Lake Wister State Park
Resource Management Plan
2010 (Updated April 2013)

Leflore County, Oklahoma

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Assistance was also provided by Hardy Watkins, Kris Marek, and Doug Hawthorne – all from the Oklahoma City office of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

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

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADAAG ................................................. Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
BCE ............................................................................................................. Before the Common Era
CCC ...................................................................................................... Civilian Conservation Corps
CDC ...................................................................................................... Centers for Disease Control
CE ........................................................................................................... Common Era
CLEET ........................................................ Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
GIS ............................................................................................... Geographic Information Systems
GPS ......................................................................................................... Global Positioning System
EPA ............................................................................................. Environmental Protection Agency
MCL .................................................................................................. Maximum Contaminate Level
NAAQS ............................................................................. National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAWQA........................................................................................ National Water Quality Assessment Program
NEPA ........................................................................................ National Environmental Policy Act
NPRM ........................................................................................... Notice of Proposed Rule Making
OSU .................................................................................... Oklahoma State University – Stillwater
OTRD .................................................................... Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
OWRB ........................................................................................ Oklahoma Water Resources Board
PBCR ............................................................................................. Primary body contact recreation
pH ........................................................................................................... potential for hydrogen ions
ppm ......................................................................................................................... parts per million
R .............................................................................................................................................. Range
RMP ...................................................................................................... Resource Management Plan
SCORP ............................................................ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCBR ......................................................................................... Secondary body contact recreation
T ......................................................................................................................................... Township
TNC ........................................................................................................... The Nature Conservancy
USFWS .............................................................................. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS ...................................................................................................... United States Geological Survey
WBDO ...................................................................................................... Waterborne Disease Outbreak
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Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

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

Vision Statement

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

OTRD Values

- Responsibility and leadership
- Respect
- Quality
- Exemplary customer service
- Balance and self-fulfillment
- Teamwork and communication
- Flexibility
- Creativity and innovation
- Coordination
- Commitment
- Integrity
Figure 0.1 – Lake Wister Dam (above) and Lake Wister (below)
Chapter 1 – Introduction

Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process

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

The purpose and scope of the RMP are to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of Lake Wister State Park and its incorporated resources, summarize the plan’s components, and provide descriptive and historical information related to the project.

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

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

Planning Process

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

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

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

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

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

Agencies Involved

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement specified Lake Wister State Park during 2009 – 2010, and the intent of the agreement is to continue the RMP process across all state parks in Oklahoma.

The RMP agreement became effective July 1, 2009 between Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Oklahoma State University. Following a meeting between OTRD and OSU staff information, reports, and comment cards were provided to OSU for review. In accordance with the RMP contract, OSU performed research services and delivered reports to OTRD concluding with a written plan for Lake Wister State Park in June 2010.

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

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

Figure 1.1 – View of Quarry Island at Lake Wister
Figure 1.2 – Campsite at Lake Wister State Park
Above: Typical view from Victor campground
Below: newly installed electrical service at Victor campground
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About the Park

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

1. Conserve, preserve, plan, supervise, construct, enlarge, reduce, improve, maintain, equip and operate parkland, public recreation facilities, lodges, cabins, camping sites, scenic trails, picnic sites, golf courses, boating, and swimming facilities, and other similar facilities in state parks reasonably necessary and useful in promoting the public use of state parks under the jurisdiction and control of the Commission;

2. Supervise the management and use of state properties and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may adopt rules to lease concessions in any state-owned facility if the Commission deems it feasible;

3. Authorize those employees in the Park Manager job family classification series, as established by the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management, to maintain administrative control over all facilities, programs, operations, services, and employees in the park to which they are assigned; and

4. Enforce the rules and policies governing the use of and conduct of patrons in all recreational facilities and properties of the Commission.

Purpose and Significance of Lake Wister State Park

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

At the initiation of this project, a purpose statement for Lake Wister State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff, representing Lake Wister State Park and the broader agency, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

The purpose of Lake Wister State Park is to conserve the natural, cultural, scenic, historic and environmentally-based recreational resources within the park, and make them forever available for the education and enjoyment of all people. Oklahoma State Parks will protect, manage, restore and conserve the resources
and associated values of Lake Wister State Park, and provide appropriate programs, facilities, and opportunities for public use consistent with the conservation and preservation of these resources and values.

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

Lake Wister State Park, the northern gateway to the Ouachita Mountains and the National Forest, is significant as the largest Oklahoma State Park in the east central portion of the state on a major U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake. The lake environment in the surrounding forest ecosystem supports and enhances recreational and tourist activity while conserving that environment.

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

**Geographic Location of Lake Wister State Park**

Lake Wister State Park is located in southeastern Oklahoma in the central portion of Leflore County. Lake Wister State Park is located along federal Highway 270 just south of the city of Wister. The park is situated along the north shore of Lake Wister, a United States Army Corps of Engineers impoundment on the Poteau River.
An aerial photograph (Figure 2.3) of Lake Wister State Park shows its location west of the impoundment of the Poteau River and a number of smaller tributary creeks. This aerial photograph also reveals east to west ridges that dominate the topography in this region. Lake Wister State Park is located around the dam area (also the roadbed for Highway 270), on Quarry Island at the northeast end of the Lake, and along the north shore of Lake Wister.

Leflore County extends from the Arkansas River in the north to the Ouachita Mountains in the south. The county is bordered on the east by Arkansas and adjoined by five other Oklahoma counties on the south, west, and north: McCurtain, Pushmataha, Latimer, Haskell, and Sequoyah. Fort Smith, Arkansas, is located to the northeast of Leflore County and is an SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area).
Metropolitan Statistical Area). As such, Fort Smith is the dominant population base and commercial center for this area.

Larger population centers are located northwest of Leflore County (Tulsa), west of Leflore County (Oklahoma City), and southwest of Leflore County (Dallas/Fort Worth). Little Rock, Arkansas, is well to the east on Interstate Highway 40. Tulsa is approximately 160 miles from Lake Wister State Park, while Oklahoma City is 190 miles from the park. The Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area is 220 miles distant.

Communities in Leflore County include Poteau, Talihina, Heavener, Wister, and many other towns and unincorporated areas. The communities around Lake Wister are shown in Figure 2.4 as are the roads and highways that serve the area around Lake Wister State Park.

Access to and from Lake Wister State Park is provided along federal Highway 270 and federal Highway 271, both of which serve the city of Wister. Highway 270 continues eastward toward Heavener, allowing easy access to that community. Access directly to Lake Wister State Park is provided along the north side of Lake Wister via county roads. Using Highways 270 and 271, travelers may connect to a number of highways through Wister or Poteau, with the majority of travel including Interstate Highway 40 near Sallisaw. From the south, travelers would connect to Highway 259 or Highway 271 allowing easy access to Lake Wister. All of these roads in the local area are two-lane highways and include hilly or mountainous terrain. This is particularly true south and east of Lake Wister State Park.
Community and Regional Context

Brief History of Leflore County

The following history of Leflore County was written by Larry O’Dell for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society. http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/L/LE007.html

“Abutting Arkansas in southeastern Oklahoma, Leflore County encompasses 1,608.03 square miles of total land and water area. Sequoyah County borders it on the north, Haskell, Latimer, and Pushmataha counties on the west, and McCurtain County on the south. The name honors the prominent Leflore family of the Choctaw Nation. Poteau stands as the county seat.

The physical environment varies, but is mountainous, with the Ouachita Mountains extending into the county from the south. Associated mountain ranges, including the Winding Stair Mountains and the Kiamichi Mountains, dominate the county’s southern half, while peaks such as Sugar Loaf and Cavanal mountains stand more independently in the north. Covered with forests, including pine and cedar, the region has fed a prosperous lumber industry. The Ouachita National Forest covers much of the southern part of the county. The Arkansas River forms the county’s northern boundary, and its tributaries, the Poteau and the James Fork rivers, drain most of the county, with the Kiamichi, Little, and Mountain Fork rivers in the southern portion draining into the Red River.

Archaeologists have focused on the Caddoan-speaking Mound Builders (around A.D. 850 to 1450). The Spiro Mounds Site, near Spiro, gives insight into an important center for the Mississippian Culture and has produced a number of art and artifacts, many extracted by commercial diggers. From 1936 to 1941 archaeologists and Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers excavated the site. In the 1960s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired the land. In 1978 the Spiro Mounds Archaeological State Park opened an interpretive center, operated since 1991 by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 69000153). At the beginning of the twenty-first century other county archaeological locales included 6 Paleo-Indian (prior to 6000 B.C.), 125 Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1), 95 Woodland (A.D. 1 to 1000), and 105 Plains Village (A.D. 1000 to 1500) sites.

In the eighteenth century French explorers, traders, and trappers, including Jean Baptiste Bénard de la Harpe (Figure 2.5 on following page), Paul and Pierre Mallet, and André Fabry de la Bruyère, investigated and operated in the area, contributing the many French place-names. When the United States purchased Louisiana (which included most of present Oklahoma) from the French in 1803, American explorers, military personnel, and scientists, such as Maj. Stephen H. Long, Thomas James, and Thomas Nuttall, began to scout the Leflore region. A number of the expeditions concentrated on the Arkansas River Valley in the present county's northern portion. Military roads connecting Fort Smith (1817), across the border in Arkansas, to Fort Gibson (1824) and Fort Towson (1824) were early trails blazed through the vicinity.
In 1820 the Choctaw Nation signed the Treaty of Doak’s Stand, losing some of their tribal land in the southeastern United States and acquiring a large tract in present southeastern Oklahoma. In 1830 the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek ceded the remainder of the Choctaws’ eastern home and precipitated removal of the members that had not relocated. By 1832 the federal government erected a substantial building at the Choctaw Agency, approximately fifteen miles west of Fort Smith. Around the agency the important Choctaw settlement of Skullyville developed. This town not only housed the government Indian agents and dispensed annuity payments, but held a station on the Butterfield Overland Mail route, served for a time as the Choctaw capital, and hosted notables such as artist George Catlin, who painted some of the residents. It was also the home of prominent Choctaw Tandy Walker. Portions of present Leflore County existed in the former Moshulatubbee and the Apukshunnubbee districts, and in Sugar Loaf, Skullyville, and Wade counties in the Choctaw Nation.

In 1834 the U.S. Army established Fort Coffee on the southern bank of the Arkansas River a few miles north of the Choctaw Agency. In 1838 the fort closed, and the soldiers founded Fort Wayne in the Cherokee Nation. The Choctaw Nation then allowed the Methodist Episcopal Church to operate the Fort Coffee Academy for boys at the site. In 1845 the Methodists opened the New Hope Seminary for girls east of Skullyville. There were several early neighborhood schools for the Choctaw, with most operated by missionaries. In 1847 the Choctaw Agency burned, and it was relocated to Fort Washita in 1858. In 1854 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) founded Lenox Mission in the southern Leflore County.

The schools and the mission closed during the Civil War, and in 1863 Union troops burned the Fort Coffee Academy, which had been used as barracks for Confederate troops. On September 1, 1863, federal forces under Maj. Gen. James Blunt defeated Brig. Gen. William Cabell at the Battle of Devil's Backbone Mountain, near present Pocola. A day earlier, these armies had skirmished near Skullyville. After the war New Hope Seminary reopened and operated until it burned in 1896. In December 1866 the Choctaw government passed legislation to again fund neighborhood schools. Education for the Choctaw Freedmen commenced, with the first school at Boggy Depot, and present Leflore County hosting schools at Skullyville and Fort Coffee. In 1892 the Tushkalusa (black warriors) Freedmen Boarding school opened three miles southeast of Talihina. The school operated into the twentieth century.

Coal mining and the forestry industry ruled as economic staples at the turn of the twentieth century, attracting workers and railroads to the county. In 1886-87 the Fort Smith and Southern
Railway, soon purchased by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway, laid tracks through the county from the northeast to southwest. In 1889-90 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (leased to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway in 1904) built tracks from Wister west to McAlester and in 1898 from Wister east to Howe, continuing the line to Arkansas in 1899. In 1892-93 the Indianola Coal and Railway (later acquired from a third company by the Poteau and Cavanal Mountain Railroad) built a short spur (3.4 miles) from Poteau to Witteville. In 1896 the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad (acquired by the Kansas City Southern Railway in 1900) built tracks through the region north to south, exiting into Arkansas near the Page community in southern Leflore County. In 1900-01 the Poteau Valley Railroad built a line from Shady Point to Calhoun, which they abandoned in 1926. Also in 1900-01 the Arkansas Western Railroad constructed tracks from Heavener east to Arkansas. In 1901 the Fort Smith and Western Railroad connected Coal Creek west to McCurtain in Haskell County. In 1903-04 the Midland Valley Railroad laid tracks from Arkansas west through Bokoshe to Muskogee. The Oklahoma and Rich Mountain Railroad, owned by the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company, constructed the county’s last railroad, which traveled from Page to the lumber town of Pine Valley in 1925-26.

In 1900-01 the Dierks company ambitiously established Pine Valley as one of the largest forest-industry towns in the American South. It offered a large hotel, general store, drugstore, post office, barbershop, doctor, school, boarding house, movie house, ice plant, jail, churches, and a segregated section for African American workers. In 1941 the company began closing the town, and the rail line was abandoned in 1942. Honobia, Stapp, and Big Cedar served as other active mill towns in the first half of the twentieth century.

Agriculture has also been an integral component of Leflore County’s financial stability. In 1910 the county had 3,433 farms, 4,360 in 1930 and 3,085 in 1950, with corn and cotton as the early dominant crops, but by 1965 farmers planted only 180 acres of cotton. That same year they planted 7,500 acres of soybeans, 4,000 acres of wheat, 3,300 acres of sorghum, and 500 acres of corn. In 2000 there were 20,000 acres of soybeans and 12,000 acres of wheat. Cattle raising expanded from nearly 28,000 head in 1918 to 74,000 in 1968, reaching 95,000 in 2000. In 1997 there were 1,774 farms. Since the mid-twentieth century the poultry businesses has expanded, with millions of broiler chickens raised in the county. In 1986 OK Foods established a poultry hatchery at Heavener. In 1992 the company opened a processing plant and in 1995 a feed mill.

Mineral extraction in Leflore County has centered on coal, but limestone, sand and gravel, and natural gas have also been produced. Coal mining began in the late-nineteenth century in the Choctaw Nation. After statehood it continued to expand, with 224,408 tons produced in the state’s District Number One, which included Coal, Latimer, and Leflore counties in 1908. In 1939 the district extracted 264,119 tons. By 1966 Leflore County produced only 6,291 tons, and the district totaled only 7,574. In 2002 Leflore led the state in coal produced, registering 743,348 tons. Natural gas is confined to the north half of the county, with the Poteau Field the largest (its first well was completed in 1910). In 1975 Leflore County produced 27,547,839 million cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported 22,906,460 mcf from the county in 2000.

When the county organized at 1907 statehood, the population stood at 24,678. By 1920 it had climbed to 42,765 and continued to rise to 45,866 in 1940. As the area’s coal and timber industries declined, so did the population, falling to 35,276 in 1950. In 1960 the county reached its lowest number, when the U.S. Census registered 29,106 residents. After this, it began to
ascend as the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System opened and other businesses burgeoned, including the poultry industry. In 1970 it stood at 32,137 and rose to 43,270 in 1990.

Many transportation routes have crossed the county, from the early Butterfield stage, military roads, and California Trail to the modern highway system. In 1969 Oklahoma State Highway 1 opened. It became known as the Talimena Scenic Byway in 1989, showcasing the area's fall foliage and attracting numerous tourists. U.S. Highways 59, 259, 270, and 271 and State Highways 9, 9A, 31, 63, 82, 83, 112, 120, 128, and 144 also traverse the county. In 1961 Pres. John F. Kennedy visited to dedicate U.S. Highway 259. The McClellen-Kerr Arkansas Navigation System, completed in 1971, flows in northern Leflore County. The county's major lake is Wister, impounded in 1949 for flood control, conservation, and recreation. The Ouachita National Forest, in the county’s southern half, and Heavener Runestone State Park are popular recreation areas that produce income from tourism.

Robert S. Kerr left a legacy in Leflore County, where in the 1950s he established a ranch outside of Poteau. Kerr died in 1963, and in 1978 the family donated his ranch home to the state, and it was opened as the Kerr Conference Center and Museum. Carl Albert State College, formerly Poteau Junior College, in Poteau operates the center. The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm are also in the county. In 1980 the Overstreet farm house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 80004285). Twenty-one other Leflore County properties are also listed, including Oklahoma's only railroad tunnel, the Jenson Tunnel (NR 76001567) northeast of Cameron, the Peter Conser House (NR 71000665), which is an Oklahoma Historical Society property, two stations on the Butterfield Overland mail route, Trahern’s Station (NR 72001073) and Choctaw Agency-Walker Station (NR 72001074), and the Leflore County Courthouse (NR 84003099).
In 1955 Poteau integrated its school system, when Dr. John Montgomery petitioned the school board and students entered the elementary school during the 1955 school year, making the town one of Oklahoma’s first to do so after the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (Kansas) 1954 decision. In 2000 the county’s population stood at 48,109, with 80 percent white, 10.7 percent American Indian, 4.1 percent Hispanic, 1.9 percent African American, and 0.2 percent Asian. In 2004 the incorporated towns were Arkoma, Bokoshe, Cameron, Cowlington, Fanshawe, Fort Coffee, Heavener, Howe, Leflore, Panama, Pocola, Poteau (county seat), Rock Island, Shady Point, Spiro, Talihina, and Wister.”

**Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact**

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Leflore County. For comparison and trend purposes, these data are presented over a period of years with the most recent information provided as a portrait of current conditions in the county.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during the spring 2010 from [http://factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).

**Table 2.1 – Population of Leflore County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008 (est.)</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>49,477</td>
<td>49,528</td>
<td>48,109</td>
<td>43,270</td>
<td>40,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based upon the population figures in Table 2.1, it is apparent that the population of Leflore County has increased in recent decades, reaching a high in 2005, and then leveling over the next four years. The 2010 census may provide additional information on the trends in the population. A comparison of 2000 census data with the 2008 American Community Survey estimate indicates that there have been changes over the intervening period. As summarized in the American Community Survey, the population of Leflore County has changed in the following ways:

- Number of males has increased more rapidly than number of females, leading to males being more than 50% of the population;
- Median age has increased from 36.1 years of age to 36.7 years of age;
- The number (5,157 in 2000 census to 3,222 in 2008 estimate) and reported percentage (10.7% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2008) of American Indian and Alaska Native residents has declined;
- The number (1,849 in 2000 census to 2,127 in 2008 estimate) and reported percentage (3.8% in 2000 to 6.3% in 2008) of Hispanic or Latino residents of any race has increased.

The population characteristics detailed in Table 2.2 on the following page indicate that Leflore County shows similar composition to that shown across the state of Oklahoma. Leflore County has a slightly higher percentage of persons indicating they are White (79.3%) than is true in Oklahoma more broadly (78.5%). The greatest variance is shown between the American Indian
population in Leflore County (6.5%) and the 8.1% of the population identified as American Indian across the state. In addition, the state of Oklahoma reports 6.6% of its population to be Hispanic of any race, while Leflore County is slightly lower at 6.3%. Many of those residents identified as Hispanic in Leflore County live in and around Heavener, extending into Wister as well.

Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>24,810</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>24,667</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td>12,498</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 years of age and over</td>
<td>36,979</td>
<td>74.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>39,226</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>4,483</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>Of any race</td>
<td>3,127</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The general household characteristics represented in Leflore County are similar to those across Oklahoma. The vast majority (96.9%) of Leflore County residents reside in households, while the other residents live in settings that might include group homes or other congregate living.

The percentage of households in Leflore County that are below the established poverty levels is 14.1%, very similar to the 14% that are below the poverty level across the state of Oklahoma. In consideration of individuals rather than households, Leflore County reports 19.1% of its population below the poverty level as compared with 15.8% across the state of Oklahoma. This
is verified by the median household income in the county at $37,105 which is about 80% of the national average ($44,334) and similar to that for the rest of Oklahoma ($37,109).

### Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>18,331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>47,295</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>7,344</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>4,743</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>18,319</td>
<td>87.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>2,716</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>12,989</td>
<td>70.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>5,330</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$37,105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>2,585</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>9,364</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with public assistance income</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial characteristics in a population tend to be highly correlated with educational levels within the population. Table 2.5 reports the level of education attained by persons in Leflore County above the age of 25. For comparison purposes, approximately 80.6% of Oklahomans have completed a high school diploma or equivalency as contrasted with 77.4% of the eligible population in Leflore County. In addition, approximately 20% of all Oklahomans have completed a baccalaureate degree or higher as compared with 11.1% of the eligible population in Leflore County.
Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Leflore County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2008, Leflore County reported unemployment to be approximately 10% of the workforce, while the American Community Survey estimate showed unemployment at 4.9%. Figures for 2010 were not available; however, it is acknowledged that the recession has had adverse impacts on employment in Leflore County.

### Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment (25 years old and above)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade</td>
<td>2,919</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; to 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade, no diploma</td>
<td>4,464</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>12,075</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>6,606</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>3,003</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2,638</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in the labor force (16 years and over)</td>
<td>21,457</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>20,399</td>
<td>53.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>15,665</td>
<td>76.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>3,302</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that assists in understanding the local population is related to persons with disabilities. The 2000 census reported that among those persons in Leflore County over the age of five, there are 11,035 individuals (25.3%) of the population with a disability. This percentage increases in the population from ages 21 to 64 years to 25.6% or 6,663 individuals.
Among those persons aged 65 years or more, 56.7% or 3,467 individuals have one or more disabilities.

In summary, Leflore County is a rural area with approximately 30 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. This rural environment has yielded somewhat limited employment opportunities for its population. The population is similar in composition to that for the general state population and is below the income levels for the state of Oklahoma. Conversely, the population in Leflore County shows a higher percentage of its population to have one or more disabilities than is true across the state.

**Competing Recreational Opportunities**

Southeastern Oklahoma and the adjoining areas in western Arkansas provide an environment of forests, lakes, and mountains that offer some similar outdoor recreation experiences to those provided at Lake Wister State Park. Most of these areas have been developed at differing levels from that within the Lake Wister property.

Within McCurtain County about 90 miles south of Wister, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the properties on Pine Creek Lake in the western part of that county. These USACE recreational sites include campgrounds, picnic facilities, and boat ramps similar to those available at the Beavers Bend State Park properties on Broken Bow Lake. Approximately 100 miles southwest of the Wister area at Hugo, Oklahoma, in Choctaw County, the USACE has developed Hugo Lake. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department operates Hugo Lake State Park through a contract with Little Dixie Community Action Agency of Hugo. Hugo Lake State Park includes campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, cabins, and a marina. Hugo State Park and Pine Creek Lake include similar lake and environmental features associated with Lake Wister State Park.

Within McCurtain County, OTRD operates Beavers Bend State Resort Park on Broken Bow Lake and extending along the Mountain Fork River. Beavers Bend State Resort Park includes cabins, lodge, group camps, hiking and biking trails, golf course, numerous concessions, marina, and camping that offer a greater level of development than that available at Lake Wister.

