Robbers Cave State Park
Resource Management Plan
Latimer County, Oklahoma

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Figure 0.1 – Vendors and visitors at Fall Festival 2013
Acknowledgements

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Assistance was also provided by Deby Snodgrass, Kris Marek, and Doug Hawthorne – all from the Oklahoma City office of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Ron McWhirter also provided the review of the 2014 document to update materials for the 2016 RMP.

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

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### Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAAG</td>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Civilian Conservation Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEET</td>
<td>Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPSC</td>
<td>Consumer Product Safety Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Endangered Species Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>geographic information systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>global positioning system</td>
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<tr>
<td>mcf</td>
<td>million cubic feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>Maximum Contaminant Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAAQS</td>
<td>National Ambient Air Quality Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAWQA</td>
<td>National Water Quality Assessment Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHPA</td>
<td>National Historic Preservation Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRM</td>
<td>Notice of Proposed Rule Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODWC</td>
<td>Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University – Stillwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTRD</td>
<td>Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWRB</td>
<td>Oklahoma Water Resources Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBCR</td>
<td>Primary body contact recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>potential for hydrogen ions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>parts per million</td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMP</td>
<td>Resource Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORP</td>
<td>Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHPO</td>
<td>State Historic Preservation Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USGS</td>
<td>United States Geological Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBDO</td>
<td>Waterborne Disease Outbreak</td>
</tr>
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Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

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

Vision Statement

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

OTRD Values

- Responsibility and leadership
- Respect
- Quality
- Exemplary customer service
- Balance and self-fulfillment
- Teamwork and communication
- Flexibility
- Creativity and innovation
- Coordination
- Commitment
- Integrity
Chapter 1 – Introduction

Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process

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

Within the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the purpose and scope of the RMP is to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of Robbers Cave State Park and its incorporated resources, summarize the plan’s components, and provide descriptive and historical information related to the project. Robbers Cave State Park is located on properties owned by the State of Oklahoma through two agencies: the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD). With this joint interest, an RMP for Robbers Cave State Park is intended to chart the desired future condition for the area related to biological, physical, and social conditions.

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 Robbers Cave State Park. With regard to Robbers Cave 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 Robbers Cave 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 review of online blogs; 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 Robbers Cave 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 Robbers Cave State Park RMP, representatives from OSU compiled and analyzed the data. The public involvement process offered citizens and various interest groups information about the project and its potential impacts. This course of action was used to gather information, ideas, and concerns regarding the different issues to be compiled and addressed to determine issues of public concern. The issues were then evaluated resulting in alternative solutions and recommendations for the park.

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

**Authorization and Agencies Involved**

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement has been renewed annually since 2006. The current agreement specified Robbers Cave State Park during 2013 – 2014, 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, 2013 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 Robbers Cave State Park in June 2014.

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 – Entry sign for Robbers Cave State Park on S.H. 2*
Figure 1.2 – Recreation in Robbers Cave State Park
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About Robbers Cave State Park

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose and Significance of Robbers Cave 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 Robbers Cave State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff, representing Robbers Cave State Park and the broader agency, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

Robbers Cave State Park is a premier natural, cultural, scenic, historic and environmentally-based recreational resource for the education and enjoyment of all people. Oklahoma State Parks will protect, manage, restore and conserve the resources and associated values of Robbers Cave State Park, and provide appropriate programs, facilities, and opportunities for public use consistent with the preservation and interpretation of these resources and values.
Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel, in cooperation with the research staff, developed a statement of significance for Robbers Cave State Park. That statement follows:

Robbers Cave State Park is significant because it protects, manages, and provides public access to an environment of forests, streams, lakes, and mountains, enhanced by culture and history. Robbers Cave State Park provides and protects the historical, cultural, geological and recreational resources present on the property and protects these resources as a public trust. Of particular significance within Robbers Cave State Park, the New Deal-era history, the equestrian facilities, Belle Starr View lodge, and special events are combined with almost a century of scouting tradition for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

