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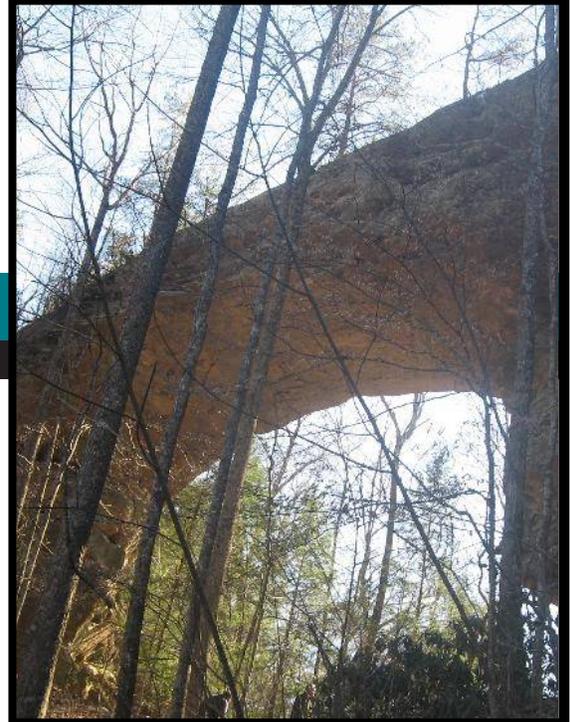
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Superintendent  
Big South Fork National  
River and Recreation Area  
4564 Leatherwood Road  
Oneida, TN 37841



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# The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

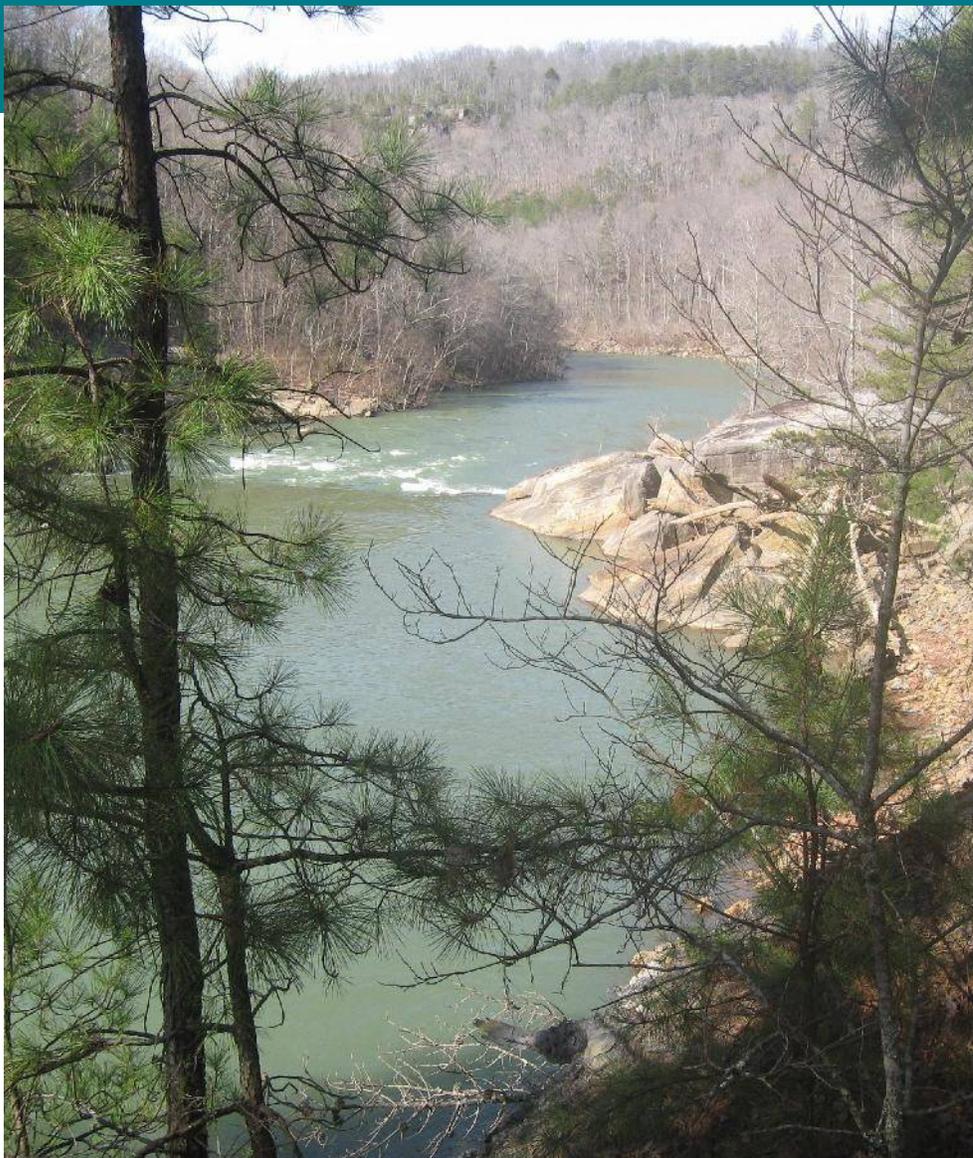
## Contaminated Mine Drainage Mitigation and Treatment Environmental Impact Statement





# The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

## Contaminated Mine Drainage Mitigation and Treatment System/Environmental Impact Statement



The National Park Service has begun preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for contaminated mine drainage (CMD) mitigation and treatment that will address the future treatment of contaminated mine drainage in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

You are personally invited and encouraged to participate in this planning process.