An adjoining county west of Leflore County is Pushmataha County. At the northern end of Pushmataha County and approximately 50 miles from Lake Wister, OTRD operates Clayton Lake State Park under contract to Little Dixie Community Action Agency. Clayton Lake State Park offers cabins, campgrounds, and picnic areas with a significantly smaller lake environment than that available at Lake Wister State Park.

Immediately north of Clayton Lake is a larger USACE lake – Sardis Lake. This lake also includes picnic areas, camping, and boat ramps. However, the public access areas at Sardis Lake have not been developed to the extent of those at Lake Wister State Park.

Within Leflore County, Oklahoma State Parks operates Talimena State Park. Talimena State Park offers camping and hiking opportunities in a forest and mountain environment, but without a lake. Talimena does not compete with Lake Wister in provision of recreation opportunities. Heavener Runestone Park is a day-use only park providing picnicking, hiking, historic, and archeological experiences for visitors, now operated by the city of Heavener. The experiences at Heavener Runestone Park do not compete with experiences at Lake Wister State Park.
Southern Leflore County and portions of McCurtain County also includes the Ouachita National Forest. The principal recreational development within the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma includes Cedar Lake Recreation Area, Winding Stair Recreation Area, and Billy Creek Campground. Winding Stair and Billy Creek offer forest camping and hiking experiences, in which Winding Stair includes a higher level of development than does Billy Creek. Both of these campgrounds are in mountain environments, but they do not offer water-based recreation opportunities.

Cedar Lake is a small impoundment offering minimal boating opportunities in a no-wake environment. Cedar Lake does include well-developed campgrounds and hiking trails, plus a large equestrian campground. The recreational opportunities provided at Cedar Lake Recreation Area compete directly with those at Lake Wister State Park, with the exception of those park visitors desiring a larger boating area and speed-based water activity.

West of Lake Wister near Wilburton, OK in Latimer County, OTRD operates Robbers Cave State Park. Robbers Cave State Park offers camping, cabins, group camp, lodge, hiking and equestrian trails, several concessions, and a number of small lakes. Robbers Cave State Park would compete with Lake Wister State Park, except for those recreational visitors desiring water based recreational experiences. Robbers Cave State Park is approximately 40 miles west of Lake Wister.

The northern portion of Leflore County borders on the Arkansas River and the USACE impounded Robert S. Kerr Lake – which extends westward into Haskell County. Several USACE developments on Kerr Lake offer boating access, camping, and picnicking. However, these facilities are not developed to the extent of those provided at Lake Wister State Park.

Across the border in Arkansas and within the Ouachita National Forest, Queen Wilhelmina State Park and Lodge offer camping, picnicking, hiking, and a lodge within a mountain environment. Queen Wilhelmina Lodge may attract similar visitors to those at Lakeview Lodge in Beavers Bend State Park, but Queen Wilhelmina State Park does not offer the same recreational opportunities as those at Lake Wister State Park.

Other Arkansas state parks east of Lake Wister are Cossatot River State Park, Daisy State Park, and Millwood State Park. These parks offer camping, picnicking, and hiking experiences in a mountain environment. Cossatot River State Park offers float and angling experiences similar to those on the Mountain Fork River. Daisy State Park and Millwood State Park are located on lakes and offer boating experiences similar to those at Lake Wister State Park.

Park History

The history of Lake Wister State Park is integrally linked to the construction of the Wister Dam, impounding the Poteau River. Lake Wister was originally authorized for flood control and conservation under the Flood Control Act of 1938. Construction on the project began in April 1946 and the project was completed in December 1949 at a cost of $10.5 million.

Significant structures that define the Lake Wister project include a 5,700 foot embankment and an earth dike 2,400 feet in length. These impoundments include a 600 foot, uncontrolled concrete spillway located between the dike and the embankment. Six vertical lift gates regulate flood control release through the outlet works in the dam. The total length of the dam, including the
spillway and the dike, is 8,700 feet. The dam has a maximum height above streambed of 99 feet. The watershed drainage area above the Lake Wister dam is 993 square miles.

This structure is designed to allow for a flood control pool at 509.5 feet above mean sea level. Normal summer conservation pool levels are kept at about 478 feet above mean sea level, while winter and spring levels are 471.6 feet above mean sea level. At the top of the flood control pool, Lake Wister has 23,070 surface acres. The volume of water impounded at the height of flood control is 400,800 acre-feet of storage. During normal pool operations from June 1 through December 1, Lake Wister is kept near 7,300 surface acres. Then during the winter and spring the lake is dropped to 4,000 surface acres. This lower water level allows for propagation and feeding of wildlife, as well as other management benefits. During this low water level, Lake Wister has a shoreline of 115 miles.

With the original design and construction of Lake Wister, the Army Corps of Engineers included ten identified sites for recreational access and development. Several of these locations were not developed, including Fanny Creek and Heavener Landing. Minimal recreation development was planned for Conser Crossing and the Project Office locations, while the Overlook area provided a boat launching ramp and a group shelter. Potts Creek was developed with a boat launching ramp, a picnic area, and restrooms: Potts Creek is currently managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The remaining sites – Victor Area, Wister Ridge, Quarry Island, and the Dam Site – were situated along the north side of the lake and below the impoundment.

The Army Corps of Engineers entered into leases with private individuals for specific properties, rights, and uses of Lake Wister. One such agreement included a lease to Ford Watkins leading to construction of a cottage on Quarry Island. Discussions between the USACE and the Division of State Parks under the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board led to the State of Oklahoma buying the lease from Ford Watkins, a local resident, in 1952 (See Appendix A). In 1953, the State of Oklahoma leased 49.9 acres from the USACE “for public park and recreational purposes,” thus establishing Lake Wister State Park.
A supplemental lease of USACE property by the State of Oklahoma in 1958 added 2,990.1 acres to the park. By 1963, an agreement between the Division of State Parks and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation clearly separated property management between the two agencies. ODWC manages the western and southern reaches of the property for game and waterfowl. OTRD manages approximately 1,220 acres as Lake Wister State Park. The history of the property transactions is included in Appendix A showing detail on various locations along the northern and eastern portions of Lake Wister.

The present lease between OTRD and USACE is effective from January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2029. This lease extended and clarified the original agreement from 1953 and details the 1,220 acres and specific inventory present in 2003. A supplemental agreement in 2009 added 2.96 acres, two houses, and two single-car garages to the lease. These structures are subject to National Historic Registry eligibility and require evaluation under specific rules for anything other than basic maintenance.

Physical Setting

As has been indicated, Lake Wister State Park is situated on the banks of the lake formed by impoundment of the Poteau River, just south of the community of Wister, Oklahoma. The Poteau River originates in western Arkansas and flows westerly into central Leflore County where it turns north before flowing into the Arkansas River.

The following description of the community of Wister and the physical setting surrounding Lake Wister State Park was prepared by Harold Crain for the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture published by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

“Wister is located in central Leflore County and in the northern portion of the Ouachita National Forest near Lake Wister, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created between 1946 and 1949. U.S. Highways 270 and 271 pass through the town. McAlester is located fifty-five miles almost due west, and the Oklahoma-Arkansas border lies twenty miles east of Wister. Within a few decades of the 1830s Choctaw removal from Mississippi to Indian Territory, the population in the future Leflore County area had greatly increased. By the second half of the nineteenth century the Choctaw and the whites who joined them had developed an economy that required railroad services. In 1866, after the Civil War, a treaty between the Choctaw Nation and the federal government permitted railroads to build through the territory. They became an integral part of the economy, transporting coal, timber, livestock, farming, and other products, as well as passengers.

The Post Office Service designated a Wister post office on June 30, 1890. The town is a namesake of Gutman G. Wister, an official of the now defunct Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. The town existed before the post office. In 1886 a hotel and other buildings in the vicinity served workers building the Fort Smith and Southern Railway (soon purchased by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway) through the vicinity. From 1889-90 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (leased to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway in 1904) laid tracks from Wister to McAlester and in 1898 from Wister to Howe. The circumstances of Wister's
establishment were similar to those of most Leflore County towns fortunate enough to have a railroad.

In 1900 the population was 313, climbing to 498 in 1910. In 1911 the town had a bank, a cotton gin, a gristmill, a sawmill, a hotel, and several retail outlets. The *New Era*, the *Wister News*, the *Wister Record*, and the *Wister Informer* have reported the local news. By 1930 the population stood at 761, and the town still had a cotton gin, gristmill, and sawmill. The coal and timber industries supported the area's economy throughout most of the twentieth century. In 1950 the population was 729, but it declined to 592 in 1960 before resurging to 927 in 1970. One hundred years after Wister's first post office opened, the population stood at 956 in 1990. In 2000 the population was 1,002, and the school district enrolled 525 students from prekindergarten through high school.”

In addition to the physical environment that attracted settlement and development of contemporary communities, this area in eastern Oklahoma had served as a cultural center for thousands of years. The area surrounding what is now Lake Wister State Park provided a combination of resources that supported definable phases in pre-Columbian cultures. The record of these cultures is documented by Jerry Galm in the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* for the Oklahoma Historical Society.

“The Wister Phase is a Late Archaic construct introduced by Robert E. Bell and subsequently expanded by Jerry Galm, following a reexamination of “midden mound” sites in the Arkoma Basin of east-central Oklahoma. Dates on site components from the Wister Valley establish an age range for the phase of circa 1500 to 300 B.C. The upper age limit corresponds to the appearance of pottery in this portion of the Arkansas River watershed. The introduction of pottery and ceramic technology marked the beginning of the Fourche Maline Phase and a Woodland adaptive pattern. Contracting-stemmed projectile point/knife forms (principally the Gary type) dominated but co-occurred with a variety of expanding-stemmed and corner-notched point styles. Bone, shell (particularly marine shell), and ground-stone artifacts were common, and a high degree of technological sophistication was attained in working these raw materials.

Trade and exchange networks were extensive and connected Late Archaic peoples of this region to other contemporary centers of development in the trans-Mississippi South and beyond. Burials, typically containing individuals in flexed positions, were the most commonly occurring feature. An increase in grave goods during later segments of this phase implied the growth of a mortuary complex, perhaps associated with the expanding influence of the Poverty Point culture. Other features included small pits, ash lenses or concentrations, and burned/unburned rock concentrations. Evidence of housing was virtually absent in Wister Phase components. Preliminary data on settlement patterning indicated the emergence of a highly efficient riverine adaptation in this time frame.

In the Wister Valley and adjoining areas the hallmark site type was the midden mound, an accretional deposit formed by repeated waste disposal within a spatially bounded area. Cultural
deposits in midden mounds were characteristically deep, stratified, and span time intervals minimally from the Archaic into the Woodland period. The appearance of Mississippian Tradition materials in the uppermost levels of these sites is also a common occurrence, at least among the Wister Valley site sample. Like their counterparts in the succeeding Fourche Maline Phase, the Late Archaic Wister components were overwhelmingly represented in midden mound contexts, as other site types and locations in this riverine-based adaptive strategy remain to be defined.

Subsistence pursuits included a heavy dependence on nuts, particularly of the genus Carya, as well as lesser amounts of acorns. Deer dominated meat supplies in faunal samples from this time frame but were supplemented by a variety of small game and aquatic resources (fish, turtles, and freshwater mussels). So dominant was the role of nut harvesting in the Wister subsistence strategy that nutshells comprised the principal component of organic refuse that in time transformed these site areas into human-created landforms. Available evidence suggested a pattern of intermittent, year-round occupation of midden mound sites. The Late Archaic population base, fueled by an abundance of regional resources and an increasingly efficient adaptation, expanded significantly over preceding group sizes in the Middle Archaic. At the end of the twentieth century archaeologists did not fully understand the broader cultural connections to other regional Late Archaic manifestations, such as the Poverty Point culture.”

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**Natural Resources in the Park**

**Climate and Air Quality**

As is true for most of the state of Oklahoma, Lake Wister State Park is included in the humid, sub-tropical climate type using the Koeppen classification (National Geographic Society, 2008). This climate type is characterized by hot muggy summers and mild winters. The summers include frequent thunderstorms, while the precipitation in the winter is mostly rain resulting from mid-latitude cyclones. This portion of Oklahoma receives the highest annual rainfall, averaging about 47.5 inches per year. Temperatures range from an average high of 94° Fahrenheit during the summer, mainly July and August, to an average low of 28° during January. During the summers, it is quite common for temperatures to exceed 100° on several occasions. If the park experiences snowfall, it is typically two to four inches at the most in any given year.

Thunderstorms are common during the summer as indicated above, with an average of about 50 such events each year. Severe weather is possible throughout Oklahoma, with higher reported frequency of tornadic storms in the western part of the state. However, Leflore County receives one or two storms that produce tornadoes each year and about three significant hail storms annually.

All of eastern Oklahoma, including Leflore County, is classified as a humid temperate ecoregion. However, the Lake Wister State Park area is within the “subtropical regime mountains” division of the humid temperate ecoregion. This area is classified as the Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow province. As indicated in earlier discussion, this province is dominated by oak-hickory-pine forest. The Lenihan classification type identifies the area as Southern Mixed Forest (National Geographic Society, 2008).
Air quality for Leflore County is reported based on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA has identified six criteria pollutants that can injure health, harm the environment, and cause property damage. These pollutants are (1) carbon monoxide, (2) lead, (3) nitrogen dioxide, one of several nitrogen oxides, (4) ozone, (5) particulate matter (PM), and (6) sulfur dioxide. Somewhat surprisingly, given its rural setting, Leflore County is at or above the 60th-percentile of dirtiest or worst counties in the United States in levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (at two levels), and volatile organic compounds (Scorecard: The Pollution Information Site).

Approximately three-quarters of the nationwide carbon monoxide (CO) emissions are generated from transportation sources, although other sources include wood-burning stoves, incinerators, and industrial sources. Nitrogen dioxide is a byproduct of most combustion processes and may result from sources similar to those identified for carbon monoxide emissions. Similarly, sulfur dioxide is released from combustion of fuels that contain sulfur including coal, oil, and diesel fuel. Point source polluters for sulfur dioxide include coal- and oil-fired power plants, steel mills, pulp and paper mills, and refineries.

Particulate matter (PM) is a mixture of particles of various sizes that can adversely affect human health. PM is typically divided into two broad categories based on the size of the total suspended matter: PM-10 for particles less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter and PM-2.5 for particles less than 2.5 microns. The smallest particles pose the highest human health risks. PM includes dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets emitted into the air by sources such as factories, power plants, cars, construction activity, fires and natural windblown dust. Leflore County is in the 80th percentile on PM-2.5 and in the 90th percentile on PM-10 ratings.

**Topography**

Leflore County varies in elevation from approximately 2,099 feet above sea level in the Winding Stair Mountains to 472 feet above sea level at Lake Wister. The land surrounding Lake Wister State Park varies in elevation with the hills and hollows common to this portion of Oklahoma.

This portion of Leflore County is classified as “Interior Highlands” using the Fenneman Physiography Classification system (National Geographic Society, 2008) and specifically in the Ouachita Province. As a result, the dominant feature related to topography just south of Lake Wister State Park is the Ouachita Mountains.

“The physical environment varies, but is mountainous, with the Ouachita Mountains extending into the county from the south. Associated mountain ranges, including the Winding Stair Mountains and the Kiamichi Mountains, dominate the county's southern half, while peaks such as Sugar Loaf and Cavanal mountains stand more independently in the north. Covered with forests, including pine and cedar, the region has fed a prosperous lumber industry. The Ouachita National Forest covers much of the southern part of the county. The Arkansas River forms the county's northern boundary, and its tributaries, the Poteau and the James Fork rivers, drain most of the county, with the Kiamichi, Little, and Mountain Fork rivers in the southern portion draining into the Red River” (O’Dell).

Since the Ouachita Mountains and the sub-divisions like the Winding Stair Mountains tend to be an east-west range, there are direct effects upon the ecology of the area. Leflore County is in the humid temperate domain as an ecoregion classification. This portion of Leflore County is in the subtropical regime mountains division of that domain. The east-west range of the mountains
allows the north facing slopes to be cooler and moister than the southern slopes which receive much more sunlight. As a result, the southern slopes tend to be dominated by pine trees with a mix of hardwoods: post oak, blackjack oak, black oak, southern red oak (at lower elevations), black hickory, and winged elm, with an understory of serviceberry, wild plum and fringe tree. The northern slopes include white oak, northern red oak, mockernut hickory, bitternut, black walnut, black locust, basswood, sugar maple, red maple, and at lower elevations or in moist soil, beech. Understory trees include dogwood, pawpaw, Carolina silverbell, American bladdernut, umbrella magnolia, Ohio buckeye, redbud and wild hydrangea. The north slopes offer a rich habitat for spring wildflowers.

Geology

Leflore County is dominated by geology of the Quaternary and Pennsylvanian formations dating from the Cenozoic and Paleozoic periods. Quaternary formations are often called “alluvium” and are characterized as unconsolidated silt, sand, and gravel as seen in stream channels. Leflore County is divided north and south by the Choctaw Fault. Lake Wister State Park is along the Choctaw Fault and presents Boggy Formation (Pennsylvanian). These are predominantly grayish-green, fine to medium grained, noncalcareous, scarp forming sandstone.

The geology of Leflore County and the Poteau River valley has made it attractive for exploration and development of mineral interests. “Mineral extraction in Leflore County has centered on coal, but limestone, sand and gravel, and natural gas have also been produced. Coal mining began in the late-nineteenth century in the Choctaw Nation. After statehood it continued to expand, with 224,408 tons produced in the state's District Number One, which included Coal, Latimer, and Leflore counties in 1908. In 1939 the district extracted 264,119 tons. By 1966 Leflore County produced only 6,291 tons, and the district totaled only 7,574. In 2002 Leflore led the state in coal produced, registering 743,348 tons. Natural gas is confined to the north half of the county, with the Poteau Field the largest (its first well was completed in 1910). In 1975 Leflore County produced 27,547,839 million cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported 22,906,460 mcf from the county in 2000” (O’Dell).

Soil

![Figure 2.8 – Soils of Leflore County](source: NRCS, State Soil Geographic Database, STATSGO)
Figure 2.8 presents a mapping of the soils of Leflore County. As indicated in the discussion of the topography of the county, the Choctaw Fault separates soils in the northern part of the county from the soils in the southern portion. Around Lake Wister State Park, most of the soils are stony-fine sandy loam in the Poteau River valley.

Soil analysis in Leflore County reveals the detail of these soils. They are typically alfisols, of the sub-order udalfs, and ultisols, of the sub-order ults. Alfisols are moderately leached soils that have formed under forest canopies. Alfisols have relatively high native fertility with accumulated clays. Alfisols common to sub-tropical areas are identified as udalfs. Ultisols are typically acidic soils, commonly known as “red clay.” Ultisols are commonly found across the southeastern United States, with a western extent through the eastern counties in Oklahoma – including Leflore County. These soils tend to occur in humid, warm climates with growing season of about 200 days per year. In addition, these soils tend to be rich in iron content, mixed with quartz and translocated silicate clay (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Udults are a suborder that is freely drained, but humus poor. Most udults were once covered with forests, but when cleared have been used to support cropland. However, such soils require considerable amounts of amendments to support appropriate agricultural production.

Hydrology

Leflore County includes portions of five watersheds as shown in Figure 2.9: the extreme northern portion of the county drains into the Robert S. Kerr reservoir, an impoundment on the Arkansas River; the central portion of the county drains into the Poteau River; the southeastern portion of the county is drained by the Mountain Fork River; the southwestern corner of the county drains into the Upper Little River; and the south central to southwestern portion of the county drains into the Kiamichi River. Lake Wister State Park is situated in the drainage basin of the Poteau River, an east to west flowing river at this location.

The Poteau River originates in the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas and flows west across Leflore County. The Poteau River is one of the few rivers that flow in a general northerly direction in Oklahoma. In the area near Wister, the Poteau River flows west, somewhat parallel to federal Highway 270, then turns northeast toward the city of Poteau.

The Poteau River has been impounded to form Lake Wister in the center of Leflore County. This impoundment is along Highway 270, just south of Wister, and forms a 4,000 acre lake with a shoreline of 115 miles. Lake elevation at normal summer conservation pool is 478 feet above mean sea level. The drainage area above the Lake Wister dam encompasses a watershed of 993 square miles.
Water Quality

Water quality is an important consideration for recreational activity. In the case of Lake Wister State Park, the water in the Poteau River and in Lake Wister is outside the responsibility of Oklahoma State Parks. However, much of the attraction to Lake Wister State Park relies upon the quality of the water in the lake and the recreational potential supported by that water.

In the official documents, the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Lake Wister is identified as having specific purposes: these include flood control, water supply, low flow augmentation, water conservation and sedimentation purposes (ODEQ, 2006). The 2006 report indicates that Lake Wister fully supports industrial and municipal (I&E) process and cooling; however, in 2006, Lake Wister did not support a warm water aquatic community. There was insufficient information for conclusions regarding support for or lack of support for (1) public/private drinking water supply, (2) Primary Body Contact Recreation, and (3) Secondary Body Contact Recreation. However, in 2008, Lake Wister was rated by ODEQ and OWRB as supporting primary body contact recreation (see Figure 2.11 on page 40).

Figure 2.10 – Water quality for Lake Wister
Source: Beneficial Use Monitoring Program, ODEQ
A brochure published by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board states that Lake Wister “suffers from degraded water quality due to poor quality water flowing into the lake and recycling of sediments and nutrients in the lake.” As a result, the OWRB initiated the Lake Wister Habitat Restoration Project in the 1990s. This project included attempts “to demonstrate a way in which establishment of a native aquatic plant community in Lake Wister can reduce sediment and excess nutrient loads in the lake, and provide habitat for wildlife, fish, and waterfowl.”

In conjunction with the Lake Wister Habitat Restoration Project, OWRB has developed a watershed model for Lake Wister in cooperation with the Poteau Valley Improvement Authority (PVIA). OWRB provided analysis of data and model construction, while PVIA collected the necessary samples. This research provides details on the type and severity of loadings (sediment, nutrients) to the lake from the watershed.

The 2006 BUMP report (ODEQ) identified five causes of the concerns related to water quality in Lake Wister. These included (1) color, (2) total phosphorus, (3) dissolved oxygen, (4) turbidity, and (5) pH levels. The source of these causes was listed as “source unknown.” Figure 2.10 on page 36 documents two of these concerns in graphic form. Lake Wister shows high levels of turbidity, placing it in the “poor” range as mapped. Related to turbidity, levels of dissolved oxygen, and total phosphorus and other nutrients, Lake Wister is also in the “poor” range on trophic state.

The classification of Lake Wister as “poor” indicates that the lake is eutrophic for most of the summer. This status is a result of nutrient enrichment, leading to plant growth and oxygen depletion. Sedimentation and filling of the lake bed are likely byproducts of the eutrophic environment. The 2008 report (Figure 2.11 on page 40) shows Lake Wister as hypereutrophic.

