Buttress (with trailhead facilities)
Ames (Frontcountry Zone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayette Station Road (high use) (traffic volumes and types of vehicles generally exceed the roadway's design capacity) Bridge Buttress climbing area (high use) Bridge Buttress parking area Bubba City climbing area (moderate use) Junkyard climbing area (moderate use) no designated trails to climbing routes at Bubba City or Junkyard provides critical habitat for rare mammals rare rimrock pine communities occur in cliff areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cliff communities are maintained and sustain populations of rare and significant species rimrock pine communities are maintained a variety of trails enable visitors with different physical capabilities to explore the park visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, and they facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park mutual park management goals are effectively realized through collaboration among the NPS, Hawks Nest State Park, and Babcock State Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a trail to the Junkyard climbing area (with trailhead facilities) designate a trail at the base of the Bubba City climbing area provide a trail segment for the through park connector

COSTS

The NPS has prepared estimates of annual operating costs and one-time costs for plan implementation using NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines. Annual recurring costs include personnel and non-labor costs, such as utilities, vehicles, travel, and supplies. One-time capital investments include construction, exhibits, research and planning. These costs are presented for planning purposes only and will be refined at a later date based upon final design of facilities and other considerations. Some projects have the potential to be funded through partnerships and volunteers, or through shared funding with other agencies. Therefore, actual costs will vary depending on when specific actions are implemented and on contributions by partners and volunteers.

NPS Annual Operating Costs and Staffing Requirements

NPS annual operating costs associated with plan implementation are estimated to be \$15,820,000 (2009 dollars). This includes the anticipated cost for staff salaries and benefits for 189 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, utilities, supplies, leasing (including leased park offices), and other materials needed for park maintenance and operations.

Operating costs are for the addition of 29 new FTE. The new positions include: one FTE to help develop and manage partnerships with gateway communities; protection rangers to manage and cover new campgrounds; additional maintenance staff to maintain and service the new campgrounds, trails, and river access/day use facilities; and interpretive staff to expand interpretive programs and service additional visitors, attracted as a result of new facilities.

NPS One-Time Costs

NPS one-time costs associated with plan implementation are estimated to be \$29,670,000 (2009 dollars) including one-time facilities costs and non-facilities costs.

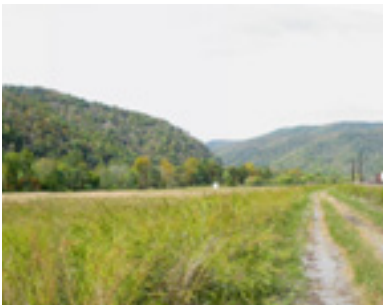
Facility costs include projects such as the following:

- restore Richmond-Hamilton farm for interpretation
- rehabilitate the Trump-Lilly and Vallandigham farmhouses and the Prince Brothers General Store through the NPS historic leasing program
- rehabilitate Camp Brookside for educational purposes
- rehabilitate a few historic houses as park housing and the remainder of the historic houses for the historic lease program in Thurmond
- rehabilitate Thurmond's commercial row through partnership
- provide new trails for rock climber access
- provide two new equestrian trails
- provide hiking and biking trails and trailheads for rim to river experiences, the through park connector, backcountry areas, and cultural sites
- provide two new hiking and biking trails and trailheads as part of the through park connector
- provide a new stacked loop biking trail in a front country area
- provide new improvements to Turkey Spur at Grandview
- provide improvements to parking and circulation at Grandview
- improve Cunard and Fayette Station river access areas to relieve congestion
- provide improvements and expand Sandstone Falls facilities
- expand parking at middle gorge areas such as Glade Creek, McCreery, Thayer and Gwinn Ridge
- relocate Stone Cliff campground from riparian area

From top:

The new campground under development at Meadow Creek will provide tent and RV sites for campers looking to explore the southern end of the park. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

More than 150,000 visitors go rafting with seven different outfitters on the New River every year, with the greatest majority of them taking out at Fayette Station. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)



- improve day use areas at Brooks Falls, Dun Glen, Mill Creek and Fayette Station
- develop a new camping facility at Meadow Creek West and additional camping south of I-64
- expand existing primitive campgrounds at Glade Creek, Grandview Sandbar, and Army Camp
- develop new designated backcountry campsites
- develop new campground with river access at Terry Beach

Non-facility costs include projects such as the following:

- restore the cultural landscape at the Prince Brothers General Store and Estate
- restore farm fields, fence lines and orchards on historic farms for agricultural leasing program
- develop 35 cultural resources as discovery sites accessible from gateway communities and along through the park connector
- pedestrian access across CSX right-of-way at new campgrounds
- develop new scenic vistas
- install and maintain information kiosks at gateway communities
- improve local appreciation and understanding by providing roadside interpretation along four roads through gateway communities

Funding for Actions Identified in the GMP

Approval of the GMP does not guarantee that funding or staffing for proposed actions will be available. Because emphasis in the budget process is currently placed on addressing needs to maintain existing infrastructure, funding for new development is not likely within the next five years. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative, will depend on future NPS funding levels and servicewide priorities and will occur over the 25-year timeframe of the plan. The construction and major rehabilitation proposed in the preferred alternative is not currently ranked or scheduled within NPS servicewide capital improvement programs. Proposed construction and/or major rehabilitation may not occur in the foreseeable future and is dependent upon future NPS servicewide funding.

The NPS prepares five-year deferred maintenance and capital improvement plans. These plans are developed by a systematic process of evaluating proposals from the field to determine which projects are of greatest need in priority order focusing on critical health and safety issues and critical resource protection requirements. Actions that add specific projects to the five-year plans inevitably result in other projects being displaced when budgets are limited. Capital development, maintenance, and staffing proposals in the plan will be evaluated in light of competing priorities for New River Gorge National River and other units of the national park system.



New River Gorge National River Park Headquarters, Glen Jean, WV. (Photo: WRT/E. Clarke)

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