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

**Geographic Location of Robbers Cave State Park**

Robbers Cave State Park is located in southeastern Oklahoma in Latimer County. In this location, Robbers Cave State Park is located in the Sans Bois Mountains, just west of the Ouachita Mountains. The park is located in the northwest portion of Latimer County, north of Wilburton and east-northeast of McAlester.
Robbers State Park is located along Oklahoma State Highway 2 between Wilburton to the south and Quinton to the north. State Highway 2 intersects with Federal Highway 270 in Wilburton. From Wilburton, Highway 270 extends west to McAlester and links with U.S. Highway 69 and the Indian Nations Turnpike. To the east from Wilburton, Highway 270 continues to Poteau permitting access to U.S. Highways 271 and 59. To the north of Robbers Cave State Park, Highway 2 intersects with State Highway 31 in Quinton permitting access to a number of other routes leading east and west or further north to Interstate Highway 40.

Wilburton is the county seat of Latimer County, with a population of 2,972, and is also the home of Eastern Oklahoma State College. There are numerous small communities distributed throughout Latimer County. The largest population base in the region is in McAlester, approximately 30 miles west of Robbers Cave State Park.

Travel to and from Robbers Cave State Park requires access along state Highway 2 extending north and south across Latimer County. State Highway 2 extends through Robbers Cave State Park from the south central portion of the park and exits the park on the northeast.

**Community and Regional Context**

**Brief History of Latimer County**

The following history of Latimer County was written by Dianna Everett for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/L/LA025.html).
Located in southeastern Oklahoma, Latimer County encompasses 729.12 square miles of total land and water area. Bordering counties are Le Flore on the east, Haskell on the north, Pittsburg on the west, and Pushmataha on the south. With a 1907 population of 9,340, the county was created at Oklahoma statehood and named for James L. Latimer, the Wilburton-area representative in the 1906 Constitutional Convention. Wilburton serves as county seat, and Red Oak is the only other incorporated town.

The countryside is hilly and forested, with the Sans Bois Mountains spanning the northern edge of the county and the western ridges of the Winding Stair Mountains extending into the southern region. Rich coal deposits have been an important economic resource. Fourche Maline, Brazil, and Sans Bois creeks drain the northern part of the county into the Poteau River; Buffalo and Gaines creeks drain the southern part into the Kiamichi River. In neighboring Pushmataha County, Jackfork Creek is dammed to create Sardis Lake, some of which extends into southwestern Latimer County.

Archaeologists have identified 124 prehistoric sites in Latimer County, three of which are of the Paleo-Indian era. Fifty-three are of the Archaic period, 6000 BC to AD 1. The McCutchan-McLaughlin Site (AD 400-AD 800), or Alford Mound, near Red Oak has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 72001071). Much of the prehistoric occupation of the area took place along Fourche Maline Creek from 300 BC to around AD 800.

From 1831 the region lay within the Choctaw Nation. The Choctaw used the area primarily for pasture land. Important Choctaw places included the county seat at Gaines Court House, in the vicinity of present Panola, and Red Oak, site of a council house. A Choctaw grist mill was located at Buffalo Valley. Approximately one-fourth of present Latimer County was allotted to Choctaw individuals, and the county now incorporates parts of Gaines and other counties of the former Choctaw Nation.

Transportation arteries linked this part of the Choctaw Nation with the outside world and profoundly affected the region’s development. Whites began to know the area when the Butterfield Overland Mail route was established in 1858. Entering the present county from the northeast, the stages stopped at Edwards’s Station near present Hughes, Holloway’s Station near Red Oak, Riddle’s Station near present Lutie, and Pusley’s Station near Higgins.

As in most other Oklahoma counties, transportation routes provided access to outside markets. The opening of coal mines in the 1870s stimulated railroad development in the Indian nations. In 1889-90 the Choctaw Coal and Railway (later Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad and later a part of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific line) built 67.4 miles of track across present Latimer County from Wister to McAlester. The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway completed a branch line from North McAlester to Wilburton in 1904. In the later twentieth century state and federal road systems served the residents, with State Highways 2 and 82 running north-south and State Highway 1/63 and U.S. 270 running east-west.