Park staff indicated that ODEQ was experimenting with aerators, especially around islands, with the intent of increasing oxygen levels in the water. Another concern from park staff is related to siltation in the lake and resulting problems for boater safety.
Figure 2.11 – Beneficial Use Monitoring Program report for Lake Wister

Source: Beneficial Use Monitoring Program, ODEQ, 2008
Vegetative Cover

Portions of Lake Wister State Park has been cleared of forest cover to allow for the development of the lake, roads, parking areas, and structures associated with access and service areas. However, large areas of the park remain forested with vegetation common to the forests of southeastern Oklahoma.

The forests in this part of Oklahoma include shortleaf pine, black jack oak, post oak, red oak, white oak, water oak, pin oak, overcup oak, willow oak, red cedar, cedar elm, winged elm, sycamore, iron wood, sweet gum, black gum, black locust, honey locust, hackberry, black willow, bitternut hickory, white heart hickory, holly, box elder, red maple, silver maple, linden, Osage orange (Bois D’ Arc), persimmon, black walnut, and black cherry. Shrubs present within the surrounding forest include sassafras, witchhazel, alder, mulberry, pawpaw, sumac, Hawthorn, red bud, dogwood, wild plum, fringe tree, St. John’s Wort, and many more. Vines included briar, wild grape, honeysuckle, trumpet and Virginia creeper, poison ivy, blackberry, wild rose, and vetch. Herbs ranged from western spider lily to black-eyed Susan, to fern, and water lily among many others. Most of these plants are present within Lake Wister State Park.

Within Lake Wister State Park, visitors can enjoy the typical forest environment common to the uplands in southeastern Oklahoma. As shown in Figure 2.12, the post-oak hickory forest shades the stony hillside. Shrubs are common as a lower story under the higher forest canopy.

Fish and Wildlife

As is true with all Oklahoma state parks, Lake Wister State Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Since the park is adjacent to a state waterfowl refuge and a state game management area, the diversity of wildlife potentially living in or passing through the park spans a wide range. In addition, the
surrounding Ouachita National Forest is the home ecosystem for a wide range of wildlife species.

Lake Wister has become a popular fishery with particular emphasis on long-nosed gar, spoonbill, catfish, and crappie. Hunters and anglers visit the park as they utilize the access to the surrounding lake and forest environment.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) reports the wildlife common to this forest community include white-tailed deer, coyote, bobcat, red and gray fox, raccoon, striped skunk, opossum, armadillo, flying squirrel, red and gray squirrel, cottontail and swamp rabbit, and numerous rodents. Similar diversity is likely within the boundaries of Lake Wister State Park, while transient species include wild turkey, bobwhite quail, various raptors, woodpeckers, and many migrant species. Common birds in and around the park include robins, Blue Jays, cardinals, sparrows, larks, finches, and many more. The forest environment is home to numerous reptiles including skinks, lizards of various sorts, and several species of snakes. Among the snakes that may be present in Lake Wister State Park are the copperhead and various species of rattlesnakes. These rattlesnakes may include the pigmy rattlesnake (*sistrurus miliarius*) and the timber rattlesnake (*crotalus horridus*) (Figure 2.13).

As black bears have increased in numbers in the Oklahoma districts of the Ouachita National Forest, it is possible that black bears may enter Lake Wister State Park. Bears have become more common at Winding Stair campground and Cedar Lake Recreation Area where similar human activity in park environments has become an attraction for bears.

A federally endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker, can be heard with its distinctive call and noisy hammering on old-growth trees throughout the Ouachita National Forest. Occasionally visitors are able to see this robin-sized woodpecker within the park or in the surrounding forest. It is more likely that the red-cockaded woodpecker would be seen along the Talimena Scenic Byway in stands of old-growth trees.

Among the species that live in the habitat surrounding and including Lake Wister State Park, three species are federally-listed as endangered and 17 are of special concern. Endangered
species are native species whose prospects of survival within a given ecoregion are in imminent jeopardy. Threatened species are native species that, although not presently in danger of extirpation, are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future without special protection and management. Species of special concern are those that (1) have a presently stable population but are especially vulnerable to extirpation because of limited range, low population or other factors, and (2) are possibly threatened or vulnerable to extirpation but for which little, if any, evidence exists to document population level, range or other factors.

Among the endangered species on the federal list or the Oklahoma list for the Lake Wister State Park area is: the Indiana Bat (myotis sodalist shown in Figure 2.15), the red-cockaded woodpecker (picoides borealis), and the American burying beetle (nicrophorus americanus). The rocky environment present in parts of Lake Wister State Park, with numerous caves and overhangs, makes it an ideal environment for a number of bats including the endangered Indiana Bat. Those on the list of threatened species include the American alligator (alligator mississippiensis), the river otter (Lutra Canadensis), Rafinesques Big-eared bat (Corynorhinus rafinesquii), Southeastern myotis (myotis austroriparius), and Mexican free tailed bat (tadarida brasiliensis). It should not be assumed that these species are present within the park, although they may live within the larger ecoregion.

Prairie mole crickets (Gryllotalpa major), a protected species, are known to inhabit Leflore County. The principal habitat for the prairie mole cricket is between Wister and Poteau, but would include much of the open grasslands within Lake Wister State Park.

Accessibility

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

The technical provisions of the ADA permit deviation from the stated guidelines. These provisions allow deviation from full compliance if accessibility cannot be provided because (1) compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious or significant natural features or characteristics; (2) substantially alter the nature of the setting or purpose of the facility; (3) require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by federal, state or local regulations or statutes; or (4) would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.
In 2007, the United States Access Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for outdoor developed areas. These rules and their associated interpretations have direct bearing on consideration of access in Lake Wister State Park. The minimum requirements found in the NPRM for outdoor developed areas are based on several principles developed through the regulatory negotiating process. They include (U.S. Access Board, 2009):

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

Trails that currently exist in the recommended properties are all natural surfaces, although several of the properties have hard surface sidewalks in the developed areas. Any one designated trail may make use of all or several surface types. If major trail redesign or construction were to occur, it would be important to ensure compliance with the ADA standards where appropriate. The NPRM addresses ten provisions that must be considered related to trail accessibility. These provisions are:

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

An example of possible signage for trails as suggested by the National Center on Accessibility is shown in Figure 2.17. As of 2010, no specific
signs have been designated for universal communication related to accessible trails. However, these signs communicate the concept of accessibility in outdoor developed recreation spaces that include trails.

Other considerations related to access for persons with disabilities include “Braille trail” concepts that allow persons with visual limitations to enjoy the features of a trail. This is particularly true if the trail is interpretive in nature, with signs communicating information related to natural, cultural, historic, or other significant topics related to the park environment.

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

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

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

USACE and OTRD began development of the properties at Lake Wister State Park before the passage of the ADA; thus, many of the established structures do not meet the explicit requirements of the law. In several locations, OTRD has added accessible restrooms, developed hard surface campsites, installed walkways, and made other efforts to improve accessibility. For example, a 1/3-mile loop, paved trail has been developed in the area near Ward’s Landing Campground. Other existing trails are not currently accessible trails, and such modification may not be desirable. The natural terrain varies considerably and is quite rocky; in addition, the environment includes vulnerable animal species. Thus, ADAAG-defined accessibility to every area of the park is not practical, nor necessarily desirable.

Three comfort stations in Victor campground have been designed to comply with guidelines for accessibility, as has one comfort station at Ward’s Landing campground and one comfort station at the group camp. One A-frame cabin at the group camp has been modified with an accessible entrance. Similarly, two rental cabins have been modified to provide accessible entrances. Other facilities that have been modified to permit accommodation of persons with mobility limitations include: the Nature Center, the Community Building, the park office, two boat ramps, the fishing dock on Quarry Island, the Spray Park, one comfort station on Quarry Island, and three picnic shelters.

Four accessible playgroups are also distributed throughout Lake Wister State Park. These include 2011-installations in the Group Camp, in Ward’s Landing campground, and adjacent to the miniature golf course. An earlier 2007-installation of an accessible playgroup augments the amenities in Victor campground.

Throughout Lake Wister State Park, it will be necessary to complete a thorough review of accessibility. Several new restrooms have been added that comply with ADAAG guidelines from the doorways inward. However, some of the exterior access to these restrooms may not be in full compliance due to design of walkways, grade change from parking lots or campsites, and other factors.
In each campground, one or more campsites have been identified by OTRD as being “accessible.” Initial review of these sites indicates several of these sites are usable, but not fully accessible by ADAAG guidelines. It may be necessary to consider increasing the percentage of sites that are identified as accessible.

**Figure 2.18 – Views near Lake Wister**

Above: Sign on Highway 271 near Pocahontas Road

Below: View of Quarry Island from scenic overlook
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

Lake Wister State Park was originally established in 1953, limited to the 50-acre peninsula known as Quarry Island. Over the ensuing years, additional property transactions and leases have allowed for expansion of Lake Wister State Park to its present 1,220 acres along the north and east sides of Lake Wister.

In management structure through OTRD, Lake Wister State Park is part of the southeastern region. The manager at Lake Wister State Park also has responsibility for Heavener Runestone State Park and Talimena State Park.

Figure 3.1 on the following page provides a map of the park area. The following presentation and discussion of the recreation development is organized as an east to west tour through the park. Primary access to the park is provided by federal Highway 270, although the north shore of Lake Wister is accessed along a county road (Ward’s Landing Road) that parallels the lake shore.

The park is developed in nodes, identifiable by access from Highway 270 or along the county road. These defined and developed nodes provide a framework for the presentation that follows.

Public Access and Entry Aesthetics

The vast majority of traffic coming to Lake Wister State Park utilizes Highway 270, either from Wister or from Heavener. For those visitors coming from Heavener, Highway 270 provides a direct route through agricultural, pastoral properties. Upon arrival at the south end of the Lake Wister dam a visitor must make a couple of sharp turns as the roadbed crosses the impoundment for Lake Wister. To the west, a traveler has a view of the lakebed, while to the east the valley drops sharply from the dam into the Poteau River bed.

For those visitors coming to Lake Wister State Park along Highway 270 through the city of Wister, the road winds through the community through a mixture of residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Once the visitor arrives at the crest of the Poteau River valley the panorama of the dam, the lake, and the surrounding forest environment provides an attractive scene.

A western entry to the park is possible from Highway 270 near the community of Victor or further west on Highway 271, linked by Pocahontas Road to Ridge Road. From Victor, a visitor would go south to the smaller community of Braidwood and follow the county road (E1434 or Ridge Road) eastward into the park. This road provides agricultural and pastoral views, although several properties along the roadway present less desirable aesthetic views.

From the intersection of highways 270 and 271 at the community of Caston, a visitor can continue south on Highway 271 before turning east on County Road E1434 (Ridge Road). Pocahontas Road is within the Wister Wildlife Management Area and offers forest and marsh environments along the route.

Both of the western entries to Lake Wister State Park are marked by Oklahoma Department of Transportation signs on the main highways. Once on the county road, a visitor is less sure of the proper route as there is limited signage for directions.
Figure 3.1 - Lake Wister State Park

Source: Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
The following discussion presents the recreation development at Lake Wister State Park in those areas leased to the State of Oklahoma. Additional recreation facilities have been developed at other locations on Lake Wister. These areas are managed by the USACE or the ODWC. For ease of organization, the presentation of recreation development at Lake Wister State Park begins at the south side of the dam, moves northward, and continues westward along Ridge Road.

**Residential Area**

At the south end of the dam and on the east side of the impoundment, the USACE had constructed residences for management personnel. As of 2009, two houses, two one-car garages, and 2.96 acres of surrounding land were leased by the USACE to OTRD. This lease is documented in the appendix.

The lease includes the notation that “Structural improvements beyond maintenance will require National Historic Registry eligibility evaluation.” In preparing the RMP, the authors were not able to locate any nomination of this property for inclusion on the National Historic Registry and the houses would be marginally considered for eligibility since they are of contemporary design and construction (Figure 3.2). Since the 2009 lease, OTRD has renovated the interiors of these houses for current occupancy.

The residential area is limited for public access and would not be considered to be intended for public use. The driveway to the two houses joins a more substantial entry road into the area.

**Figure 3.2 – Management residences at Lake Wister State Park**

Upper: residence on east side of drive  
Lower: residence on west side of drive
below the dam. However, the driveway is clearly residential in nature. Most park visitors would distinguish between the public areas below the dam and the private area surrounding the residences.

**Dam Site**

Development on the east side of the dam is well below the level of the lake. As a result, the view to the west is of a grassy knoll forming the embankment for Lake Wister. At this point, the Poteau River has been channeled and the flow is regulated by the USACE. Three campsites have been developed on the south side of the river and receive very limited use. Eight additional campsites have been developed on the north side of the river and include electricity and water. These receive slightly more use than those on the opposite side of the river. In particular, the sites with shade are more likely to be utilized than those in the sun.

![Campers at dam site](image)

*Figure 3.3 – Campers at dam site*

Additional facilities at this location include a sewage lagoon and a parking lot. The parking area is primarily used by visitors who fish in the Poteau River below the dam.

On several occasions during the preparation of this RMP, the research staff encountered youths on ATVs in the dam site area. This portion of Lake Wister State Park is readily accessible from the community of Wister and is difficult to monitor because road access is limited to the north and south ends of the dam. However, ATV activity is inappropriate on the roads or off the roads in this area.

At the north end of the Dam Site, the Poteau Valley Improvement Association operates a water treatment facility. This area is near Highway 270 and the city of Wister. While it is visually different from the park area and has signs indicating its purpose, the industrial nature of the area detracts from the aesthetics of the valley. Clearly, this portion of the property is not intended for public use. In addition, this portion of the property is not leased by the State of Oklahoma and is not part of the state park.
Quarry Island

The original Lake Wister State Park was established on a 50-acre peninsula jutting into Lake Wister from the impoundment (Figure 3.4). Although this peninsula is not an island, the local name resulted from a hill that remained after local rock had been moved to construct the 5,700-foot long embankment. The USACE then built a road linking the dam with the hill forming the peninsula.

The aerial photograph in Figure 3.4 is somewhat dated as several items have changed. The fishing dock extending to the south from the center of Quarry Island is no longer in place. This photograph suggests an open travel route along the northeast side of Quarry Island, but that roadway has been closed with a gate in recent years.

The roadway leading from Highway 270 on the top of the dam onto Quarry Island is quite narrow. Two large vehicles – trucks or recreational vehicles – would need to exercise care in meeting along the roadway. The roadway widens as it heads west, leading to several structures and into the heart of the area.
The first structures that would be encountered by a visitor coming onto Quarry Island are on the north side of the road. Figure 3.5 on the previous page shows the building that has been used as a store, the cabin rental office, and has served other purposes as well. Immediately west of that building is the administration building, also shown in Figure 3.5.

Immediately across the entry road from these structures are facilities designed for public accommodation. Eight modern campsites with water, electricity, and sewer have been developed along the roadway as shown in Figure 3.6. Immediately west of these modern campsites are five cabins, identified as Lakeview Cabins. Two of these cabins offer one bedroom in a duplex structure. The other three cabins are two bedrooms each as single units.

![Figure 3.6 – Modern campsites and cabins on Quarry Island](image)

The Lakeview Cabins include central heat in all units. The one-bedroom units have window air conditioning units, while the two-bedroom units have central heat and air. In addition, each cabin has a fireplace. Each cabin also includes a television for use with video cassette recording devices (VCR), and the VCR and movies are available for checkout through the cabin office. Due to the age of these cabins, they are not fully accessible. Efforts have been made to modify exterior access and interior living spaces to be usable by persons with mobility limitations, but steps and narrow turning spaces limit full accessibility.

Continuing further west on Quarry Island, a comfort station is located adjacent to the roadway and serves day visitors and overnight campers. Fifteen unimproved campsites are located on the lower level of Quarry Island (Figure 3.7 on the following page).
These unimproved campsites range in quality from those pictured in Figure 3.7 with landscaped pads to several with concrete pads to others with little improvement beyond the natural surface. The sites include tables and fire ring or grill. Most are accessible in a car or truck, but several would be difficult to access with a travel trailer or recreational vehicle.

Quarry Island also includes several amenities for visitors to make connections with the lake (Figure 3.8). These include an accessible fishing dock, a courtesy dock, a boat ramp, and a swimming area. Visitors do swim at several locations around Quarry Island, but the preferred location is at the far western end of the peninsula.
Although somewhat unusual in a state park setting, Lake Wister State Park hosts a seasonal lighting display. The lighting display is coordinated with and well supported by the Poteau Chamber of Commerce. Numerous figures and shapes are installed for the seasonal display; some remain in place throughout the year; others are stored behind a fence on Quarry Island. The display is discussed further in relationship to public perception of the park. The displays and the storage are part of the development of Quarry Island.

Figure 3.9 – Seasonal lighting at Quarry Island
Left: lighting structure in normal circumstances
Above: Lady Liberty in lighted display
Source: Poteau Chamber of Commerce

Quarry Island also includes a playgroup newly installed in 2011 and a group picnic shelter. Accessible parking for the picnic shelter was also updated in 2011 and also serves the accessible playgroup shown in Figure 3.10. As also indicated in Figure 3.10, the sign at the entry to this area reveals the mixed nature of activity on Quarry Island. Quarry Island is the most heavily utilized portion of Lake Wister State Park. Campers, cabin guests, day visitors, picnickers, swimmers, anglers, boaters, and those just passing through the park are likely to interact on Quarry Island. There is little distinction on busy days between types of visitors or the activities in which they are participating.

With the significant presence of a wide range of visitors, Quarry Island includes a modern comfort station and several vault toilets.

Figure 3.10 – Quarry Island sign and playgroup
Cottages/Cabin Area

At the northern end of the dam and adjacent to Lake Wister, a second high volume traffic area has been developed. As with Quarry Island, this area includes a mixture of activities, but is somewhat focused on day visitors participating in recreation and cabin guests. This area includes a newly developed spray park (Figure 3.11) constructed on the location that once was a swimming pool. As a result, the spray park is served by a bathhouse and concession facility. The spray park has been well received by the public, particularly among children and their families. The swimming pool is still marked on maps for Lake Wister State Park. In actuality, the plumbing and hydraulics for the pool are still in place.

A parking lot separates the spray park from a miniature golf course. During the time of the preparation of this RMP, the miniature golf course received minimal use. As with other miniature golf courses in Oklahoma state parks, this facility was designed on-site and is not as interactive or engaging as more commercial courses. This may affect the level of play or the enjoyment of visitors during play. Support staff for the golf course operates from the same location as staff for the spray park.

In 2011, a new, accessible playgroup (Figure 3.12) was installed adjacent to the miniature golf course. This location allows for the parking lot serving a picnic shelter, miniature golf course, and the playgroup to be a centralized location of access for visitors.

Ten cabins are located on the hillside above the spray park and miniature golf course. These cabins are presently numbered as cabins six through fifteen; each is constructed as a duplex, resulting in five separate buildings. For park guests, these cabins are identified as Parkview, although it is also possible to have a view of a portion of Lake Wister and Quarry Island. These cabins have central heat, but have window air conditioning units. As with the Lakeview cabins, the Parkview cabins also have fireplaces and televisions for use with VCR units.
Accessibility to the Parkview cabins is limited based upon exterior and interior issues. These cabins have exterior steps, often constructed of native stone. They also have narrow doors and inadequate turning areas for full compliance with standards for accessibility. Restrooms are also limited in compliance with ADA guidelines. In total, two cabins comply with ADA guidelines.

The area around Parkview cabins is served by a gravel driveway from Highway 270. This driveway loops through and among the cabins making traffic flow somewhat awkward. A second driveway, marked as a service road, links Highway 270 through the Parkview cabin area to Ward’s Landing Road. As a result, some of the traffic through the cabin area is not associated with cabin guests.

**Nature Center**

Immediately east of the Parkview cabins is a building that has been used for a number of purposes over the years. Presently, this building is designated as the Nature Center and community building (Figure 3.14).

The Nature Center has been renovated making it accessible for visitors with mobility limitations. The naturalist provides displays and educational materials in the Nature Center and also provides programs by request and scheduling at other locations.

The facility also serves as a community building, offering meeting locations and hospitality accommodations for groups. The facility can be scheduled through staff.
Throughout the time for the preparation of the RMP, a somewhat unusual display was present between the Nature Center and Highway 270. A POW-MIA monument is clearly displayed at the corner on Highway 270, adjacent to the parking lot serving the Nature Center. In discussions with park staff, it was unclear who was actually responsible for the monument or maintaining the area. The monument does have interpretive value, but is somewhat unusual on state property.

**Figure 3.15 – POW-MIA display**

The remaining areas in Lake Wister State Park are located west of the Nature Center and Parkview cabins along Ward’s Landing Road. Ward’s Landing Road is a hard-surface, county road extending westward along the north shore of Lake Wister. This road intersects Highway 270 just east of the Nature Center and may also be accessed by the service road leading through the Parkview cabin area.

Immediately west of Parkview cabins along Ward’s Landing Road, there are three privately owned residences and one park residence. Park maps indicate a trail extending between Lake Wister and Ward’s Landing Road, but those maps do not indicate the presence of these residences. The middle of the three residences along Ward’s Landing Road, Lot 14, located directly across from the park maintenance facility, is a park residence. As shown in the documents in Appendix A, this residential structure and improvements were purchased by OTRD in 1969 from Kenneth Wells. The land was then added to the state park lease from USACE by Supplemental Agreement No. 2 in 1970.

**Park Maintenance Facilities**

An area just north of these private residences and adjacent to Ward’s Landing Road is state park property. This area is well marked as a park maintenance facility. The area is fenced and gated, although the gate is commonly open during work hours. This area is reasonably screened from public view.

**Figure 3.16 – Park maintenance facility**
Wister Ridge

As Ward's Landing Road winds along the north shore of Lake Wister, it takes an S-curve through a creek valley. At the second corner, a side road is presently gated, marking a campground that has been closed for several years. This campground is identified as Area 2 on several older maps, but is more commonly known as Wister Ridge and has been marked as Wister Ridge in new signage.

![Figure 3.17 – Wister Ridge](image)

Left: picnic pavilion
Below: roadway with pavilion in background

Wister Ridge included water and electric service in the campground comfort station with 20 developed sites in the surrounding area. The principal reason for closing the area was related to waste treatment problems at the comfort station. Figure 3.18 on the following page shows that the area around the comfort station has been excavated, with three holes up to about four feet deep remaining open. One is a trench for the former septic system; another is excavation over the septic tank.

The sites have been overgrown with plants and the area is reverting to a native condition. The concrete tables and roadway are evidence of human construction, as are the picnic pavilion and comfort station. If those buildings and concrete tables were removed, the area would quickly revert to vegetation.

The Lighthorseman Trail winds through Wister Ridge, quite close to the comfort station and related excavation. Persons utilizing the trail and exploring the adjoining areas are most likely to be the only visitors that would presently go into Wister Ridge.
Ward’s Landing

Ward’s Landing campground is located on the north side of Ward’s Landing Road just west of Wister Ridge. Ward’s Landing includes 25 semi-modern campsites, including electricity and water, lacking compliance with standards for accessibility. This area is supported with a comfort station and dump station. In addition, the Lone Star Nature Trail is a three-quarter mile, self-guided interpretive trail that winds through the forest and up to a ridge overlooking this portion of the park. Across Ward’s Landing Road from the campground is a second trail designed as a one-third mile paved, accessible trail along the lake shore. A boat ramp and small parking area are also located in this area. Ward’s Landing received significant upgrading through capital investment in fiscal 2011 to several amenities. This improvement included several measures to achieve compliance with ADA guidelines.