# Overview and Background

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area encompasses approximately 125,000 acres of rugged terrain on the Cumberland Plateau in northeastern Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky.

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area was created by the Water

Resources Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-251). The Act protects water resources within the park, "preserving as a natural free-flowing stream, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, major portions of its Clear Fork and New River streams and portions of their various tributaries."

While coal mining within park boundaries ceased during the 1960s, abandoned coal mines and the remnants of spoil piles continue to be a source of metal-laden contaminated mine drainage that impact water quality.

Ground water from abandoned coal mines contains residual metallic compounds that results in contaminated mine drainage when it comes into contact with air or water.

This contaminated water then flows into streams and creeks, which eventually flow into the Big South Fork River.



## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the draft Contaminated Mine Drainage and Treatment System/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is to define a strategy and framework to appropriately treat CMD locations throughout the park.

The EIS is needed to provide an efficient and effective framework for park managers to improve water quality in the Big South Fork River and associated tributaries. The framework is needed to allow park managers the flexibility to use different treatment technologies as appropriate.

# Management Objectives



## General

Provide the park with a general framework for treating contaminated mine drainage and improving water quality.

Follow compliance with federal and state requirements when choosing how best to treat CMD in the Big South Fork.

Identify and protect resources that could be adversely affected through the treatment of CMD.

## Threatened and Endangered Species

Protect all plant and animal species from adverse impacts during the implementation of CMD treatment projects.

Protect critical habitat from adverse modification during the implementation of CMD treatment projects.

## Cultural Resources

Protect cultural resources, including those on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Water Resources

Protect and enhance water resources during the treatment of contaminated mine drainage.

## Visitor Experience, Conflict, and Safety

Prevent, minimize, or mitigate conflicts between CMD treatment projects and visitor use.

Protect human health and safety during CMD treatment projects.

## Park Management and Operations

Provide pertinent guidance for the park to address CMD issues and to facilitate planning and compliance with NPS regulations.

Establish an efficient process under NEPA for each CMD technology.



# Elements of a CMD Treatment Project

## Access Roads -

There are a number of former roads that run throughout the Big South Fork that have been allowed to be reclaimed by vegetation. It is likely that many of these former roads could be utilized to some degree for access to CMD sites, during the treatment project.

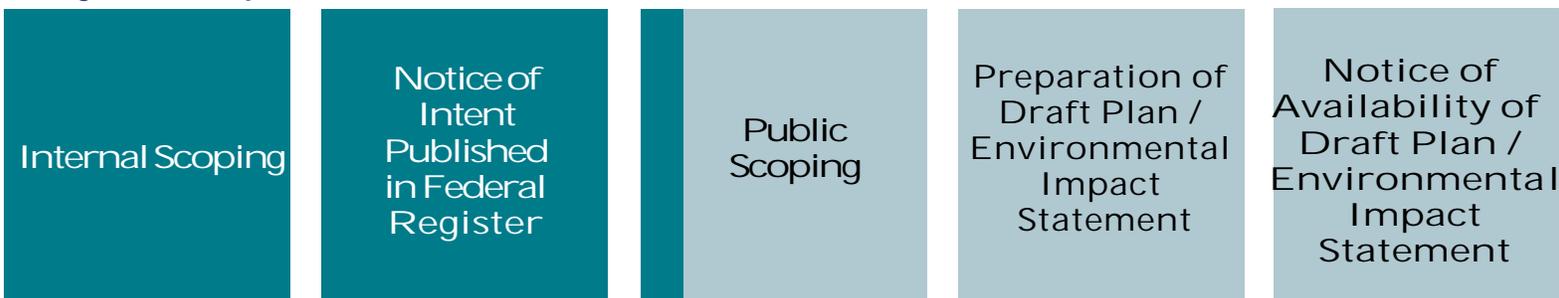
## Treatment Systems -

Appropriate treatment systems could be installed at the identified CMD sites. These systems could remain in place for an extended amount of time, until the issue of CMD at these sites can be fully resolved.

## Operations and Maintenance -

While the treatment systems are in place, they could be accessed on a regular basis in order to ensure that they are operating properly, and so that routine maintenance can be performed.

## Project Steps - Shaded items indicate steps that have been completed.



# Your Participation is Needed



## Scoping Open Houses - You're Invited

Scoping is the first step for involving the public in the planning process. Because the environmental impact statement may analyze many complex ecological and social issues, your participation is encouraged and important.

At the open houses, posters and fact sheets will provide additional information about the CMD environmental impact statement. National Park Service staff and resource specialists will be on hand to visit with you, answer questions, and record your input.

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Comments will be accepted at the open houses. If you are not able to attend one of the open houses, there are other ways you can submit comments during the scoping process. You can send a letter to the Park Superintendent, or you can submit comments on-line using the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web site at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BISO>

## Schedule

Public open houses will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM at the dates and locations described below.

Monday, July 14, 2014:  
Scott County, TN:  
Bandy Creek Interpretation  
and Education Building  
143 Stable Road  
Oneida, TN 37841

Tuesday, July 15, 2014:  
McCreary County, KY:  
McCreary County Senior Citizens  
Center  
2255 North Highway 27  
Whitley City, Kentucky 42653

Thursday, July 17, 2014:  
Anderson County, TN:  
Oak Ridge High School (Food Court)  
1450 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

To be most helpful to the scoping process, comments should be received by August 15, 2014.