The county’s early economy was based on coal mining. The principal coal-producing area lay in the northern mountains, in the Choctaw Segregated Coal Lands. By 1895 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway operated mines near Gowen, Lutie, and Wilburton. By 1905 mining operations included McAlester Coal Mining Company (from 1897), McAlester Coal and Mineral Company (from 1897), Eastern Coal and Mining Company (from 1899), Great Western Coal and Coke Company (from 1899), and Missouri, Kansas and Texas Coal Company (from 1904), all near Wilburton; Kali-Inla Coal Company (from 1904) near Gowen; Bache and Denman Coal
Company (from 1905) near Red Oak; and Le Bosquit Coal and Mining Company (from 1902) and Turkey Creek Coal Company (from 1901), both near Hughes. By 1912 the county had twenty-seven mines working three thousand miners producing five thousand tons per day. In addition, various individuals operated small strip mines. Most of the miners were native-born whites, but an assortment of Europeans, primarily from the British Isles and Italy, Mexicans, and African-Americans also contributed their labor to mining industry.

Latimer County, like Oklahoma’s other coal-producing counties, suffered the decline and collapse of the industry in the 1920s due to labor disputes, the rise of petroleum as a fuel, and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. By 1932 only one mine operated in the county, and the mining towns’ populations had fallen by an average of almost 50 percent. The county’s population was recorded at 11,321 in 1910, peaked at 13,866 in 1920, and fell to 11,184 in 1930. At one point during the Great Depression of the 1930s, 93.5 percent of Latimer County’s people were on relief. Federal programs helped them through hard times by providing construction projects such as the Civil Works Administration (CWA)-built Wilburton Municipal Airport, Works Progress Administration (WPA)-built schools at Panola and other communities, and road-paving projects. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) developed a park project at the state game preserve, now part of Robbers Cave State Park.

An unusual depression-era venture found a home in Latimer County in 1933 when Spanish-American War veterans established Veterans Colony. This facility allowed former soldiers to build cabins, live there year-round, grow their own food, and socialize. In later years membership was opened to veterans of all wars. Veterans Colony still operated at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Limited agriculture had always been practiced in Latimer County, with locally grown vegetables and other products sold to residents of the mining towns. Cotton and corn were also commercial crops, and cattle raising remained important. However, even by 1930, less than half the county’s area was under cultivation, and farm tenancy was a problem. In 1930, of 1,386 farms, 869 were operated by tenants. After the coal industry played out, the economy slowly recovered, relying on cattle raising, with lumbering, coal mining (although limited), and oil and gas production supplementing local income. The census recorded 12,380 residents in 1940, 9,690 in 1950, and 7,738 in 1960.

Latimer County has been home to various medical, educational, and recreational facilities serving eastern Oklahoma. In 1920-21 the legislature created Eastern State Sanatorium, a treatment facility for tuberculosis patients; now operated as an Oklahoma Veterans Center, it is located two miles northwest of Talihina. Nearby, the Choctaw-Chickasaw Sanatorium for Indian tuberculosis patients was opened in 1917. Wilburton became the site of Latimer County’s hospital in 1960. In 1909 state government created the Oklahoma School of Mines and Metallurgy at Wilburton, placed centrally within the southeastern Oklahoma mining district. In 2000, as Eastern Oklahoma State College, the school was a two-year, liberal-arts institution. Recreation opportunities in Latimer County include Robbers Cave State Park north of Wilburton, where camping and cabins are available. Lake Carlton, five miles north of Wilburton, offers fishing and swimming. The Lutie Coal Miners Museum, in Wilburton, commemorates the region’s industrial history.

In the second half of the twentieth century the county’s population rebounded, with the census recording 8,601 residents in 1980 and 10,333 in 1990. Of the 10, 692 recorded in 2000, 72.9
percent were white, 18.7 percent American Indian, 1.9 percent Hispanic, 1.0 percent black, and 0.3 percent Asian. Among nineteen Latimer County properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are Pusley’s Station (NR 72001068), Holloway’s (NR 72001070), Riddle’s (NR 72001072), and Edwards’s Store (NR 72001069) stations on the Butterfield route, the Great Western Coal and Coke Company Mine Number Three (NR 80003269) and the Great Western Building (in Wilburton, NR 80003268), Cupco Church (near Yanush, NR 80003273), Veterans Colony Park Pavilion (NR 88001395), and Panola High School and Gymnasium (NR 88001397).”