Ward’s Landing campground has been well used during spring and fall seasons, but lack of shade for several sites hinders use during the summer. The campground includes a playgroup as shown in Figure 3.19 during construction. The area also has a picnic pavilion that can accommodate 150 guests. The pavilion includes electricity and water, in addition to the tables and grills in the area. The comfort station in Ward’s Landing campground was also upgraded in 2011. This comfort station is in compliance with Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).
Figure 3.19 – Ward’s Landing
Left: playgroup in construction
Below: boat ramp and parking
Below left: picnic pavilion
Bottom: new courtesy dock
Eagles Roost

Eagles Roost is about one quarter mile west of Ward’s Landing and is marked on most park maps, but not as clearly marked in the field or along the roadway. Eagles Roost is a primitive camping area of approximately 20 sites without any additional amenities.

Lone Star School Site

The next developed location along Ward’s Landing Road is the Lone Star School site. Actually little development remains at the site, with the exception of steps and the stone foundation for the former school house (Figure 3.20 on the following page).

The Lone Star School was typical of one-room schools during the first half of the twentieth century. The school was aligned with the Leflore County school district and closed in 1947. A few former students from this school remain in the local area. Little additional information was available regarding the history of the school. The site is worthy of interpretive material beyond the simple declaration of dates.

Ward’s Landing Road and Flooding Potential

Immediately west of the Lone Star School site, Ward’s Landing Road descends to a lower elevation as the roadway follows the terrain. A creek through the area forms a continual arm of the lake. During high water, the roadway can be flooded at this location. When Ward’s Landing Road is flooded at this location, Victor campground is separated from the remainder of Lake Wister State Park. Gates are installed east and west of the flood prone area and may be closed during high water.
During flooding conditions, access to Victor campground would require travel further west to connect with either Highway 270 or Highway 271. Flooding at this location, with the closing of the roadway, would add a few miles to the drive to and from Victor campground.

**Victor Area**

The developed area at the western end of Lake Wister State Park is the Victor area. Victor includes a campground and a group camp in association with other support features. The campground was renovated during the preparation of the resource management plan. This renovation included significant upgrading and additional amenities for the campsites, a new play group, and cleaning of the area.

Upon entry into the Victor area, a visitor will see a park residence on the west side of the road. This residence had been occupied, but staff changes during 2009 – 2010 have resulted in vacating the residence. The effects of the loss of a staff presence at this more distant campground are yet to be determined. A campground host has been on-site in Victor through the summer 2010.

The newly renovated Victor campground includes modern campsites with water, 50-amp electric service, and sewer. Additional campsites are semi-modern. A campground host has been present in Victor throughout the year. This renovation has also included compliance with ADA guidelines for accessibility to and within the campsites in Victor.

The renovation of Victor included addition of new concrete surfaces as pads for camping units with each site provided with new electrical supply (50-amp), water connections, sewer connections, and picnic tables. The layout of the campground gives the appearance of a mobile home park – as expressed by several campers in the area.

The comfort station that has been serving the Victor area was closed throughout 2009 – 2010. This comfort station included lavatories and showers. Smaller restrooms remain open at two locations in the Victor area, but these facilities do not include showers.

A new playgroup was also added to the Victor area in 2007 and is fully accessible under current ADA guidelines. This playgroup includes a transfer point for mobility limited guests and an impact absorbent play surface for safety (Figure 3.24).
Figure 3.23 – Victor campground
Above: older site design and amenities
Below: renovated site design and amenities

Figure 3.24 – New playgroup at Victor campground
The Victor area also includes a sewage lagoon along the east side of the entry drive. This sewage lagoon is fenced and signed as shown in Figure 3.25. This lagoon serves the Victor campground, the vacated residence, and the group camp.

**Figure 3.25 – Sewage lagoon in Victor area**

**Group Camp**

The Victor area is also the location of the Lake Wister Group Camp. The group camp is directly across the entry road from the vacated residence, placing this group camp east of the sewage lagoon. In this location, the group camp is separated from most other activities within the Victor area.

Lake Wister Group Camp includes six bunkhouses, designed to accommodate 96 persons. Each of the bunkhouses is heated and air conditioned. The bunkhouses are located around a central community building that includes lodging quarters, presumably for a cook or nurse. The kitchen in the community building is equipped with double ovens, grills, walk-in freezer, coolers, and other amenities to serve large groups.

In addition to the bunkhouses and community building (Figure 3.26), the group camp includes a picnic pavilion with an outdoor cooking grill. A hard surface play area and open playfields surround the group camp. The area also includes a new, accessible playgroup constructed in 2011. Due to the age of the structures associated with the group camp, most of the buildings are usable, but not in full compliance with ADA guidelines for accessibility.

Access to and from the playgroup has also been improved with accessible walkways from the parking lot. These also linked to the existing Group Camp walkways, making the area much more usable for persons with physical limitations.
Hiking/Walking/Riding Trails

Three trails are developed at Lake Wister State Park. Two of these trails are in the Ward’s Landing area and were discussed in that context. The Lone Star Interpretive Trail loops around the Ward’s Landing campground for a distance of three quarters of a mile. The Lone Star Trail is a self-guided interpretive nature trail leading from the campground up to a ridge, then returning to the Ward’s Landing campground area.

A second trail near Ward’s Landing campground is identified in literature as the “handicap trail.” This trail is one third of a mile, paved, and circular. The trail is directly across Ward’s Landing Road from the Ward’s Landing campground. The area around this trail allows a visitor to explore the forest environment, the lake environment, and adjoining wetlands.

The third trail in Lake Wister State Park is the Lighthorseman Trail, named in honor of the brigade of law enforcement personnel of the Choctaw nation. The Lighthorseman Trail extends from the cabin area near the splash park westward to Ward’s Landing campground. The trail has been extended beyond that point, but is poorly maintained. The Lighthorseman Trail is marketed as a multipurpose trail, but serves best for foot traffic and mountain bikes.

Figure 3.26 – Group camp
Left: A-frame bunkhouse
Above: playgroup
Below: commons building
Concessions

At the time of the preparation of the resource management plan, there were no concessions in operation at Lake Wister State Park. All services were provided directly through the park rather than being contracted to an external agent.

Park Visitation

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process, especially in a park where a public road passes through the park boundaries. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor – but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At Lake Wister State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public passing through the park along federal Highway 270 and Ward’s Landing Road, a county road. Other aspects of park visitation can be calculated more accurately. This would include those situations in which there is an exchange of a fee for a specific service. As a result, the following discussion reports total visitation to Lake Wister State Park and specific usage of particular areas within the park.

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Data regarding visitation at Lake Wister State Park was provided through the central Oklahoma City office of OTRD. These data reveal that total visitation was in excess of 300,000 each of the past three years, although there has been a decline of almost 25% in reported visitation. One possible factor influencing that attendance could be the renovation of Victor campground. During renovation, the campground was closed to occupancy.

The highest level of visitation at Lake Wister State Park typically occurs in May, June, and September, October. The fall visitation is often in association with the changing of colors of the foliage and with hunting seasons.
Table 3.1 – Camping and Total Visitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Day visitors</th>
<th>Campsites rented – improved</th>
<th>Campsites rented – unimproved</th>
<th>Total Visitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>418,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>348,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>3,160 sites</td>
<td>209 sites</td>
<td>318,017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of campsites has changed with the renovation and reconfiguration of Victor campground. The renovations at Victor have added modern campsites with electricity (50-amp service, water, and sewer), while the number of semi-modern campsites has remained consistent.

Table 3.2 – Cabin Guests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total Room Nights</th>
<th>High Occupancy Month</th>
<th>Low Occupancy Month</th>
<th>Percent occupancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,776</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,705</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,694</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fifteen cabins are available at Lake Wister State Park, all of which have been on-line and in service throughout the past three years with exception for general maintenance. As with camping, the spring and fall seasons tend to be the higher occupancy months. However, occupancy rates for the cabins at Lake Wister State Park are quite low when they are occupied less than one-third of the possible use period.

Public Perception of Lake Wister State Park

At the time of preparation of this resource management plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to Lake Wister State Park, which were provided by private sources. Further, private citizens and visitors to Lake Wister State Park maintain personal “blogs” and social networking sites that address their experiences and visits to the park. Many of these reports are related to hunting and fishing experiences, readily attributed to Lake Wister, but possibly linked to properties outside of the actual boundaries of the state park.

While some errors in numbers or misperceptions in management are noted in these various sites, the overall tone regarding Lake Wister State Park is highly positive. These positive perspectives are expressed in many local marketing efforts, through chambers of commerce, private businesses, and local word of mouth, indicating the importance of Lake Wister State Park to the economy of Leflore County and specifically Poteau and Wister. An example of this positive local perception of the park is revealed in newspaper reports about the holiday lights within the park.
Other positive perceptions are detailed in the experiences presented in the “blogs” and on social networks by former guests of the park. These perceptions include highly positive comments regarding the camping and cabins in the park, commentary on the quality of fishing in the lake, recollections of activities at the group camp, and other remembrances of enjoyment while visiting Lake Wister State Park.

User Evaluations of Lake Wister State Park

The most formal and scientific evaluations for Lake Wister State Park were generated during the 2003 park visitor survey (Caneday & Jordan, 2003). These evaluations are the result of on-site interviews with park visitors contacted at various locations throughout the park. The analysis of the data from these interviews was reported by category of type of visitor: day visitor, camper, or cabin guest. This visitor survey is the most recent thorough analysis of attitudes and opinions represented by visitors to Oklahoma state parks. Since contacts were made at public locations throughout the park, the determining factor for classification of the visitors was their respective place of lodging during the visit on which they were contacted.

Campers at Lake Wister State Park tended to be repeat visitors, having visited the park five or more times in a given year. These visitors indicated that their reasons for going to Lake Wister State Park included its proximity to their respective homes. Campers at Lake Wister also indicated that the visit was a “weekend getaway.” Lake Wister State Park was less frequently reported as a vacation site by visitors to the park than was true at other state parks in Oklahoma.

The preferred and popular activities among the campers were hiking, walking, and viewing wildlife, picnicking, swimming in the lake, and boating. At the time of the survey, Lake Wister State Park had a swimming pool, but it was much less popular than swimming in the lake. At the present time, Lake Wister State Park has a splash pad, but no surveys have been completed on the popularity or use of the splash pad.

These campers at Lake Wister State Park were white, non-Hispanic, and commonly in groups of four to six individuals. The median distance traveled to reach Lake Wister State Park was 40
miles, while the mode was 15 miles. As a result, it can be concluded that Lake Wister State Park serves a somewhat localized camping interest.

The number of cabin guests that responded to the survey was too small to draw meaningful conclusions. However, the cabin guests and those guests who stayed at the group camp were similar to the campers.

In some contrast to the characteristics of the campers, day visitors at Lake Wister State Park showed greater racial and ethnic diversity. Day visitors attended the park in groups of about five individuals and tended to be between the ages of 20 and 30. The diversity included a mixture of white and Native American responses, some of whom also indicated Hispanic origin.

Day visitors were also very familiar with the park, having visited the park ten or more times in a year. The common activities among the day visitors were picnicking, swimming in the lake, and fishing from shore. These day visitors also appreciated the fact that the park was close to home, having traveled between 10 and 21 miles to visit Lake Wister State Park.

**Park Management**

Over the years of operation, management structure for Lake Wister State Park has changed at the direction of leadership from Oklahoma City. At various times the property has been managed as a singular state park. During preparation of the resource management plan, Lake Wister State Park was operated as the principal park under a manager who also had responsibilities for Heavener Runestone State Park and Talimena State Park. As a result, that is reflected in the staffing, budgeting, and other materials reported in this document. However, Heavener Runestone is no longer operated as a state park, but has been placed under management by the city of Heavener.

Lake Wister State Park is currently included in the Southeast Region of Oklahoma State Parks. This intermediate management structure allows park management to work with regional oversight as an intermediary or in direct contact with the Oklahoma City office. As with all state parks in Oklahoma, personnel, purchasing, contracting, and all other aspects of operation are governed by Oklahoma state statutes, policies, and procedures.

**Staffing**

Staffing at Lake Wister State Park has varied in assignment and numbers over the years. In particular, the staff numbers have declined during fiscal 2010 as reduced state budgets have adversely impacted the agency. A portion of the full-time-equivalent staff members assigned to Lake Wister State Park also served Talimena State Park and the former Heavener Runestone State Park.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, budgetary restriction adversely affected numerous Oklahoma state parks. Management at Lake Wister State Park had utilized inmate labor for a variety of maintenance tasks. During 2009-2010, budget reductions resulted in the loss of a $70,000 contract to the Department of Corrections. That contract and funding had permitted the employment of the necessary guards to monitor work crews. As a result, there was a significant decline in labor through the loss of these inmate work crews.

Table 3.3 on the following page documents the staffing pattern for Lake Wister State Park. It should be noted that staff at Lake Wister State Park are often split in their responsibilities,
serving Talimena State Park and the former Heavener Runestone State Park as well. Although this split in assignment is reported in those respective resource management plans, the actual time spent in a single park is difficult to document. Often tasks overlap from one park to another.

Table 3.3 – Staffing at Lake Wister State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal staff</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with most state parks in Oklahoma, the number of permanent and seasonal staff members has declined over the past few years. Standards for personnel in park settings often report the number of staff members as a ratio compared to number of visitors or numbers of park acres. Using these comparisons, Lake Wister State Park has one employee for 30,000 visitors or one employee for 272 acres of park.

Revenue and Expense

As indicated in the discussion of staffing patterns, the budget for Lake Wister State Park has declined in real dollars over the past several years. This pattern is consistent with circumstances for other Oklahoma state parks as well. Table 3.4 (on the following page) reports the personnel and other operating expenses for Lake Wister State Park during the past four years.

Data related to budget and expenses were provided by park staff and staff from the central Oklahoma City office of OTRD. In reviewing these numbers, it is clear that there is variation in actual expense, whether personnel or operating, from approved budgets. In most cases, what is actually spent is less than what is budgeted. It is also evident that unexpected expenses arise during the year and result in variation from original budgets.
### Table 3.4 – Expense at Lake Wister State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007 Total</td>
<td>$499,155</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$178,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total</td>
<td>$493,031</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$194,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$237,179</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>$425,664</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$209,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$230,533</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 (11 months)</td>
<td>$387,206</td>
<td>2010 (11 months)</td>
<td>$155,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$326,606</td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management at Lake Wister State Park has chosen to keep the public informed of investment in capital developments. In particular, this is true with the development of the splash park and the renovations at Victor campground (Figure 3.29).

**Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational**

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

**Natural Hazards**

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

Natural hazards in Lake Wister State Park include the variation in terrain, the water environment,
flora and fauna, Lake Wister and creeks, as well as a number of other natural conditions or
events. In addition, the development of facilities encourages visitors to interact with the natural
environment, encouraging people to participate in recreation in an outdoor setting. For example,
trails invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, distressed and lost
hikers are not uncommon. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards
and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions.

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

Flooding has occurred on Lake Wister resulting in the closing of Ward’s Landing Road and
several developed facilities. As discussed earlier, a portion of that road may be closed due to
high water.

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

A number of mammals common to the park are subject to rabies. They include raccoons,
opossums, skunks, badgers, and bats. Additional nuisance animals include armadillos and the
possibility of bears. Park visitors frequently feed the geese and raccoons, which exacerbates the
nuisance and increases potential risk to visitors. A more recent increasing population of feral
hogs has the potential to present problems in encounters with visitors.

The forest environment at Lake Wister is home to mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders—all of which
may be hazards or present hazards to recreational visitors. The Brown Recluse spider and the
Black Widow are native to Leflore County and have been reported in blogs posted on personal
electronic sites. Both spiders have produced adverse effects for humans in recreational settings
(and other environments). In addition, ticks are known carriers of a number of serious diseases in
humans.
The 2002 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Caneday, 2002) stated:

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Wister State Park has the potential to be a host for waterborne disease through the various creeks, surface waters, and the lake, especially in a nutrient-rich body of water beyond the control of OTRD. Drinking water at Lake Wister State Park is purchased from an approved water district and distributed throughout the park property.
Operational Hazards

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

At present, emergency fire service is provided by the Wister Fire Department. Emergency response time would vary greatly depending upon the location in the park. Additional assistance is provided by the Oklahoma Division of Forestry, especially in those cases of wild fire in the forest or grasslands of the wildlife management area.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to Lake Wister State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors include a lack of directional signs found along trails and in recreation areas in the park. In addition, play structures utilize a variety of surfacing materials and several areas are showing a good deal of wear. Areas under swings are deeply eroded, and multiple tripping hazards are found in the immediate vicinity of playgroups. A thorough examination of the play structures and the applicable surface materials for compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for public playgrounds is warranted on a routine basis.

Swimming areas present considerable risk for visitors although visitors are reminded that they swim at their own risk. Accidents and injuries are certainly possible, as is death. The best protection against these hazards in a properly managed aquatic environment is a well-trained, vigilant staff.

The addition of the spray park has also added the possibility of waterborne disease and other accidents at that location. Recent litigation related to spray parks has focused on such illnesses associated with spray parks and injuries that have also occurred in these settings. A spray park (or splash pad) is a safe aquatic playground that features different areas of interactive water elements and play experiences. These water-based playgroups have zero depth standing water, so the need for lifeguards is eliminated as there is practically no risk of drowning. The features are ADA compliant and tend to draw young and old into recreational activities. As with all recreation facilities that draw large groups of active users, spray parks may contribute to the spread of illnesses. In the summer of 2010 cases were reported in several states of children being sickened by the norovirus, cryptosporidium, and ecoli. To date, no illnesses or injuries have been reported at the spray park at Lake Wister State Park.

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

Law Enforcement

The CLEET certified rangers and reserve-CLEET certified rangers are responsible for primary activity related to law enforcement within the boundaries of the park. At present under the
staffing and management provided for Lake Wister State Park, there are no CLEET certified
rangers available. It is common for law enforcement units to have mutual aid agreements with
other law enforcement agencies. As a result, enforcement of applicable laws at Lake Wister State
Park relies on the support and cooperation of the Leflore County sheriff and police support from
the City of Wister. The closest medical or emergency support is in Poteau.

Management from Lake Wister State Park reported on several occasions that the law
enforcement issues in the park tended to be associated with “tent camping” areas. The records of
citations between 2005 and 2010 for Lake Wister State Park showed the following:

- 3 citations for failure to use a seat belt
- 7 citations for speeding
- 6 citations for invalid license
- 2 citations for no insurance
- 2 citations for open container in a vehicle
- 1 citation for reckless driving
- 1 citation for failure to have child restraint in a vehicle
- 5 citations for public intoxication
- 2 citations for use of a controlled substance (marijuana)
- 1 citation for littering

In all likelihood the frequency and variety of violations that could be cited at Lake Wister State
Park are similar to and proportional to those in other state parks in southeastern Oklahoma.
Those citation reports show a pattern of several common groupings. Approximately 20% of the
citations involve alcohol in the possession of minors. Almost 20% of the citations involved
controlled and dangerous substances (drugs) and drug paraphernalia. Another 10% of the
citations involved alcohol for those of legal age and included public intoxication, driving under
the influence, driving while intoxicated, and a category identified as “actual physical control of a
motor vehicle.” These cases include situations in which an individual is under the influence of a
chemical substance, but is not actually driving the vehicle. In some cases, the individual has
passed out or fallen asleep in a vehicle on the park property.

Other patterns have emerged in the analysis of the data related to citations and incidents in other
parks. In many cases, multiple citations were given to one individual at a specific time. For
example, an under-age driver may have been cited for a moving vehicle violation, compounded
with having an open container of alcohol, lack of insurance, and resisting arrest. A review of the
times during which citations were given revealed that the most active time for issuing citations
was 5:00 PM to 2:00 AM.

**Policy-Related Exposures**

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

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

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

Policies at state parks typically include information about the roles of potential camp hosts. Generally, camp hosts are affiliated with a particular camping area and serve as a consistent point of contact for campers. Often, these individuals are charged with greeting new campers, distributing park information, answering questions about the local area, providing basic security to the area, collecting camping fees, and engaging in light park maintenance work. Campers commonly perceive camp hosts as park employees; thus, a positive demeanor toward park visitors is a necessary camp host trait. In return for their volunteer services, camp hosts are provided with long-term campsites at reduced or no cost.

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

Perhaps one of the most essential operational hazards is the concern that cell phones and radios have limited to sporadic service in the park. The terrain and rural environment reduce the likelihood of service expected by many park visitors. Thus, in case of injury, illness, fire, or other emergency park staff must use a landline based telephone to call emergency personnel.

**Waste Management**

There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste. Solid waste is transported off-site to a local land-fill. At present, this transportation is handled by park staff, although a bid request was in progress for a contract hauler. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Liquid waste is managed through several lagoons (oxidation ponds) located throughout Lake Wister State Park. Lagoons are the preferred waste treatment choice given the soil and ground water in this environment. There are two lagoon systems east of the dam: one is located at the south end of the dam site, while the other is near the Poteau Valley Improvement Authority water plant. These lagoons handle liquid waste from Quarry Island, the cabins, the nature center, bathhouse, and spray park. Sewer lift stations are required to move the liquid waste from several of these locations to the respective lagoon. For example, there is a sewer lift station at the bathhouse to move liquid waste from that location.
Another lagoon is located just west of Ward’s Landing campground and serves that area. As was indicated in earlier discussion, Wister Ridge campground (now closed) was served by a septic system that remains partially excavated. Victor campground and the group camp are served by a lagoon system in that area. In addition, lateral lines for a septic distribution system are also shown on CAD drawings for this area.

Park management did not express any concerns or problems with waste management at Lake Wister State Park. As with any area that is utilized by the public, some trash and litter is present within the park. This solid waste presents a visual detraction, but presents limited problems other than clean-up of the area.

Several of the sewage lagoons at Lake Wister State Park are shown in Figure 3.30.
**Figure 3.31 – Recreation features at Lake Wister State Park**

Above: playgroup near the miniature golf course and splash park

Below: picnic pavilion at the north end of the miniature golf course near the Splash Pad
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Lake Wister State Park. When analyzed, this information raises several issues for consideration. These issues are presented in the following discussion with alternatives for management to consider. In each case, based on the available information a preferred alternative is identified.

Issues and Alternatives

Issue Statement 1: Development and capacity

Lake Wister State Park has been developed in distinct nodes, distributed at various locations within the park property. Every property has a capacity – a function of resource conditions, type and amount of activity, and management policy and goals. The nodes that have been developed at Lake Wister State Park reflect what has been characterized as “succotash syndrome” in the planning profession: that is the desire to put a little of everything into a single park or location.

Quarry Island is densely developed and will be addressed separately. The cabin area and spray park area are also densely developed. Use is not at the maximum levels for either location for extended periods of time, but maximum use may not be desired. However, use approaches maximum capacity on a few occasions – primarily summer holiday weekends.

During preparation of the RMP, Ward’s Landing was scheduled for renovation, completed in 2011. Such renovation makes that campground more attractive for certain campers and on a par with the renovations at Victor campground. Because Ward’s Landing is not directly on the water, it is less desirable for some campers than Victor.

Victor has been renovated, but reflects a departure from planning and development philosophies for most state parks. Most state park campgrounds have traditionally been developed with approximately five sites per acre. Victor is more densely developed than that and certain park visitors have noticed the change, found it undesirable, and expressed that during the research. In addition, the planning and development of Victor has focused on recreational vehicles. As a result, the bias in planning toward a particular type of recreation visitor has also excluded other visitors: those being excluded would include tent campers and others desiring less development and fewer amenities.

The most dispersed recreational development at Lake Wister State Park is in Wister Ridge, an area that has been closed for several years. Demand is not present, nor are use levels adequate, to indicate that Wister Ridge should be reopened. This is addressed in another recommendation.

The cabins show a present occupancy slightly under 33%. Campgrounds are reportedly at capacity on holiday weekends during the summer. The numbers would indicate that campgrounds are in high demand for approximately six weeks a year. At other times, the park is relatively vacant – this would include most weekdays during the spring, summer, and fall, and all times during the winter months.
Alternatives

A. Cease development of new areas at Lake Wister State Park until demand increases and use levels indicate such development is warranted;
B. Renovate Ward’s Landing to provide a distinctly different environment and experience from that in the renovated Victor campground;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A and B:

• Cease development of new areas at Lake Wister State Park until demand increases and use levels indicate such development is warranted;
• Renovate Ward’s Landing to provide a distinctly different environment and experience from that in the renovated Victor campground (completed 2011).

Issue Statement 2: Quarry Island

Quarry Island is a specific node in the developed portion of Lake Wister State Park. Quarry Island receives the highest volume of traffic among the various nodes within the park. As indicated in earlier discussion, every park has a capacity or limit to the number of people it can properly serve and maintain a natural environment. In park management, the concept of carrying capacity has commonly defined capacity as “the amount or type of use that an area can sustain without unacceptable change.” In a park environment, the unacceptable change may occur for the environment or for the experience of the visitor.

As presently designed and managed, Quarry Island receives a mixture of day visitors and overnight guests; a mixture of picnickers, swimmers, anglers, boaters, cabin guests, campers, and drive-through sightseers. In general, day visitors are more tolerant of the presence of campers than campers are of day visitors. That may be partially the result of the greater investment in equipment among campers than is common among day visitors, but it is also linked to a sense of territoriality. Campers have a sense of ownership related to “their” campsite.

At Lake Wister State Park, day visitors and overnight visitors have been incorporated into Quarry Island without distinction. Day visitors need to be provided with appropriate amenities. This would include a new and accessible restroom facility, without showers, although showers would be a nice amenity for swimmers. In addition, day visitors need picnic tables and shelters, supported by adequate and appropriately placed parking.

It is probably unfeasible to remove all overnight activity from Quarry Island. The cabins and the modern campsites are well established. They are also fairly concentrated along the entry road. However, the area beyond the cabins represents the inadvisable mixing of day use and overnight use. In this area, soils are quite shallow, plants are subject to environmental stress, and visitors routinely drive and park where they please. As a result, Quarry Island receives an environmental stress beyond its capacity to recover.

Ideally, visitors should park only in designated spaces, and those spaces should be hard surfaced. The number of spaces should be based on the capacity of the resource and matched to the desired recreational experience, appropriate to the management goals of the agency. Given the present
facilities developed on Quarry Island and the fact that activity involvement is rarely focused on a single setting, the day use capacity as designed for this node of Lake Wister State Park is about 500 people:

- 15 designated picnic sites, accommodating about 90 – 120 people
- 2 pavilions designed for 150 people each, accommodating about 300 people
- 1 beach area with parking, accommodating about 75 people
- 1 courtesy dock, fishing dock, and boat ramp area with parking, accommodating about 40 people

To properly manage these visitors, parking spots should be designated and constructed in dispersed locations allowing accessibility to the focal recreation locations.

Alternatives

A. Restrict Quarry Island to day visitation only;
B. Continue to allow cabin guests and camping in the modern campsites, but restrict the remainder of Quarry Island to day visitation only;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Continue to allow cabin guests and camping in the modern campsites, but restrict the remainder of Quarry Island to day visitation only.

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**Issue Statement 3: Interpretive programs**

The 2003 report of visitors to Oklahoma State Parks (Caneday and Jordan, 2003) reported on the priorities for Oklahoma State Parks as perceived by Oklahoma state park visitors. These priorities are: (1) to preserve natural, cultural, and historic properties in Oklahoma; (2) to serve as examples of Oklahoma’s natural resources – land, water, birds, animals, and plants; and (3) to educate visitors regarding appropriate use of the parks. All of these priorities can be achieved at Lake Wister State Park.

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

William E. Brown (1971), in Islands of Hope, presented the role of parks in the interpretive process. His definition of interpretation encompassed technology as well as process, as he stated that interpretation is “That body of communications, devices and facilities that conveys environmental knowledge, stimulates discourse on environmental problems and results in environmental reform.” Brown also indicated that interpretation has a distinct purpose, especially in a sensitive natural environment. Brown argued that “Environmental interpretation not only informs, it motivates to action – sometimes it is action. Even at the informing level, it ceases to be innocent nature study or whitewashed history. It questions value systems, folk heroes, and conventional wisdom.”
The National Association for Interpretation (2008) has developed a professional, contemporary definition of interpretation that incorporates the theory from Tilden, the purpose from Brown, and the mission of the agency delivering the service. “Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”

Lake Wister State Park offers several resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The current Nature Center has several appropriate themes, but these need to be developed and delivered throughout the park. If National Historic Registry nomination has been filed, that topic allows for excellent interpretation. Numerous natural and cultural resources are present in the immediate area and demand interpretive attention. These include the mound culture in the Poteau River valley, the forest ecosystem, the geology of the area, and more. The fact that Heavener Runestone Park is in close proximity to Lake Wister State Park should be an encouragement for interpretive and educational programming.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Lake Wister State Park and the state park system more broadly.

Alternatives

A. Continue the employment of a well-qualified interpreter, capable of developing and delivering programming appropriate to the park resources;
B. Actively recruit an intern for summer appointment, qualified to assist the park naturalist in developing and delivering interpretive programming;
C. Work with local personnel in schools and colleges to develop and deliver programming appropriate to the park resources;
D. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A and B: Continue the employment of a well-qualified interpreter, capable of developing and delivering programming appropriate to the park resources. Given the current economic and budgetary constraints, actively recruit an intern for summer appointment, qualified to assist the park naturalist in developing and delivering interpretive programming.

**Issue Statement 4: Wister Ridge**

Wister Ridge (Area 2) is a positive example of how a developed area within a park may be closed to public use. The decision to close Wister Ridge was appropriate. The rationale for closing based on inadequate waste treatment was appropriate. Closing the area with a gate across the roadway has been workable. There may have been individuals whose preferred location within Lake Wister State Park was Wister Ridge, but those individuals have been displaced without significant adverse results.

Visitation still occurs to Wister Ridge, although that visitation is by foot or bicycle. That visitation is proper and actually encouraged because of the location of the Lighthorseman Trail.
The remnants of the original development of Wister Ridge are old, decaying, and dilapidated. As a result, these decaying facilities have become a potential nuisance and eyesore within the park environment. In particular, excavation was initiated around the septic tank and lines at the comfort station. Those holes remain open and hazardous. As of 2013, the repair of this sewer was continuing; however, upon completion of repairs, the area should be reopened.

Alternatives

A. Close and fill the excavated areas to reduce the hazard for hikers and bikers;
B. Remove the picnic tables and other amenities situated throughout the developed area with the intent of restoring a more natural appearance to the area;
C. Remove the picnic pavilion and comfort station with the intent of restoring a more natural appearance to the area;
D. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: Immediately, close and fill the excavated areas to reduce the hazard for hikers and bikers.

Alternative B and C: Projecting a longer term plan, remove the picnic tables and other amenities situated throughout the developed area and remove the picnic pavilion and comfort station with the intent of restoring a more natural appearance to the area.

Issue Statement 5: Green practices related to energy and conservation

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

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

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

Alternatives

A. Seek to change state accounting regulations to permit operation of the recycling program by park staff;
B. Encourage the development of “Friends of Lake Wister State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;

C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

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

Recommendations beyond the Issues

Recommendation 1: National Historic Registry

The 2009 lease of 2.96 acres from the USACE with two houses and two detached garages includes a notation of clearance from the National Historic Registry for anything other than basic maintenance. This is an indication that a nomination had been filed for consideration of this property on the National Historic Registry. That nomination has not been approved to date, nor was that nomination available in any form during the preparation of the resource management plan.

It is recommended that OTRD seek information from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding this nomination – if such was filed. If not, it is recommended that OTRD seek input from USACE regarding the rationale for that notation on the lease.

Recommendation 2: Storage of light displays/other items

As mentioned in the RMP, Lake Wister State Park is the host location for a locally supported seasonal light display. Several of those displays remain in place throughout the year – and are perceived as being unsightly by some; inappropriate by others; and of no concern by many. Several other displays are stored on Quarry Island in a fenced location adjacent to the main entry road, just west of the cabin area. This location (Figure 4.1) is highly visible to anyone on Quarry Island and is questionable in a park setting. Clearly the intent of storage in this location is ease of access for staff in removing and setting up the light displays annually. However, the intent is counter to the purpose of a state park.

An alternate location for storage of these light displays would be the picnic pavilion at Wister Ridge. That location would provide some shelter from the weather and remove the displays from public view for the majority of park visitors.

Figure 4.1 – Storage of light displays
A better location would be in the maintenance area. This would remove the items from public view and reduce the likelihood of vandalism or other undesirable behavior.

**Recommendation 3: General park clean-up**

Lake Wister State Park offers a beautiful environment of forests, lake, rocks, streams, and wildlife. Whether temporary or semi-permanent, park management has allowed areas within the park to become storage spaces (as mentioned above) or dumping grounds Figure 4.21).

It is readily apparent that reduction in personnel has placed additional burdens on the remaining park staff. However, there are options that should be explored to avoid problems associated with maintenance practices and park clean-up. While areas are being renovated, and in situations in which public areas are adversely impacted, hazard tape and temporary barriers should be installed. It is also possible that a Scout troop or other volunteer group may be interested in one or more “clean-up days” to improve the appearance of the park.

The vacated residence in the Victor area should be maintained with a “lived-in” look. Lack of interior and exterior maintenance at that location will lead to deterioration of the structures and potentially become a target for vandalism.

**Recommendation 4: Complete and maintain trails**

The nature trails and interpretive trails at Lake Wister State Park have excellent potential for visitor use. However, at present, these trails are poorly maintained making them difficult to find or use for most visitors. The accessible trail is hard-surfaced for approximately 5/6ths of its
length, but that hard surface is not directly accessible from the designated entrance point to the trail. To properly be marketed as an accessible trail, this trail needs to be completed.

**Recommendation 5: Rename the “handicap trail”**

Certain words have connotations that are undesirable or potentially offensive: such is the case with the word “handicap.” The trail near the Ward campground should be renamed to appropriately represent the experience or the setting associated with the trail. Wards Landing Trail would be descriptive of location and provide an association with the lake.

**Recommendation 6: Remove the miniature golf course**

Changing recreational interests and aging design of the miniature golf course has resulted in limited use of the miniature golf course. That location has great potential for other uses – including open space – and would be better served through the removal of the structures associated with the miniature golf course.

**Recommendation 7: Traffic circulation on Quarry Island**

As addressed in Issue Statement 2 (page 78), Quarry Island receives the highest volume of traffic of the several park nodes within Lake Wister State Park. While the preferred alternative for this location would reduce the volume of traffic, it is also necessary to consider the flow of that traffic. The entry road onto the peninsula must accommodate two-way traffic, but the research team recommends that the road west of the cabin area on Quarry Island be redesigned for one-way traffic. That traffic could circulate in a counterclockwise pattern allowing the entering flow to turn right and downhill from the cabin area on Quarry Island. Traffic would then be distributed to redesigned picnic and other recreational locations, with the main artery circulating in a left turning loop back to the west, uphill, and left back to intersect with the two-way entry drive. Such traffic circulation will require renovation of sites, roadways, and parking in the recommended day use areas on Quarry Island.

**Recommendation 8: Traffic circulation in cabin area**

In a similar manner, the traffic in the cottage/cabin area at the north end of the impoundment must be reconsidered. As indicated in the discussion on page 55, the traffic flow in this area is awkward and supported by gravel drives.

First, the service road linking the cottage/cabin area to Ward’s Landing Road should be closed. Such closure is desired for safety and security in the cabin area. It may be necessary to keep an access road for management purposes, but the research team recommends that a gate be installed restricting public use of the route.

Second, the remaining roadways and parking spaces in the cottage/cabin area should be redesigned to support traffic flow equivalent to the use levels expected in the individual lodging locations. These roadways may need to be wider and more clearly marked than at present, but should maintain the privacy of the cabin locations.
Recommendation 9: Water quality in Lake Wister and potential swimming beach

Water quality in Lake Wister is a concern as discussed on pages 37 – 40, although ODWC and ODEQ have made significant efforts to improve the quality of the lake. Between 2006 and 2008, Lake Wister did improve in quality so that the 2008 BUMP report indicates that Lake Wister supports primary body contact recreation. However, Lake Wister continues to be listed as hypereutrophic, with several indicators that raise concerns for swimming as a recreational experience in the lake. While water quality in Lake Wister is not the responsibility of OTRD or Oklahoma State Parks, the quality of the water affects the recreational experience for visitors to the park.

Clearly, visitors to Lake Wister State Park enjoy the opportunity to swim during their visits. At present, such swimming is entirely voluntary in choice of location. Swimmers are most commonly observed on the north side of Quarry Island, on the west point of Quarry Island, and near Victor campground.

Oklahoma State Parks should communicate with ODWC and ODEQ for increased frequency of testing on water quality in the park area. Most of the BUMP reports indicated “insufficient data” for support or lack of support for various recreational activities. It is also acknowledged that recreation is not one of the mandated purposes for Lake Wister, but it is one of the beneficial uses occurring in the area.

Water quality may vary by location within a given lake, affected by a number of factors including circulation, inflow, proximate uses, and volume. As a result, more frequent testing primarily during the summer months may reveal a preferred location for a possible swimming area on Lake Wister. The research staff is hesitant to recommend true beach development within the park due to the expense of developing and maintaining a beach on an artificial lake. If swimming is to be encouraged at Lake Wister, a beach is most appropriate in the Quarry Island area with its higher level of day-use. Swimming by campers at Victor is likely to continue.

Two areas are possible on Quarry Island for use as a beach. Present patterns of public behavior show that swimming occurs on the far west end of Quarry Island. This portion of Lake Wister is open to prevailing winds in Oklahoma: those from the south during the summer and those from the west or north during the winter. The winds and water movement provide greater circulation and oxygenation at this location. However, this portion of Quarry Island is extremely rocky both on shore and in the adjacent shallow water (Figure 4.3). The sharp points and shards make this area undesirable for swimming.

Figure 4.3 – Western point of Quarry Island
The second location that presently shows a pattern of use for swimming and has potential as a designated beach is along the north shore of Quarry Island. At this location, the surface slopes gently toward the water. Soil composition at this location includes some rocks and pebbles (Figure 4.4). Few trees are present along the shoreline, although an asphalt road once ran parallel to the shoreline. This portion of Lake Wister is limited in water circulation since it is sheltered from the dominant southerly winds during the summer. As a result, the potential for reduced oxygen levels and lower water quality is greater at this location than on the western end of Quarry Island.

**Figure 4.4 – North shore of Quarry Island**

**Recommendation 10: Policies related to invasive species**

The environment at Lake Wister State Park is susceptible to several invasive species, including insects, diseases, water-borne or aquatic plants and animals, and other concerns. Policies should be considered related to (1) transport of firewood into the park by guests, with the potential of introduction or spread of insects and diseases, and (2) cleaning of boats and aquatic equipment before and after use on Lake Wister. In addition to development of policies, interpretive programs should be implemented to communicate environmental concerns and pro-environmental behavior to guests.
References


http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/


Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), (2003). State Soil Geographic Database, STATSGO.

http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/

http://www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDNew/305b_303d/2004_ir_app_c_category_5.pdf


The Nature Conservancy. Retrieved April 20, 2010 from http://www.nature.org/?src=t1


Appendix A – Documents related to Property

- 1952 Bill of sale for Watkins structures on Quarry Island
- 1953 USACE Lease to Oklahoma
- 1958 Supplemental lease 1
- 1963 OTRD agreement with ODWC
- 1969 Appraisal of Wells property
- 1969 Bill of sale on Wells property
- 1970 USACE Supplemental Agreement 2
- 1976 USACE Supplemental Agreement 3
- 2002 Supplemental Agreement 4
- 2003 Supplemental Agreement 4 addendum
- 2009 Supplemental Agreement 4 addendum
- 2009 Communication easement
MEMORANDUM
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

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Remarks:—

Signature: 10/1/5
BILL OF SALE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT Ford Watkins of Poteau, Oklahoma for and in consideration of the sum of $4,560.00 which has been paid to him by The State Planning and Resources Board of the State of Oklahoma, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby sell, transfer, assign and deliver unto The State Planning and Resources Board of the State of Oklahoma, the following described personal properties, situate on a leasehold estate which Ford Watkins has held and owned under a lease from the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, such leasehold estate being known as Quarry Island at the Water Dam in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, and such properties being listed below:

One-story frame building approximately 34 by 40 feet.

One 500 gallon butane tank with gas distribution system affixed thereto and extending into the frame building above identified.

One well with electric pump, pressure tank and water system installed in place and extending into the building above identified.

One Septic tank and sewer system used in connection with the building above described.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same unto the said State Planning and Resources Board of the State of Oklahoma and its successors and assigns forever, and warrant the title to the same to be free and clear of all liens, claims and demands. It is understood as part of the transaction in which this Bill of Sale is delivered that the properties hereby transferred are in place on said Quarry Island subject to the rights of the owner, Ford Watkins, to remove the same, all according to the terms of the lease on Quarry Island from the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army unto Ford Watkins. Such lease has been assigned concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Bill of Sale and all of the rights which Ford Watkins has with reference to the removal of said properties under the terms of said lease are also now and hereby assigned and transferred unto The State Planning and Resources Board of the State of Oklahoma.

Witness my hand this 18th day of September, 1952.

[Signature]
Ford Watkins
STATE OF OKLAHOMA,} 
COUNTY OF LEFLORE.)

Before me the undersigned Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 18th day of September, 1952 personally appeared Ford Watkins to me known to be the identical person who executed the above and foregoing Bill of Sale and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

(SEAL)
My commission expires on

[Signature]
Notary Public.
INVENTORY

One-story frame building approximately 34 feet by 40 feet.

One 500 gallon butane tank with gas distribution system affixed thereto and extending into the frame building above described.

One well with electric pump, pressure tank and water system installed in place and extending into the building above described.

One septic tank and sewer system used in connection with the building above described.
WHEREAS, the Wister Dam and Reservoir, situate on the Poteau River and its tributaries in Oklahoma, has been constructed and is being operated and maintained under the supervision of the Secretary of the Army of the United States of America primarily for flood control; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Army is authorized by Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, to make land within reservoir areas available for public park and recreational facilities to certain governmental agencies, where such action is determined to be in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature convening in 1947 enacted Title 74, Chapter 12, Oklahoma Session Laws 1947, imposing in the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board additional powers and duties with respect to the operation of State Parks and the acquisition of lands, property and improvements thereon through purchase, lease, gift, condemnation or otherwise; authorizing said Board to erect hotels, restaurants, cabins, buildings and other improvements thereon; authorizing the leasing thereof; imposing therein certain rights of regulation and inspection; authorizing the imposition of fees and charges therefor; authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds thereby and the payment of such bonds and the making of covenants and agreements in that connection, exemption of such bonds and the properties controlled by said Board from taxation and exempting such properties from forced sale, and other applicable provisions; and
WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma, acting by and through the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, has expressed a desire to use certain hereinafter described land within the aforesaid Reservoir area located in the State of Oklahoma for public park and recreational purposes, and the Secretary of the Army has determined that such use, subject to such rules and regulations as prescribed by him, will be in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE:

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, by virtue of the authority conferred on him by Section 4 of the Act of Congress approved 22 December 1934 (59 Stat. 887), as amended by Section 4 of the Act of Congress approved 24 July 1946 (60 Stat. 611, 642; 16 U.S.C. §604), for and in consideration of the payment of One Dollar ($1.00) by the State of Oklahoma and the observance and conformance of the State of Oklahoma to the terms and conditions of this instrument, hereby leases to the State of Oklahoma, hereinafter designated as the Lessee, for the term of fifty (50) years, beginning on 1 January 1953 and ending 31 December 2002, approximately 49.9 acres, as delineated in red on Exhibit "A", dated December 1952, attached hereto and made a part hereof, for public park and recreational purposes.

THIS LEASE is granted subject to the following provisions and conditions:

1. That the Lessee, in the exercise of the privileges hereby granted, shall conform to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Army to govern the public use of the said reservoir area, and with the provisions of Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1928 (60 Stat. 611, 642; 16 U.S.C. §604).

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2. That the Lessee may construct upon said land such build-
ings, improvements, facilities, accommodations, fences, signs, wharves, piers, boat slips, and other structures as may be necessary for the purposes of this lease, and may plant seeds, shrubs, and trees, pro-
vided that all such structures shall be constructed and the landscap-
ing accomplished in accordance with plans approved by the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, in charge of the administration of the property.

3. That the Lessee shall administer and maintain the said property, for the purposes of the lease, in accordance with the Master Plan for the said reservoir area and with an Annual Management Program to be mutually agreed upon between the Lessee and the said District Engineer, which may be amended from time to time as may be necessary.

4. That the Lessee shall protect the property from fire, vandalism, and soil erosion, and may make and enforce such rules and regulations as are necessary, and within its legal authority, in exercising the privileges granted in this lease, provided that such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with those prescribed by the Secretary of the Army to govern the public use of the reservoir area.

5. That the Lessee, in exercising its governmental or proprietary functions, may operate facilities and accommodations and provide services needed by the public directly, and may enter into con-
cession agreements with third parties for providing needed services to the public, provided, that any such agreements have the prior approval of the said District Engineer, and provided further, that any funds obtained by the Lessee from any such agreements shall be utilized by
the Lessee for amortizing investments in improving the area by the
Lessee, operation and maintenance of improvements in the area, or
further development of the area. The Lessee and its concessionaires
may make reasonable charges for such services and for the use of such
facilities and accommodations.

6. That the Lessee shall, within the limits of available
funds, proceed immediately with the development of said lands for the
purposes of this lease and prosecute its program to completion in an
orderly manner and at a rate consistent with the needs of the public.

7. That the right is hereby expressly reserved to the United
States, its officers, agents, and employees, to enter upon the said
land at any time and for any purpose necessary or convenient in con-
nection with river and harbor and flood control work, and to remove
therefrom timber or other material required or necessary for such
work, to flood said premises when necessary, and/or to make any other
use of said land as may be necessary in connection with public navi-
gation and flood control, and the Lessee shall have no claim for
damages of any character on account thereof against the United States
or any agent, officer, or employee thereof.

8. That any property of the United States damaged or
destroyed by the Lessee incident to the exercise of the privileges
herein granted shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the Lessee
to the satisfaction of the said District Engineer.

9. That the United States shall not be responsible for dam-
ages to property or injuries to persons which may arise from or be
incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted, or for

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damages to the property of the lessee, or for damages to the property
or injuries to the person of the Lessee's officers, agents, servants,
or employees or others who may be on said premises at their invitation
or the invitation of any one of them, arising from or incident to the
flooding of said premises by the Government or flooding from any other
cause.

10. That all uranium, thorium and all other materials deter-
mined pursuant to section 5(b)(1) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946
(60 Stat. 761) to be peculiarly essential to the production of fiss-
ionable material, contained, in whatever concentration in deposits
in the lands covered by this instrument are hereby reserved for the
use of the United States, together with the right of the United States
through its authorized agents or representatives at any time to enter
upon the land and prospect for, mine, and remove the same, making just
compensation for any damage or injury occasioned thereby. However,
such land may be used, and any rights otherwise acquired by this dis-
position may be exercised, as if no reservation of such materials had
been made; except that, when such use results in the extraction of any
such material from the land in quantities which may not be transferred
or delivered without a license under the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, as
it now exists or may hereafter be amended, such material shall be the
property of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, and the Com-
mission may require delivery of such material to it by any possessor
thereof after such material has been separated as such from the ores
in which it was contained. If the Commission requires the delivery of
such material to it, it shall pay to the person mining or extracting
the same, or to such other person as the Commission determines to be entitled thereto, such sums, including profits, as the Commission deems fair and reasonable for the discovery, mining, development, production, extraction, and other services performed with respect to such material prior to such delivery, but such payment shall not include any amount on account of the value of such material before removal from its place of deposit in nature. If the Commission does not require delivery of such material to it, the reservation hereby made shall be of no further force or effect.

11. That this lease may be relinquished by the Lessee at any time by giving to the Secretary of the Army, through the said District Engineer, at least thirty (30) days' notice in writing.

12. That this lease may be revoked and terminated by the Secretary of the Army in the event the Lessee violates any of the terms and conditions of this lease and continues and persists therein for a period of sixty (60) days after notice thereof in writing by the said District Engineer to the Lessee and to the trustee under the bond indentures to be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of improvements to be constructed on the recreation area.

13. That, on or before the date of expiration of this lease or any extension thereof pursuant to Condition No. 11 hereof, or its relinquishment by the Lessee, the Lessee shall vacate the said Government premises, remove all property of the Lessee therefrom, and restore the premises to a condition satisfactory to the said District Engineer. If, however, this lease is terminated, the Lessee shall vacate the
premises, remove said property therefrom, and restore the premises as aforesaid within such reasonable period of time as the Secretary of the Army may designate. In either event, if the lessee shall fail or neglect to remove said property and so restore the premises, then said property shall become the property of the United States without compensation therefor, and no claim for damages against the United States or its officers or agents shall be created by or made on account thereof.

14. That upon expiration of the term of this lease, in the event there are then outstanding any of the bonds contemplated to be issued in furtherance of the development of the premises for the purpose of which the lease is made, the Secretary of the Army will give every consideration deemed reasonable in the public interest and in accordance with then existing law, to providing for the extension of this lease to permit complete amortization of said bonds.

15. That all notices to be given pursuant to this lease shall be addressed, if to the Government, to the District Engineer, Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 61, Tulsa 2, Oklahoma; if to the lessee, to the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, 555 State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma; if to the Trustee of Indentures, to the First Securities Company, Schweiter Building, Wichita, Kansas, Attention: Mr. Ray I. Reed, Jr., Vice-President; or as may from time to time otherwise be directed by the parties. Notice shall be deemed to have been duly given if and when enclosed in a properly sealed envelope or wrapper, addressed as aforesaid, and deposited postage paid.

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prepaid (or, if mailed by the Government, deposited under its franking privilege) in a post office or branch post office regularly maintained by the United States Government.

16. That the Lessee takes this lease and the leased premises subject to all existing easements, and easements subsequently granted during the period of the said lease, for electric transmission, telephone, telegraph, water, gas, oil and sewer lines, and other utilities located or to be located within the area covered by this lease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand by direction of the Under Secretary of the Army this 9th day of [March], 1953.

[Signature]

Major, JAGC
Chief, Legal Branch
USAR
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA } SS.
COUNTY OF ARLINGTON } 

On this 9th day of March, in the year 1953, before me, , a Notary Public in and for the County of Arlington, Commonwealth of Virginia, personally appeared , known to me to be the individual who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he signed the same by direction of the Under Secretary of the Army as the free and voluntary act and deed of the United States of America, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal.

\begin{center}
\signature
\end{center}

My Commission expires:
\begin{center}
My Commission Expires Sept. 7, 1953
\end{center}

The above instrument, together with the provisions and conditions thereof, is hereby accepted for and on behalf of the State of Oklahoma this 1st day of June, 1953.

\begin{center}
\signature
\end{center}

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

\begin{center}
Executive Director (Title)
\end{center}
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1
between
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
and
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting by and through the DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, hereinafter called the Government, and the STATE OF OKLAHOMA, acting by and through the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, hereinafter called the Lessee:

WITNESSETH, that:

WHEREAS, the Government and the Lessee entered into a certain unnumbered lease dated 9 March 1953, hereinafter called the Original Lease, granting the Lessee the right to use for public park and recreational purposes certain land comprising 19.9 acres, situate within the Wister Reservoir area in Le Flore County, Oklahoma, for a term of fifty (50) years beginning on 1 January 1953 and ending on 31 December 2002, for a nominal rental of One Dollar ($1.00), and

WHEREAS, it is agreed between the parties hereto that it is to their mutual benefit and interest to amend and supplement the Original Lease as to add thereto additional land totaling 2990.1 acres, more or less, in the Wister Reservoir area in Le Flore County, Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual benefits accruing to each of the contracting parties, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto do hereby and by these presents amend and supplement the aforesaid Original Lease in the following respects and in no other:

1. By adding to the description of the property covered by the Original Lease the 2990.1 acres of land outlined in red on Exhibit "A", dated December 1957, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

   The aggregate acreage of the lease, as supplemented hereby, is 31,080 acres, more or less.
2. By adding Condition No. 17, as follows:

"That the lessee shall not discriminate against any person or persons because of race, religion, color, or national origin in the conduct of its operations hereunder."

3. By adding Condition No. 18, as follows:

"That this lease shall be subject to existing agricultural and grazing leases on said land, said leases being more particularly described on the tabulation attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Upon the expiration, revocation, or termination of said leases, the Lessee shall assume possession of such premises for the leased purpose."

4. By adding Condition No. 19, as follows:

"That the Lessee shall not restrict, interfere with or restrain the commercial recreational activities of Mr. Herbert Z. Ward, Beaver, Oklahoma, in the operation of the Water Conservation Site, identified as Lease No. 64-16-5-68-Eng-4639, covering 32.0 acres of land situated on the north shore of the Water Reservoir."

5. By adding Condition No. 20, as follows:

"That Condition 10 shall not be applicable to the 2990.1 acres added by this supplemental agreement No. 1."

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD that the Original Lease, as supplemented hereby, shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental Agreement shall be 1 May 1938.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand this 3rd day of September, 1938, by direction of the Secretary of the Army.

[Signature]

Edward A. Bacon
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
AND
OKLAHOMA PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD

The Cooperative Agreement, made in duplicate this 21st day of
March, 1962, by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Department, hereinafter called the Department, and the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, hereinafter called the Board, and

WHEREAS, the Department has been created under the laws of the State of Oklahoma to provide an adequate and flexible system of control, propagation, protection, and regulation of all fish and wildlife in Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board has been created under the laws of the State of Oklahoma to provide an adequate and flexible system of parks and recreational facilities,

WHEREAS, the Board has control of lands by license from the Corps of Engineers until December 31, 2002 creating Wister State Park, including the N\½ NE\½ NW\½ of Section 4, Township 5 North, Range 24 East, LeFlore County which lands are needed for a headquarters site by the Department and this Agreement covers only this described land, and

WHEREAS, the Department has control of lands by license from the Corps of Engineers adjoining the aforementioned lands for game management purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it mutually agreed that both agencies will cooperate in this project with the understanding that the primary purpose for which the land is to be used is for the development of a headquarters unit for the Department Area Manager, including a residence, well, pump house, office, equipment sheds and other capital improvements to facilitate management of waterfowl, deer, turkey and upland game.

The Department Agrees to:

1. Furnish the materials, labor and costs for the construction and upkeep of the above mentioned facilities.

2. Cooperate in enforcing the rules and regulations of the Board in operating the N\½ NE\½ NW\½ of Section 4, Township 5, North, Range 24 East, LeFlore County as a headquarters unit for Department personnel and for storage facilities.

The Board Agrees to:

1. Make available these lands for the necessary improvements including road and highline right-of-ways for the period of their license.
It is mutually agreed by both parties:

1. To promote united approach by all interested parties to the problems relating to wildlife and fisheries management.

2. That members of both agencies will refrain insofar as possible from expressing a view contrary to the accepted policy and plans of the other agency.

3. That nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the Department or the Board in the expenditures of funds or for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

4. That this agreement shall become effective as soon as it is signed by the parties hereto.

5. That amendments to the Cooperative Agreement may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval of both parties.

OKLAHOMA PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD

BY:

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

BY:

Roy A. Stafford, Director

DATE: __________________________
OKLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & PARK DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: 
Name __________________________  Date: __________________________

FROM: 
Name __________________________

GATEWOOD AGENCY
202 DEWEY STREET
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA

March 21, 1969

APPRASIAL

SUBJECT: Kenneth Wells
Lot 14 Wister Ridge Cottage Site Area
Wister Reservoir, LeFlore County, Okla.

After having gone upon the land and inspected the dwelling, located on the above described tract of land, find that the fair market value as of this time is: $14,630.00

I also examined a copy of the lease held by Mr. Wells from the U.S.A. which is dated October 1, 1952 for a term of 20 years ending Sept. 30, 1972, and provides for an annual rental of $35.00 per year. The lease does not contain option for renewal.

Dated this 21 day of March, 1969.

C.R. Gatewood, Real Estate Broker
404 Dewey Ave, Poteau, Okla.
P.O. Box 279

RECEIVED
MAR. 24, 1969
STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
APPRAISAL REPORT
OF
Lot 11, Wister Ridge
Cottage Site Area,
Wister Reservoir, 0.6
Acres, Lease No.
NA 34-066, Eng. 3079

A REPORT PRESENTED TO
State Board of Public Affairs
306 State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

IN FULFILLMENT
OF
REQUEST OF
Truman Branscum
Chairman

BY
Frank E. James
Realtor - Fee Appraiser
Box "J", Poteau
Oklahoma

March 24, 1969
NAME: Wells (formerly owned by George G.)  ADDRESS: Poteau, Oklahoma
Lot 11, Water Ridge Cottage Site Area, Water Reservoir, containing 0.6 acres, located
LEGAL: in Le Flore County, Oklahoma and known as Lease No. WA-066 Pgs. 50719
LOT SIZE: x ACRES: STR: gravel  CURB: WALK: DRIVE: dirt
NEIGHBORHOOD: Resort area - Single family dwellings.

AGE OF PROPERTY: 10 yrs  TYPE: Brick Veneer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONST.</th>
<th>G F P</th>
<th>INTERIOR G F P</th>
<th>ROOMS</th>
<th>BATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Slip Floors</td>
<td>LR. 29' x 16'</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DIN.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fl. Nice</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B &amp; R 12 x 16 &amp; 11' x 12'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Den: Located in Garage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S &amp; R X Play</td>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deco.</td>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEATING & COOLING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General: X</th>
<th>F.F. Panel Stoves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hot Water Heater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Elec. Seed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat X Air Cond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Equip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Equip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.U. O.V.N. HD. D.O.P. D.S.W</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTBUILDINGS

| W.B. Gas Dec |
| 3 x 6' cellar |

KITCHEN

| Floor: Vinyl basic 2 |
| Top: Formica Walls |
| Br. X: Mah. Pore 1 |
| Br. X: Mah. Pore 2 |
| St. 11' x 12' |

Dish Washer: Disp. |
| Dr. Unit: Own. Hood |
| Other: |
| Wast. Fl. porch |

MISCELLANEOUS

| Attic F. |
| Porch |
| Porch Dr. |
| Storm D.W. |
| Porch. |

REMARKS: The appraisal does not include any pipeline or telephone lines or
electric wiring. It was not clear whether this was property of leasee.
Lease expires 9/30/72. Rental rate is $35.00 per year.

REQUIREMENTS: Subject to all covenants, restrictions and requirements of record
in the County of Le Flore or the U.S. Government.

SUMMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Bldg. 131</th>
<th>600 sq. ft. at $ 1.20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porch.</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage 289</td>
<td>Car Port.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneer: Figured in basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat X Air Cond: Figured in basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Equip:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Equip:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.U. O.V.N. HD. O.P. D.S.W:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Place: Figured in basic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ext. Replacement Cost:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan: 10% physical; 10% Economic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciated Value:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land: Not Figured: leased lands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Market Value:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I RECOMMEND A LOAN X

APPRASER

DATE

COMPARABLE SALES — THREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRECH</th>
<th>L. V. J.</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DATE OF SALE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

114

WALLS

### Table 1: Interior Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slip Floors</td>
<td>29' x 16'</td>
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<td>See kitchen</td>
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<td>B &amp; R</td>
<td>12' x 16' &amp; 11' x 12'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Den</td>
<td>Located in Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Table 2: Heating & Cooling

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<tr>
<td>Heat X Air Cond</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Equip.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3: Outbuildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Gas Dec</td>
<td>3 x 6'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4: Kitchen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Vinyl basic 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>Formica Walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br. X</td>
<td>Mah. Pore 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Br. X</td>
<td>Mah. Pore 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>St.</td>
<td>11' x 12'</td>
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### Table 5: Miscellaneous

<table>
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<td>Attic F.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm D.W.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Veneer</td>
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The appraisal does not include any pipeline or telephone lines or electric wiring. It was not clear whether this was property of leasee. Lease expires 9/30/72. Rental rate is $35.00 per year.
Kenneth Wells (formerly George C. Wells Lease No. NA 34-066 Eng. 3079)

Lot 14, Wister Ridge Cottage Site Area, Wister Reservoir, containing 0.6 acres, more or less.

Lease dated 10/1/52, which expires 9/30/72


Living room: 29 ft. x 16 ft.  Bedroom 1: 12 ft. x 14 ft.
Kitchen: 11 ft. x 12 ft.  Bedroom 2: 11 ft. x 12 ft.
Bathroom 1: 8 ft. x 8 ft.  Bathroom 2: 6 ft. x 8 ft.
Central heating  Individual water system and
13 doors and 16 windows  septic sewage system
SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Location: Wister Lake
Legal Description: Lot 14, Wister Ridge Cottage Site Area, Wister Reservoir, containing 0.6 acres
Date of Appraisal: March 24, 1969
Estimated fair market value: $11,500.00

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements contained in this appraisal and upon which the opinions expressed herein are based, are correct, subject to limiting conditions herein set forth in this appraisal; also that the appraisal has been in conformity with the Code of Ethics upheld by appraisers.

Employment in and compensation for making this report is in no way contingent upon the value reported, and I certify that I have no financial interest in the subject property.

Frank E. James, I.A.A.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPRAISER

Member
National Institute of Real Estate Brokers
National Institute of Farm and Land Brokers
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
Independent Fee Appraisers Association

Professional Experience
Licensed and Bonded Real Estate Broker in Oklahoma since 1961 and in Arkansas since 1963.
Five years experience as appraiser for oil companies, banks, Attorneys, individuals and Corporations.

Education
Appraisal I, National Institute of Real Estate Appraisers
Course I, Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
BILL OF SALE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, KENNETH WELLS and HILDRED WELLS, husband and wife, in the County of LeFlore, State of Oklahoma, parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of $13,500.00, to us paid by the State of Oklahoma, ex rel The Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department of The State of Oklahoma, party of the second part, receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold, granted, conveyed and transferred, and by the presents do bargain, sell, grant, and convey and transfer and deliver, unto the said party of the second part, and their assigns, the following described goods and chattel:

The house, outhouses, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto presently owned by the parties of the first part on Lot 14, Wister Ridge Cottage Site Area, Wister Reservoir, containing 0.6 acres, located in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, and known as Lease No. NA 34-066 Engr. 3079,

an assignment of said lease being made by the parties of the first part to the party of the second part at the same time and being delivered to the party of the second part at the same time of the delivery of this Bill of Sale.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, unto the party of the second part, and its assigns forever. And we do for ourselves, our heirs, executors, and assigns, warrant our title to said party and represent that the same is personal property subject to conveyance by Bill of Sale, and do covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part, to defend the said described goods and chattel, house, outhouses, appurtenances, and the improvements hereby sold, unto the said party of the second part, and its assigns, against all and every person whomsoever.

IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto set our hands the 16th day of May, 1969.

Kenneth Wells
Hildred Wells
STATE OF OKLAHOMA )

Le Flore COUNTY ) SS

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 16th day of May, 1969, personally appeared Kenneth Wells and Hildred Wells, husband and wife, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instruments and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary action for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires:

September 23, 1972
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 2
between
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
and
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting by and through the DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
hereinafter called the Government, and the STATE OF OKLAHOMA, acting by and
through the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, formerly
the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, hereinafter called the Lessee:

WITNESSETH, that:

WHEREAS, the Government and the lessee entered into a certain unnumbered
lease dated 9 March 1953, hereinafter called the Original Lease, granting
the Lessee the right to use for public park and recreational purposes
certain land comprising 49.9 acres situate within the Wister Reservoir area
in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, for a term of fifty (50) years beginning
1 January 1953 and ending 31 December 2002, for a nominal rental of
One Dollar ($1.00), and

WHEREAS, the Government and the Lessee entered into Supplemental
Agreement No. 1 to add 2,900.1 acres of land making a total of 3,040.0 acres,
more or less.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual benefits inuring
to each of the contracting parties, the receipt and sufficiency of which
are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto do hereby and by these presents
amend and supplement the aforesaid Original Lease and all supplements thereto,
in the following respects and in none other.

1. By adding to the description of the property covered by
the Original Lease and Supplemental Agreement No. 1, the following-
described property: "Lot 14, Wister Ridge Cottage Site area,
containing 0.60 acre, more or less, located in the NE1/4, Section 36,
Township 6 North, Range 24 East, LeFlore County, Oklahoma," outlined
in red on Exhibit A dated December 1957 attached hereto and made a
part hereof.
IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD that the Original Lease, as
supplemented hereby, shall in all other respects remain in full force and
effect.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental
Agreement shall be the 1st day of October, 1970.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th
day of
October, 1970, by direction of the Secretary of the
Army.

SHERRO B. MYERS
Assistant for Real Property
OASA (JED)

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT is also executed by the Grantee this
3rd day of November, 1970.

OKLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND PARK DEPARTMENT
ROBERT H. BREEDEN, DIRECTOR

Signed and Sealed in the
Presence of:

500 Will Rogers Memorial Building
ADDRESS Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

500 Will Rogers Memorial Building
ADDRESS Oklahoma City, Okla.
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 3
between
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

This supplemental agreement, made and entered into by and between
the United States of America, acting by and through the Department of
the Army, hereinafter called the Government, and the State of Oklahoma,
acting by and through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department,
hereinafter called the lessee.

WITNESSETH, THAT:

WHEREAS, the Government and the lessee entered into a certain lease
numbered 94-0008 dated 9 March 1953, hereinafter called the original
lease, granting the lessee the right to use for public park and recreational
purposes certain land comprising 49.9 acres located within the Wister
Reservoir area in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, for a term of fifty (50)
years beginning 1 January 1953 and ending 31 December 2002 for a nominal
rental of ONE AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($1.00), and

WHEREAS, the Government and the lessee entered into Supplemental
Agreements Nos. 1 and 2, to add 2,990.7 acres of land, making a total of
3,040 acres, more or less, and

WHEREAS, the lessee has requested an additional 50 acres of land be
added to the lease area for a total land acreage of 3,090 acres, more or
less.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual benefits
inuring to each of the contracting parties, the receipt and sufficiency
of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto do hereby and by
these presents amend and supplement the aforesaid original lease and all
supplements thereto, in the following respects and in none other.

1. Delete the description referred to in Supplemental Agreement
No. 2; delete map marked exhibit A to the original lease and the map
marked exhibit A to Supplemental Agreement No. 1, and substitute therefore
the map marked exhibit B, attached hereto.

2. Add conditions 17 and 18 as follows:

17. That the grantee shall not remove, cut, or trim trees or
shrubs more than 10 feet tall or having a diameter of 2 inches or more
at 4 feet above ground level without approval of said officer. Further,
the grantee will take precautions to prevent unnecessary damage to, or defacement of, trees or shrubs. In the event that any trees or shrubs are removed without approval, or if the said officer determines that trees or shrubs have been damaged or defaced as a result of negligence on the part of the grantee, the grantee may be required to replace all such trees or shrubs so removed, damaged, or defaced, or at the discretion of the said officer, the grantee may be required to reimburse the Government the cost of such replacement.

18. All items having apparent historical or archaeological interest which are discovered in the course of any activities of the grantee shall be carefully preserved. The grantee shall leave any archaeological find undisturbed and shall report the find immediately to the resident engineer in charge of the project.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD that the original lease, as supplemented hereby, shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental Agreement shall be 1 March 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand this 26th day of February, 1976, by direction of the Secretary of the Army.

[Signature]

Gordon M. Hobbs
Assistant to the Secretary
OASA (L)G

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT is also executed by the Grantee this 27th day of October, 1977.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

[Signature]

Executive Director
(Title)

Signed and sealed in the Presence of:

(WITNESS)  ADDRESS

(WITNESS)  ADDRESS
DEPARTMENT OF ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT
1645 SOUTH 10TH EAST AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74128-4609

Real Estate Division
Recreation

SUBJECT: Mister Lake, OK; State of Oklahoma, Wister State Park,
Deletion of Land

Ms. Jane Jayroe
Executive Director
Oklahoma Tourism and
Recreation Department
15 North Robinson, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Ms. Jayroe:

I am enclosing two copies of Supplemental Agreement No. 4 to
Lease No. 9108. This agreement will complete action on the
requested transfer of land from your department to the Department of
Wildlife Conservation. This land was actually transferred some time
ago, but in reviewing our records we note that the supplement to
your lease was not finalized.

Please sign both copies of the supplement in behalf of the
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. In addition, an
appropriate representative must complete and sign each copy of the
Certificate of Authority, page 3. Please note the certificate must
be signed by someone other than the representative who signed the
lease. The purpose of the Certificate is to attest that the
authorized person executed the lease in behalf of the department.

Please return both copies of the supplemental agreement in the
envelope provided. Upon execution in behalf of the Government, a
signed copy of the agreement will be sent for your records.

If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Pam Kelly, telephone
918-669-7638.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Brenda A. Randolph
Chief, Management and
Disposal Branch

Enclosures
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 4  
LEASE 94-08  
Wister State Park  
Wister Lake

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT  
between  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter called the Government, and the STATE OF OKLAHOMA, TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, whose address is 15 North Robinson, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, said department hereinafter called the Lessee;

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Lease 94-08, dated March 9, 1953, hereinafter called the original lease, for the area known as the Wister State Park, was granted to the Lessee by authority of the Secretary of Army for public park and recreation purposes in the Wister Lake project area; and

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 1, dated September 2, 1958, to add approximately 2,990.1 acres of land to the original lease; and,

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 2, dated October 19, 1970, to add to the original lease approximately 0.6 acre of land formerly designated as Lot 14, Wister Ridge Cottage Site area; and,

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 3, dated February 26, 1976, to add approximately 50 acres of land, increasing the total lease area to 3,090 acres, and add certain other conditions to the original lease; and,

WHEREAS, it has been mutually agreed that it is to the best interest of both parties to amend the original lease to extend its term one year and to delete land, reducing the total approximate lease acreage to 1,300.
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits inuring to both parties, the original lease is hereby amended in the following respects and none other:

1. The granting clause of the lease on page 2 is hereby amended to delete the expiration date of 31 December 2002, and substitute therefore 31 December 2003.

2. The map, identified as Exhibit B and attached to the original lease, is hereby deleted, and the map, identified as Exhibit A-1 and attached hereto, is substituted therefor.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the original lease shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental Agreement shall be November 1, 2002.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand by directive of the Secretary of the Army this ______ day of ____________________, 20__.  

__________________________
RICHARD FREEMAN
Chief, Real Estate Division
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT is also executed by the Lessee this _____ day of

____________________, 20__.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By: ________________________________

Title: ________________________________

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, certify that I, ________________________________ am the ________________________________ of

(name) (title)

the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department, named as Lessee herein, that

______________________________ who signed this Supplemental Agreement on behalf of said Lessee, was

then ________________________________ of the Tourism and Recreation Department; and that said

Supplemental Agreement was duly signed for and on behalf of said Lessee, by authority of its

governing body and is within the scope of its statutory powers.

Signed, ________________________________

(Appropriate Officer)

3
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 4
LEASE 94-08
Wister State Park
Wister Lake

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT
between
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter called the Government, and the STATE OF
OKLAHOMA, TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, whose address is 15 North
Robinson, Suite 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, said department hereinafter called the Lessee;

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Lease 94-08, dated March 9, 1953, hereinafter called the original lease, for the
area known as the Wister State Park, was granted to the Lessee by authority of the Secretary of Army for
public park and recreation purposes in the Wister Lake project area; and

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 1, dated September 2,
1958, to add approximately 2,990.1 acres of land to the original lease; and,

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 2, dated October 19, 1970,
to add to the original lease approximately 0.6 acre of land formerly designated as Lot 14, Wister Ridge
Cottage Site area; and,

WHEREAS, the parties entered into Supplemental Agreement No. 3, dated February 26, 1976,
to add approximately 50 acres of land, increasing the total lease area to 3,090 acres, and add certain other
conditions to the original lease; and,

WHEREAS, it has been mutually agreed that it is to the best interest of both parties to amend
the original lease to extend its term one year and to delete land, reducing the total approximate lease
acreage to 1,300.
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits inuring to both parties, the original lease is hereby amended in the following respects and none other:

1. The granting clause of the lease on page 2 is hereby amended to delete the expiration date of 31 December 2002, and substitute therefore 31 December 2003.

2. The map, identified as Exhibit B and attached to the original lease, is hereby deleted, and the map, identified as Exhibit A-1 and attached hereto, is substituted therefor.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the original lease shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental Agreement shall be November 1, 2002.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand by directive of the Secretary of the Army this 23 day of April, 2003

[Signature]
RICHARD FREEMAN
Chief, Real Estate Division
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers
THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT is also executed by the Lessee this ___ day of

January, 2003

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By: ____________________________

Title: Jane Jayroe, Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, certify that I, ______________ am the __________________ of
(name) (title)

the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department, named as Lessee herein, that

Jane Jayroe who signed this Supplemental Agreement on behalf of said Lessee, was

then ______________ of the Tourism and Recreation Department; and that said

Supplemental Agreement was duly signed for and on behalf of said Lessee, by authority of its

governing body and is within the scope of its statutory powers.

Signed, __________________________

Leann Overstake, Executive Secretary
(Appropriate Officer)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LEASE TO STATES
FOR PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES
WISTER LAKE
LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

THIS LEASE is made on behalf of the United States, between the SECRETARY OF
THE ARMY, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, and Oklahoma Tourism and
Recreation Department, 15 North Robinson, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102,
hereinafter referred to as the Lessee,

WITNESSETH:

That the Secretary, by authority of Title 16, United States Code, Section 460d, and for
the consideration hereinafter set forth, hereby leases to the Lessee, the property identified in
Exhibit A-1, attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereinafter referred to as the
premises, for public park and recreational purposes.

THIS LEASE is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. TERM

Said premises are hereby leased for a term of twenty-five (25) years, beginning
January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2029.

2. CONSIDERATION

The consideration for this lease shall be the operation and maintenance of the
premises by the Lessee for the benefit of the United States and the general public in
accordance with the conditions herein set forth.

3. NOTICES

All correspondence and notices to be given pursuant to this lease shall be addressed,
if to the Lessee, to:

Address as listed above

and, if to the United States, to the District Engineer, ATTN: Chief, Real Estate Division,
1645 S 101 East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74128-4609, or as may from time to time otherwise
be directed by the parties. Notice shall be deemed to have been duly given if and when
enclosed in a properly sealed envelope, or wrapper, addressed as aforesaid, and deposited, postage prepaid, in a post office regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service.

4. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

Except as otherwise specifically provided, any reference herein to “Secretary of the Army,” “District Engineer,” “said officer” or “Lessor” shall include their duly authorized representatives. Any reference to "Lessee" shall include sublessees, assignees, transferees, concessionaires, and its duly authorized representatives.

5. **DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

a. The Lessee shall be guided by an implementing Plan of Recreation Development and Management (Development Plan) attached as **Exhibit B** which shows the facilities and services necessary to meet the current and potential public demand and the management and development activities to be undertaken by the Lessee and any sublessees. The Lessee shall provide a copy of any amendment to the Development Plan before proceeding to implement any changes in the development or management of the leased premises. The use and occupation of the premises shall be subject to the general supervision and approval of the District Engineer.

b. During the term of the lease, the District Engineer will notify the Lessee of any updates to the existing project Master Plan affecting the premises and the Lessee may provide comments.

6. **STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT**

The Lessee shall have the right, during the term of the lease, to erect such structures and to provide such equipment upon the premises as may be necessary to furnish the facilities and services authorized. Those structures and equipment shall be and remain the property of the Lessee, except as otherwise provided in the Condition on **RESTORATION**.

7. **APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

a. The Lessee shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations and with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the state, county, and municipality wherein the premises are located, including, but not limited to, those regarding construction, health, safety, food service, water supply, sanitation, use of pesticides, and licenses or permits to do business. The Lessee shall make and enforce such regulations as are necessary and within its legal authority in exercising the privileges granted in this lease, provided that such regulations are not inconsistent with those issued by the Secretary of the Army or with the provisions of **Title 18 U.S.C., 460d**.

b. The Lessee will provide an annual certification that all water and sanitary systems on the premises have been inspected and comply with Federal, state and local standards.
The Lessee will also provide a statement of compliance with the Rehabilitations Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as required in the condition on NON-DISCRIMINATION, noting any deficiencies and providing a schedule for correction.

8. CONDITION OF PREMISES

The Lessee acknowledges that it has inspected the premises, knows its condition, and understands that the same is leased without any representations or warranties whatsoever and without obligation on the part of the United States to make any alterations, repairs, or additions thereto.

9. FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Lessee shall provide the facilities and services as agreed upon in the Development Plan referred to in the Condition on DEVELOPMENT PLANS either directly or through subleases or concession agreements that have been reviewed and accepted by the District Engineer. These subleases or agreements shall state: (1) that they are granted subject to the provisions of this lease; and (2) that the agreement will not be effective until the third party activities have been approved by the District Engineer. The Lessee will not allow any third party activities with a rental to the Lessee or prices to the public which would give the third party an undue economic advantage or circumvent the intent of the Development Plan. The rates and prices charged by the Lessee or its sub-lessees or concessionaires shall be reasonable and comparable to rates charged for similar goods and services by others in the area. The use of sub-lessees and concessionaires will not relieve the Lessee from the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this lease.

10. TRANSFERS, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBLEASES

a. Without prior written approval of the District Engineer, the Lessee shall neither transfer nor assign this lease nor sublet the premises or any part thereof, nor grant any interest, privilege, or license whatsoever in connection with this lease.

b. The Lessee will not sponsor or participate in timeshare ownership of any structures, facilities, accommodations, or personal property on the premises. The Lessee will not subdivide nor develop the premises into private residential development.

11. FEES

Fees may be charged by the Lessee for the entrance to or use of the premises or any facilities, however, no user fees may be charged by the Lessee or its sub-lessees for use of facilities developed in whole or part with federal funds if a user charge by the Corps of Engineers for the facility would be prohibited under law.
12. ACCOUNTS, RECORDS AND RECEIPTS

All monies received by the Lessee from operations conducted on the premises, including, but not limited to, entrance, admission and user fees and rental or other consideration received from its concessionaires, may be utilized by the Lessee for the administration, maintenance, operation and development of the premises. Beginning 5 years from the date of this lease and continuing at 5-year intervals, any such monies not so utilized or programmed for utilization within a reasonable time shall be paid to the District Engineer. The Lessee shall provide an annual statement of receipts and expenditures to the District Engineer. Annual or weekly entrance fees not collected on the Project, which also are honored at other recreational areas operated by the Lessee, are excluded from this requirement. The District Engineer shall have the right to perform audits or to require the Lessee to audit the records and accounts of the Lessee, third party concessionaires and sub-lessees, in accordance with auditing standards and procedures promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or by the state, and furnish the District Engineer with the results of such an audit.

13. PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

The Lessee shall be responsible for any damage that may be caused to property of the United States by the activities of the Lessee under this lease and shall exercise due diligence in the protection of all property located on the premises against fire or damage from any and all other causes. Any property of the United States damaged or destroyed by the Lessee incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the Lessee to the satisfaction of the District Engineer, or, at the election of the District Engineer, reimbursement may be made therefor by the Lessee in an amount necessary to restore or replace the property to a condition satisfactory to the District Engineer.

14. RIGHT TO ENTER AND FLOOD

The right is reserved to the United States, its officers, agents, and employees to enter upon the premises at any time and for any purpose necessary or convenient in connection with Government purposes; to make inspections; to remove timber or other material, except property of the Lessee; to flood the premises; to manipulate the level of the lake or pool in any manner whatsoever; and/or to make any other use of the land as may be necessary in connection with project purposes, and the Lessee shall have no claim for damages on account thereof against the United States or any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

15. LIGHTS, SIGNALS AND NAVIGATION

There shall be no unreasonable interference with navigation by the exercise of the privileges granted by this lease. If the display of lights and signals on any work hereby authorized is not otherwise provided for by law, such lights and signals as may be prescribed by the Coast Guard or by the District Engineer shall be installed and maintained by and at the expense of the Lessee.
16. INSURANCE

a. At the commencement of this lease, the Lessee, unless self-insured, and its sub-lessees and concessionaires at the commencement of operating under the terms of this lease as third parties, shall obtain from a reputable insurance company or companies contracts of liability insurance. The insurance shall provide an amount not less than that which is prudent, reasonable and consistent with sound business practices, for any number of persons or claims arising from any one incident with respect to bodily injuries or death resulting therefrom, property damage, or both, suffered or alleged to have been suffered by any person or persons, resulting from the operations of the sub-lessees and concessionaires under the terms of this lease. The Lessee shall require its insurance company to furnish to the District Engineer a copy of the policy or policies, or, if acceptable to the District Engineer, certificates of insurance evidencing the purchase of such insurance.

b. The insurance policy or policies shall specifically provide protection appropriate for the types of facilities, services and products involved; and shall provide that the District Engineer be given thirty (30) days notice of any cancellation or change in such insurance.

c. The District Engineer may require closure of any or all of the premises during any period for which the sub-lessees and concessionaires do not have the required insurance coverage.

17. RESTORATION

On or before the expiration of this lease or its termination by the Lessee, the Lessee shall vacate the premises, remove the property of the Lessee, and restore the premises to a condition satisfactory to the District Engineer. If, however, this lease is revoked, the Lessee shall vacate the premises, remove said property therefrom, and restore the premises to the aforesaid condition within such time as the District Engineer may designate. In either event, if the Lessee shall fail or neglect to remove said property and restore the premises, then, at the option of the District Engineer, said property shall either become the property of the United States without compensation therefor, or the District Engineer may cause the property to be removed and no claim for damages against the United States or its officers or agents shall be created by or made on account of such removal and restoration work. The Lessee shall also pay the United States on demand any sum which may be expended by the United States after the expiration, revocation, or termination of this lease in restoring the premises.

18. NON-DISCRIMINATION

a. The Lessee shall not discriminate against any person or persons or exclude them from participation in the Lessee's operations, programs or activities conducted on the leased premises, because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. The Lessee will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and attendant Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) published by the Architectural And Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.
b. The Lessee, by acceptance of this lease, is receiving a type of Federal assistance and, therefore, hereby gives assurance that it will comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6102); the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794); and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Directive of the Department of Defense (32 CFR Part 300) issued as Department of Defense Directives 5500.11 and 1020.1, and Army Regulation 600-7. This assurance shall be binding on the Lessee, its agents, successors, transferees, sub-lessees and assignees.

19. SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS

This lease is subject to all existing easements, easements subsequently granted, and established access routes for roadways and utilities located, or to be located, on the premises, provided that the proposed grant of any new easement or route will be coordinated with the Lessee, and easements will not be granted which will, in the opinion of the District Engineer, interfere with developments, present or proposed, by the Lessee. The Lessee will not close any established access routes without written permission of the District Engineer.

20. SUBJECT TO MINERAL INTERESTS

This lease is subject to all outstanding mineral interests. As to federally owned mineral interests, it is understood that they may be included in present or future mineral leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which has responsibility for mineral development on Federal lands. The Secretary will provide lease stipulations to BLM for inclusion in such mineral leases that are designed to protect the premises from activities that would interfere with the Lessee's operations or would be contrary to local laws.

21. COMPLIANCE, CLOSURE, REVOCATION AND RELINQUISHMENT

a. The Lessee and/or any sub-lessees or licensees are charged at all times with full knowledge of all the limitations and requirements of this lease, and the necessity for correction of deficiencies, and with compliance with reasonable requests by the District Engineer. This lease may be revoked in the event the Lessee violates any of the terms and conditions and continues and persists in such non-compliance. The Lessee will be notified of any non-compliance, which notice shall be in writing or shall be confirmed in writing, giving a period of time in which to correct the non-compliance. Failure to satisfactorily correct any substantial or persistent non-compliance within the specified time is grounds for closure of all or part of the premises, temporary suspension of operation, or revocation of the lease, after notice in writing of such intent. Future requests by the Lessee to extend the lease, expand the premises, modify authorized activities, or assign the lease shall take into consideration the Lessee's past performance and compliance with the lease terms.

b. This lease may be relinquished by the Lessee by giving one (1) year prior written notice to the District Engineer in the manner prescribed in the Condition on NOTICES.
22. HEALTH AND SAFETY

a. The Lessee shall keep the premises in good order and in a clean, sanitary, and safe condition and shall have the primary responsibility for ensuring that any sub-lessees and concessionaires operate and maintain the premises in such a manner.

b. In addition to the rights of revocation for non-compliance, the District Engineer, upon discovery of any hazardous conditions in the premises that presents an immediate threat to health and/or danger to life or property, will so notify the Lessee and will require that the affected part or all of the premises be closed to the public until such condition is corrected and the danger to the public eliminated. If the condition is not corrected, the District Engineer will have the option to: (1) correct the hazardous conditions and collect the cost of repairs from the Lessee; or, (2) revoke the lease. The Lessee and its assignees or sub-lessees shall have no claim for damages against the United States, or any officer, agent, or employee thereof on account of action taken pursuant to this condition.

23. PUBLIC USE

No attempt shall be made by the Lessee, or any of its sub-lessees or concessionaires, to forbid the full use by the public of the premises and of the water areas of the project, subject, however, to the authority and responsibility of the Lessee to manage the premises and provide safety and security to the visiting public.

24. PROHIBITED USES

a. The Lessee shall not permit gambling on the premises or install or operate, or permit to be installed or operated thereon, any device which is illegal, or use the premises or permit them to be used for any illegal business or purpose. There shall not be conducted on or permitted upon the premises any activity which would constitute a nuisance.

b. As an exception, some games of chance, such as raffles, games and sporting events, may be conducted by nonprofit organizations under special use permits issued in conjunction with special events, if permissible by state and local law. Any request to conduct such activities must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer.

c. In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the Lessee may sell, store, or dispense, or permit the sale, storage, or dispensing of beer, malt beverages, light wines or other intoxicating beverages on the premises in those facilities where such service is customarily found. Bar facilities will only be permitted if offered in connection with other approved activities. Advertising of such beverages outside of buildings is not permitted. Carry out package sales of hard liquor is prohibited.

25. NATURAL RESOURCES

The Lessee shall cut no timber, conduct no mining operations, remove no sand, gravel, or kindred substances from the ground, commit no waste of any kind, nor in any
manner substantially change the contour or condition of the premises, except as may be authorized under and pursuant to the Development Plan described in the Condition on DEVELOPMENT PLANS herein. The Lessee may salvage fallen or dead timber; however, no commercial use shall be made of such timber. Except for timber salvaged by the Lessee when in the way of construction of improvements or other facilities, all sales of forest products will be conducted by the United States and the proceeds therefore shall not be available to the Lessee under the provisions of this lease.

26. DISPUTES CLAUSE

a. Except as provided in the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601-613) (the Act), all disputes arising under or relating to this lease shall be resolved under this clause and the provisions of the Act.

b. "Claim," as used in this clause, means a written demand or written assertion by the Lessee seeking, as a matter of right, the payment of money in a sum certain, the adjustment of interpretation of lease terms, or other relief arising under or relating to this lease. A claim arising under this lease, unlike a claim relating to the lease, is a claim that can be resolved under a lease clause that provides for the relief sought by the Lessee. However, a written demand or written assertion by the Lessee seeking the payment of money exceeding $100,000 is not a claim under the Act until certified as required by subparagraph c.(2) below.

c. (1) A claim by the Lessee shall be made in writing and submitted to the District Engineer for a written decision. A claim by the Government against the Lessee shall be subject to a written decision by the District Engineer.

(2) For Lessee claims exceeding $100,000, the Lessee shall submit with the claim a certification that:

(i) The claim is made in good faith;

(ii) Supporting data are accurate and complete to the best of the Lessee's knowledge and belief; and

(iii) The amount requested accurately reflects the lease adjustment for which the Lessee believes the Government is liable.

(3) If the Lessee is an individual, the certificate shall be executed by that individual. If the Lessee is not an individual, the certification shall be executed by:

(i) A senior company official in charge at the Lessee's location involved; or

(ii) An officer or general partner of the Lessee having overall responsibility of the conduct of the Lessee's affairs.

d. For Lessee claims of $100,000 or less, the District Engineer must, if requested in
writing by the Lessee, render a decision within 60 days of the request. For Lessee-certified claims over $100,000, the District Engineer must, within 60 days, decide the claim or notify the Lessee of the date by which the decision will be made.

e. The District Engineer's decision shall be final unless the Lessee appeals or files a suit as provided in the Act.

f. At the time a claim by the Lessee is submitted to the District Engineer or a claim by the Government is presented to the Lessee, the parties, by mutual consent, may agree to use alternative means of dispute resolution. When using alternate dispute resolution procedures, any claim, regardless of amount, shall be accompanied by the certificate described in paragraph c.(2) of this clause, and executed in accordance with paragraph c.(3) of this clause.

g. The Government shall pay interest on the amount found due and unpaid by the Government from (1) the date the District Engineer received the claim (properly certified if required), or (2) the date payment otherwise would be due, if that date is later, until the date of payment. Simple interest on claims shall be paid at the rate, fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury, as provided in the Act, which is applicable to the period during which the District Engineer receives the claim, and then at the rate applicable for each 6-month period as fixed by the Treasury Secretary during the pendency of the claim.

h. The Lessee shall proceed diligently with the performance of the lease, pending final resolution of any request for relief, claim, appeal, or action arising under the lease, and comply with any decision of the District Engineer.

27. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

a. Within the limits of their respective legal powers, the parties to this lease shall protect the project against pollution of its air, ground, and water. The Lessee shall comply promptly with any laws, regulations, conditions or instructions affecting the activity hereby authorized, if and when issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, or any Federal, state, interstate or local governmental agency having jurisdiction to abate or prevent pollution. The disposal of any toxic or hazardous materials within the premises is specifically prohibited. Such regulations, conditions, or instructions in effect or prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency, or any Federal, state, interstate or local governmental agency, are hereby made a condition of this lease. The Lessee shall require all sanitation facilities on boats moored at the Lessee's facilities, including rental boats, to be sealed against any discharge into the lake. Services for waste disposal, including sewage pump-out of watercraft, shall be provided by the Lessee as appropriate. The Lessee shall not discharge waste or effluent from the premises in such a manner that the discharge will contaminate streams or other bodies of water or otherwise become a public nuisance.

b. The Lessee will use all reasonable means available to protect the environment and natural resources, and where damage nonetheless occurs from the Lessee's activities, the Lessee shall be liable to restore the damaged resources.
c. The Lessee must obtain approval in writing from the District Engineer before any pesticides or herbicides are applied to the premises.

28. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDY

A Environmental Baseline Study (EBS) documenting the known history of the property with regard to the storage, release or disposal of hazardous substances thereon, is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit C. Upon expiration, revocation or termination of this lease, a Environmental Baseline Study (EBS) shall be prepared which will document the environmental condition of the property at that time. A comparison of the two surveys will assist the District Engineer in determining any environmental restoration requirements. Any such requirements will be completed by the lessee in accordance with the condition on RESTORATION.

29. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Lessee shall not remove or disturb, or cause or permit to be removed or disturbed, any historical, archaeological, architectural or other cultural artifacts, relics, remains, or objects of antiquity. In the event such items are discovered on the premises, the Lessee shall immediately notify the District Engineer and protect the site and the material from further disturbance until the District Engineer gives clearance to proceed.

30. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

The Lessee shall maintain, in a manner satisfactory to the District Engineer, all soil and water conservation structures that may be in existence upon said premises at the beginning of, or that may be constructed by the Lessee during the term of, this lease, and the Lessee shall take appropriate measures to prevent or control soil erosion within the premises. Any soil erosion occurring outside the premises resulting from the activities of the Lessee shall be corrected by the Lessee as directed by the District Engineer.

31. TRANSIENT USE

a. Camping, including transient trailers or recreational vehicles, at one or more campsites for a period longer than thirty (30) days during any sixty (60) consecutive day period is prohibited. The Lessee will maintain a ledger and reservation system for the use of any such campsites.

b. Occupying any lands, buildings, vessels or other facilities within the premises for the purpose of maintaining a full- or part-time residence is prohibited, except for employees residing on the premises for security purposes, if authorized by the District Engineer.

32. COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES

The Lessee warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained
to solicit or secure this lease upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Lessee for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the United States shall have the right to annul this lease without liability or, in its discretion, to require the Lessee to pay, in addition to the lease rental or consideration, the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

33. OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this lease or to any benefits to arise therefrom. However, nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to any incorporated company if the lease be for the general benefit of such corporation or company.

34. MODIFICATIONS

This lease contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and no modification of this agreement, or waiver, or consent hereunder shall be valid unless the same be in writing, signed by the parties to be bound or by a duly authorized representative; and this provision shall apply to this clause as well as all other conditions of this lease.

35. DISCLAIMER

This lease is effective only insofar as the rights of the United States in the premises are concerned; and the Lessee shall obtain such permission as may be required on account of any other existing rights. It is understood that the granting of this lease does not eliminate the necessity of obtaining any Department of the Army permit which may be required pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 March 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403), or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

36. The title and wording of Condition 28 entitled Environmental Baseline Study (EBS) was changed to Preliminary Assessment Screening (PAS).
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand by authority/direction of the Secretary of the Army this 13th day of February, 2007.

Anne Kosel
Acting Chief, Real Estate Division
Tulsa District, Corps of Engineers

This lease is also executed by the Lessee this 9th day of


OKLAHOMA TOURISM
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By: Ralph McCalmont
Title: Interim Director
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, Leann Overstake, Executive Assistant, certify that I am the Executive Assistant of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, named as Lessee herein, that Ralph McCaig, who signed this Lease on behalf of said Lessee, was then Interim Director of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, and that said Lease was duly signed for and on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, by authority of its governing body and is within the scope of its statutory powers.

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Date: 11/04/2014 Signed: Leann Overstake, Executive Assistant

Title: Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Dept.
Projected 5-year construction plan

1. Cabin renovation-renovate all 15 cabins.
2. Lake access facilities-construct courtesy docks at Quarry Island (1)
   Quarry Island & Ward’s Landing (1).
3. Playgroups-construct playgroups at Quarry Island (1), Victor Area (1),
   Dam Site (1), & Cabin Area (1).
4. Renovate swimming pool.
5. Residence renovation-renovate 3 park employee residences.
6. Lake Access – Quarry Island (widen boat ramp to 2 lanes)-Ward’s
   Landing (courtesy dock).
LAKE WISTER STATE PARK
Southeast Oklahoma

Park Manager's Office on-site

Group Camp: (1)
- 6 bunkhouses = 96 total capacity
- fully-equipped kitchen/dining hall plus cooks' sleeping quarters

Cabins:
- 3 single + 6 duplex = 15 total units

Picnic Sites:
- 186 tables, 6 group picnic pavilions

Campsites: P=Preferred; PT=Pull-thru; H-Handicap Access; PPT=Preferred Pull-thru
(No 50 amp hookups in park)

Water, Electric, Sewer (Modern)/(No 50 amp hookups):
- Quarry Island: 8
- Victor Area: 8 (PT2) (Assigned Area)

Electric & Water (Semi-Modern)/(No 50 amp hookups):
- Victor Area: 53 (P8, PT7) (Assigned Area)
- Below Dam: 8
- Wards Area: 25 (PT4)

Without Utilities (Unimproved):
- Victor Area: 20 (Assigned Area)
- Quarry Island: 15
- Below Dam: 20
- Wister Ridge #2: 20

Primitive Campsites: Eagles Island Roost: 20

Sanitary Facilities:
- 8 comfort stations (7 with showers & 1 without showers)
- 3 sanitary waste stations; 8 pump/lift stations
- 2 vault toilets

Leisure Activities:
- fishing/boating/water skiing:
  - 3 lighted boat ramps
  - 1 unlighted gravel boat ramp
  - 1 handicapped accessible fishing dock
  - 1 handicapped accessible courtesy dock
  - canoe & paddleboat rentals

- swimming:
  - pool, separate bathhouses (includes a small office for pool staff)

- playcourts: 1 multi-purpose; 1 volleyball court; 1 miniature golf course

- playgrounds: 6 playgroups

- trails: nature/multi-use trails

- other: miniature golf

EXHIBIT B
Lake Wister State Park
Page 2

Other Facilities: gift shop/cabin office/park office
Activity Center with Naturalist Programs

Other Structures: 1 maintenance building
2 warehouses
3 employee quarters

Park Size: LAND:
3,040 acres (Leased from Corps of Engineers)
- 20 acres (relinquished to COE in 1988)
-1,800 (relinquished 8/26/93)
1,220 total acreage

Lake: Lake Wister: 7,300 surface acres
115 mi. shoreline (Corps of Engineers)
TULSA DISTRICT
CERCLA ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SURVEY (EBS)

Project: Wister Lake Office
Title of Action: Lake Wister State Park Lease
Date of previous PAS/EBS, if any: PAS 2 January 1994

1. A comprehensive records search of the project office files, conducted by Tish Livesay on 4 December 2002, indicated that storage, release, or disposal (as defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of hazardous material (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4):
   
   [Signature] has
   [Signature] has not occurred on the property.

   * Documentation supporting any positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings.

TULSA DISTRICT SECTION

2. A comprehensive records search of the SWT-OD-TR, or other district files, conducted by [Signature] on 11/04/03, indicated that storage, release, or disposal (as defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of hazardous materials (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4):

   [Signature] has
   [Signature] has not occurred on the property.

   * Documentation supporting all positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings.

3. A comprehensive records search of the SWT-RE indicates that storage, release, or disposal (as defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of hazardous materials (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4):

   [Signature] has
   [Signature] has not occurred on the property.

   * Documentation supporting all positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings.

4. Recommendations

   [Signature] Proceed with described transactions. Notification on a warranty covenant statements are not required in transaction documents.

   [Signature] Proceed with described transactions. Notification and warranty covenant statements are required in transaction documents as described in 42 USC 9620, 40 CFR 373.

   [Signature] Exclude property from consideration for described transactions.

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

Reviewed by [Signature] Ralph McAlmont, Interim Director

Approved by [Signature] Chief, Real Estate Division 2/13/04

SST Form 1054
22 Feb 2000

EXHIBIT C  Page of 2
TULSA DISTRICT
CERCLA (PAS) STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Office:
Title of Action:

A. COMPREHENSIVE RECORDS SEARCH:

B. SITE INSPECTION:

C. OTHER SOURCES:

Completed by: ____________________________________________

Date:

EXHIBIT C

Page 1 of 1

Proponent: CESWT-CD-TR
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1  
LEASE NO. DACW56-1-03-132  
WISTER LAKE

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT  
between  
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
and  
OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into on behalf of the United States, between the SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, hereinafter called the Government, and OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, whose mailing address is 15 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, hereinafter called the Lessee;

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Lease No. DACW56-1-03-132 hereinafter called the original lease, for a term of twenty-five (25) years beginning January 1, 2004, was granted to the Lessee by authority of the Secretary of the Army for public park and recreational purposes at the Wister Lake project area at the location described therein; and

WHEREAS, it has been mutually agreed that it is to the best interest of both parties to amend the original lease to add 2.96 acres, add 4 real property assets and delete 37.09 acres.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits inuring to both parties, the original lease is hereby amended in the following respects and none other:

1. The map, identified as Exhibit A-1 and attached to the original lease, is hereby deleted and the maps, identified as Exhibits A-2 and A-3 and attached hereto, are substituted therefore.

2. Addition of four real property assets that include two residences and two garages, more particularly described on the inventory and condition survey attached as Exhibit D. Addition of these assets includes the cost of operation, maintenance and repair of the structures. The two residences have the following restriction: Structural improvements beyond maintenance will require National Historic Register eligibility evaluation.
IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the original lease shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the effective date of this Supplemental Agreement shall be the date of execution in behalf of the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand by authority of the Secretary of the Army this 26th day of January, 2007.

[Signature]

STEPHEN R. ZELTNER
Chief, Real Estate Division
Tulsa District, US Army Corps of Engineers

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT is also executed by the Lessee this 28th day of January, 2007.

[Signature]

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By: [Signature]

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, TERRI WILK aperson, certify that I am the EXEC. ASSISTANT (Name) (Secretary or Attesting Officer)

of the OK-TOURISM DEPT. of COMM., named as grantee/lessee/licensee herein;

(Agency Name)

that HARDY WATKINS (Officer Name)

who signed this Agreement on behalf

of said OK-TOURISM DEPT., was then EXEC. DIRECTOR (Agency Name) (Officer Title)

of the Agency; and that said Agreement was duly signed for and on behalf of

the OK-TOURISM DEPT. of COMM. by authority of its governing body and is

(Agency Name)

within the scope of its statutory powers.

Signed, TERRI WILK aperson

Secretary or Attesting Officer

(The person that signed the attached instrument cannot sign Certificate)

This form certifies that the person signing the attached instrument has the authority to do so. The signature of the Secretary/Attesting Officer and the Individual signing the attached instrument cannot be the same.
PORTION OF LEASE AREA SHOWING CHANGES

Section 31, Township 5N, Range 25E

LEFLORE County
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DELETED ACREAGE: 37.096 ACRES
ADDED ACREAGE: 2.96 ACRES

PROJECT: WISTER LAKE
CONTRACT NO. DACW56-1-03-132
GRANTEE NAME: OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TULSA DISTRICT

EXHIBIT A-3

155
### INVENTORY AND CONDITION SURVEY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>*RP Unique ID</th>
<th>STRUCTURE NO</th>
<th>Structure Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>WISTER-41884</td>
<td>XCAH04</td>
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<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>WISTER-41933</td>
<td>XCAM02</td>
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<td>WISTER-41883</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CERTIFICATE

As lessee of the property described in Lease DACW56-1-03-132, I hereby certify that the above data are correct and that the improvements are on the land described in said lease.

**WITNESS:**

**NAME:**

**TITLE:** Exec. Director

**DATE:** 1/20/09

EXHIBIT D
WISTER LAKE, OK
DACW56-1-03-132
TULSA DISTRICT
CERCLA ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE SURVEY (EBS)

Project: Wister Lake, Le Flore County OK, residence
Title of Action: Resident Houses
Date of previous PAS/EBS, if any:

1. A comprehensive records search of the project office files, conducted by [signature]
on [27 Nov 2008], indicated that storage, release, or disposal (as defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of
hazardous material (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4):

   [ ] has
   [ ] has not occurred on the property

   * Documentation supporting any positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings.

TULSA DISTRICT SECTION

3. A comprehensive records search of the SWT-OD-TR, or other district files, conducted by the
 DEM [signature] on [12 Oct 2008], indicated that storage, release, or disposal
 (as defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of hazardous materials (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4):

   [ ] has
   [ ] has not occurred on the property

   * Documentation supporting all positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings.

4. A comprehensive records search of the SWT-RE indicates that storage, release, or disposal (as
defined in 40 CFR Part 373) of hazardous materials (as defined in 40 CFR Part 302.4)

5. Recommendations [ ] has

   [X] has not occurred on the property

   * Documentation supporting all positive findings are provided in the attached EBS Statement of Findings

   Proceed with described transactions. Notification on a warranty covenant statements are not required in

   [X] transaction documents.

   [ ] Proceed with described transactions. Notification and warranty covenant statements are required in

   [ ] transaction documents as described in 42 USC 3620, 40 CFR 373.

Accepted by: [signature]
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Date 1-20-09

Approved by: [signature]
Chief, Real Estate Division Date 26 Jan 09

EXHIBIT E
EASEMENT NO. DACW56-2-09-131

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
EASEMENT FOR COMMUNICATION FACILITY
LOCATED ON
WISTER LAKE
LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, under and by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary by Title 10, United States Code, Section 2668, having found that the granting of this easement is not incompatible with the public interest, hereby grants to, the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department, whose address is 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, hereinafter referred to as the grantee, an easement for the operation and maintenance of a telephone line right-of-way and related facilities, hereinafter referred to as the facilities, over, across, in and upon lands of the United States as identified in Exhibits A and B, hereinafter referred to as the premises, and which are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

THIS EASEMENT is granted subject to the following conditions.

1. TERM

   This easement is granted for a term of fifty (50) years, beginning January 1, 2009, and ending December 31, 2058, but revocable at will by the Secretary of the Army.

2. CONSIDERATION

   The consideration for this easement shall be the operation and maintenance of a telephone line right-of-way within the Wister Lake Project Area for the benefit of the United States and the general public in accordance with the terms hereinafter set forth.

3. NOTICES

   All correspondence and notices to be given pursuant to this easement shall be addressed, if to the grantee, to the Executive Director, Tourism and Recreation Department, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, and, if to the United States, to the District Engineer, Attention: Chief, Real Estate Division, 1645 South 101st East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74128, or as may from time to time otherwise be directed by the parties. Notice shall be deemed to have been duly given if and when enclosed in a properly sealed envelope, or wrapper, addressed as aforesaid,
and deposited postage prepaid in a post office regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service.

4. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

   Except as otherwise specifically provided, any reference herein to "Secretary", "District Engineer", "Installation Commander", or "said officer" shall include their duly authorized representatives. Any reference to "grantee" shall include assignees, transferees and their duly authorized representatives.

5. **SUPERVISION BY THE DISTRICT ENGINEER**

   The construction, operation, maintenance, repair or replacement of said facilities, including culverts and other drainage facilities, shall be performed at no cost or expense to the United States and subject to the approval of the District Engineer, U. S. Army Engineer District, Tulsa, hereinafter referred to as said officer. Upon the completion of any of the above activities, the Grantee shall immediately restore the premises to the satisfaction of said officer. The use and occupation of the premises for the purposes herein granted shall be subject to such rules and regulations as said officer prescribes in writing from time to time.

6. **APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

   The grantee shall comply with all applicable Federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances and regulations wherein the premises are located, including, but not limited to, the provisions of the latest edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and the Environmental Protection Agency regulations on Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's).

7. **CONDITION OF PREMISES**

   The grantee acknowledges that it has inspected the premises, knows the condition, and understands that the same is granted without any representation or warranties whatsoever and without any obligation on the part of the United States.

8. **INSPECTION AND REPAIRS**

   The grantee shall inspect the facilities at reasonable intervals and immediately repair any defects found by such inspection or when required by said officer to repair any such defects.

9. **PROTECTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

   The grantee shall be responsible for any damage that may be caused to the property of the United States by the activities of the grantee under this easement and
shall exercise due diligence in the protection of all property located on the premises against fire or damage from any and all other causes. Any property of the United States damaged or destroyed by the grantee incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the grantee to a condition satisfactory to said officer, or at the election of said officer, reimbursement made therefor by the grantee in an amount necessary to restore or replace the property to a condition satisfactory to said officer.

10. **RIGHT TO ENTER**

The right is reserved to the United States, its officers, agents, and employees to enter upon the premises at any time and for any purpose necessary or convenient in connection with government work, to make inspections, to remove timber or other material, except property of the grantee, and/or to make any other use of the lands as may be necessary in connection with government purposes, and the grantee shall have no claim for damages on account thereof against the United States or any officer, agent, or employee thereof.

11. **TRANSFER AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Without prior written approval by said District Engineer, the grantee shall neither transfer nor assign this easement or any part thereof nor grant any interest, privilege or license whatsoever in connection with this easement. The provisions and conditions of this easement shall extend to and be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the representatives, successors and assigns of the grantee.

12. **INDEMNITY**

The United States shall not be responsible for damages to property or injuries to persons which may arise from or be incident to the exercise of the privileges herein granted, or for damages to the property or injuries to the person of the grantee's officers, agents, or employees or others who may be on the premises at their invitation or the invitation of any one of them, and the grantee shall hold the United States harmless from any and all such claims not including damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

13. **SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS**

This easement is subject to all other existing easements, or those subsequently granted as well as established access routes for roadways and utilities located, or to be located, on the premises, provided that the proposed grant of any new easement or route will be coordinated with the grantee, and easements will not be granted which will, in the opinion of said officer, interfere with the use of the premises by the grantee.
14. **REQUIRED SERVICES**

The grantee shall furnish through said facilities such services as may be required from time to time for governmental purposes, provided that payment for such service will be made by the United States at rates which shall be mutually agreeable but which shall never exceed the most favorable rates granted by the grantee for similar service.

15. **RELOCATION OF FACILITIES**

In the event all or any portion of the premises occupied by the said facilities shall be needed by the United States, or in the event the existence of said facilities is determined to be detrimental to governmental activities, the grantee shall from time to time, upon notice to do so, and as often as so notified, remove said facilities to such other location on the premises as may be designated by said officer. In the event said facilities shall not be removed or relocated within ninety (90) days after such notice, the United States may cause such relocation at the sole expense of the grantee.

16. **TERMINATION**

This easement may be terminated by the Secretary upon 30 days written notice to the grantee if the Secretary shall determine that the right-of-way hereby granted interferes with the use or disposal of said land by the United States, or it may be revoked by the Secretary for failure of the grantee to comply with any or all of the conditions of this easement, or for non-use for a period of two (2) years, or for abandonment.

17. **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

The grantee shall maintain, in a manner satisfactory to said officer, all soil and water conservation structures that may be in existence upon said premises at the beginning of or that may be constructed by the grantee during the term of this easement, and the grantee shall take appropriate measures to prevent or control soil erosion within the right-of-way herein granted. Any soil erosion occurring outside the premises resulting from the activities of the grantee shall be corrected by the grantee as directed by said officer.

18. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

A. Within the limits of their respective legal powers, the parties hereto shall protect the premises against pollution of its air, ground, and water. The grantee shall promptly comply with any laws, regulations, conditions or instructions affecting the activity hereby authorized if and when issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, or any Federal, state, interstate or local governmental agency having jurisdiction to abate or prevent pollution. The disposal of any toxic or hazardous materials within the premises is strictly prohibited. Such regulations, conditions, or instructions in effect or
prescribed by the said Environmental Protection Agency or any Federal, state, interstate or local governmental agency are hereby made a condition of this easement. The grantee shall not discharge waste or effluent from the premises in such a manner that the discharge will contaminate streams or other bodies of water or otherwise become a public nuisance.

B. The use of any pesticides or herbicides within the premises shall be in conformance with all applicable Federal, state and local laws and regulations. The grantee must obtain approval in writing from said officer before any pesticides or herbicides are applied to the premises.

C. The grantee will use all reasonable means available to protect the environment and natural resources, and where damage nonetheless occurs arising from the grantee's activities, the grantee shall be liable to restore the damaged resources.

19. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The grantee shall not remove or disturb, or cause or permit to be removed or disturbed, any historical, archeological, architectural or other cultural artifacts, relics, remains or objects of antiquity. In the event such items are discovered on the premises, the grantee shall immediately notify said officer and protect the site and material from further disturbance until said officer gives clearance to proceed.

20. NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Grantee shall not discriminate against any person or persons because of race, color, age, sex, handicap, national origin, or religion in the conduct of operations on the premises.

21. RESTORATION

On or before the expiration or termination of this easement, the grantee shall, without expense to the United States, and within such time as said officer may indicate, remove said facilities and restore the premises to the satisfaction of said officer. In the event the grantee shall fail to remove said facilities and restore the premises, the United States shall have the option to take over said facilities without compensation, or to remove said facilities and perform the restoration at the expense of the grantee, and the grantee shall have no claim for damages against the United States or its officers or agents for such action.

22. DISCLAIMER

This instrument is effective only insofar as the rights of the United States in the property are concerned, and the grantee shall obtain such permission as may be
required on account of any other existing rights. It is understood that the granting of this easement does not eliminate the necessity of obtaining any Department of the Army permit which may be required pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 March 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act (33 USC 1344) or any other permit or license which may be required by Federal, state or local statute in connection with use of the premises.

23. PROTECTION OF TREES

That the grantee shall not remove, cut, or trim trees or shrubs more than 10 feet tall or having a diameter of 2 inches or more at 4 feet above ground level without approval of the said officer. Further, the grantee will take precautions to prevent unnecessary damage to, or defacement of trees or shrubs. In the event that any trees or shrubs are moved without approval, or the said officer determines that trees or shrubs have been damaged or defaced as a result of negligence on the part of the grantee, the grantee may be required to replace all such trees or shrubs so removed, damaged, or defaced, or at the discretion of the said officer, the grantee may be required to reimburse the Government of the cost of such replacement.

24. RIGHT TO FLOOD

That the United States does by these presents retain perpetual power, privilege, and license occasionally to overflow, flood, and submerge the land herein described; that no structures shall be constructed or maintained on the land except as may be approved in writing by the representative of the United States in charge of the project.

**THIS EASEMENT** is not subject to Title 10, United States Code, Section 2662, as amended.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand by authority of the Secretary of the Army, this 31st day of August 2007.

\[Signature\]

MARK W. MOORE  
CHIEF, REAL ESTATE DIVISION  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
THIS EASEMENT is also executed by the grantee this 30th day of July, 2009.

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

[Signature]

HARDY WATKINS
PRINTED NAME

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TITLE

405-230-8301
PHONE NUMBER
LAND DESCRIPTION

A strip, piece, or parcel of land in Section 31, T6N, R25E, and Section 36, T6N, R24E, LeFlore County, Oklahoma, being 1310 feet in length and the centerline thereof being described as:

Beginning at a point 935 feet East and 375 feet North of the Southwest corner of said Section 31, said point being in the center of an existing telephone line right-of-way; thence Northwesterly on a straight line 1170 feet, more or less, crossing Station 25 + 00 of the Wister Dam; thence Westerly in a straight line 140 feet, more or less, to a point on the boundary line of the Quarry Isle State Park lease area.

Containing 0.90 acre, more or less.

EXHIBIT A
PROJECT: WISTER

COUNTY: LEFLORE

STATE OF: OKLAHOMA

Containing 0.90 acre, more or less

GRANTEE NAME: STATE OF OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CONTRACT NO. DACW56-2-09-131

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TULSA DISTRICT

EXHIBIT B
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA ) ss

On this 30th day of July, 2009, before me the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared HARDY WATKINS, known to me to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
6/23/2012
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

COUNTY OF TULSA

On this 31st day of August, 2009, before me the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Mark W. Moore, Chief, Real Estate Division, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, known to me to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal.

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: ____________________________
My Commission Number: __________________________
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, [Name], certify that I am the [Title] of the [Agency Name], named as grantee/lessee/licensee herein;

that [Officer Name], who signed this Agreement on behalf of said [Agency Name], was then [Title] of the Agency; and that said Agreement was duly signed for and on behalf of the [Agency Name] by authority of its governing body and is within the scope of its statutory powers.

Signed, [Signature]

Secretary or Attesting Officer

(The person that signed the attached instrument cannot sign Certificate)

This form certifies that the person signing the attached instrument has the authority to do so. The signature of the Secretary/Attesting Officer and the Individual signing the attached instrument cannot be the same.