In addition to the noted properties in this list, Robbers Cave State Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 as NR 96000489. The entire park is included as an historic property.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Latimer County. The 2010 Census provided the statistical basis for the detail related to the population of Latimer County in 2013.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during July 2013 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.

Table 2.1 – Population of Latimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latimer County</td>
<td>10,692</td>
<td>11,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population of Latimer County has increased at a rate of 4.3% over the past ten years. This pattern of moderately increasing population is similar to that for the population of Oklahoma which has increased during that same period. However, the population of Latimer County is increasing at a slower rate than is true for many counties in eastern Oklahoma.

Interestingly, Latimer County reports a population in which the median age of male residents is about one year lower than the median age for resident females. This may be a reflection of employment opportunities, particularly in the energy industry during recent years. In addition, there is a slightly higher percentage of the population in Latimer County above the age of 65 than is true in the larger population of Oklahoma.

In addition, Latimer County shows a population with a smaller percentage of residents identified as “black or African American” than is true in the state of Oklahoma. By contrast, the population in Latimer County shows more than double the percentage of persons identified as “American Indian.” Latimer County reports a population in which 7.7% of the residents represent two or more races. This composition of the population represents part of the history of the county.
Further, Latimer County presents a population with a smaller percentage of Hispanic residents than is true across Oklahoma. This is somewhat in contrast to the composition of the population in other eastern Oklahoma counties including Cherokee to the north and Le Flore to the east.

**Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Latimer County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5,649 (50.6%)</td>
<td>1,816,749 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5,505 (49.4%)</td>
<td>1,858,590 (50.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td>2,673 (24.0%)</td>
<td>911,484 (24.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 years of age and over</td>
<td>8,481 (76.0%)</td>
<td>2,762,318 (75.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td>1,944 (17.4%)</td>
<td>491,422 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>7,825 (70.2%)</td>
<td>2,720,135 (72.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>83 (0.7%)</td>
<td>267,179 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>2,279 (20.4%)</td>
<td>259,809 (8.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>31 (0.3%)</td>
<td>61,581 (1.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1 (0.0%)</td>
<td>3,967 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>864 (7.7%)</td>
<td>263,896 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>Of any race</td>
<td>293 (2.6%)</td>
<td>302,167 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Of greater interest is the lower percentage of the population living in households. Latimer County has a number of group homes or group living facilities which reduces the percentage of the population in households. The slightly older population of Latimer County is also reflected in the percentage of households with one or more members aged 65 years or more.
Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Latimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Latimer County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>4,208</td>
<td>1,421,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>10,580 (94.9%)</td>
<td>3,563,497 (96.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>1,179 (28.0%)</td>
<td>425,149 (29.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>531 (12.6%)</td>
<td>140,851 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>4,208 (84.5%)</td>
<td>1,421,705 (86.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>771 (15.5%)</td>
<td>222,523 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>3,123 (74.2%)</td>
<td>969,959 (68.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>1,085 (25.8%)</td>
<td>451,746 (31.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Somewhat surprisingly, the population of Latimer County is similar to that across Oklahoma in household income. The median household income in Latimer County is almost identical to the statewide average. Median household income as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Census may be somewhat misleading: by definition 50% of the population in the county is above the median income level and 50% is below that number. In Latimer County, the mean household income is $53,477 indicating that a small number of residents are in the upper levels of income while a larger number are in the lower income categories. As shown in Census data, 147 households (3.5% of households) in Latimer County have incomes of $100,000 or more.

It is equally important to recognize that 10.4% of the population of Latimer County is identified as being below federal poverty guidelines. The percentage of households below poverty levels and the percentage of individuals in those households are comparable to statistics for the state of Oklahoma. It can be concluded that the residents of Latimer County are financially similar to the general population of Oklahoma.

Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Latimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Latimer County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$42,610</td>
<td>$42,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents of Latimer County also present education characteristics that are associated with the financial status of the county. In Latimer County, the greatest variation from the statewide educational pattern is in the percentage of individuals with educational achievement of an Associate’s degree; other than that one category of post-high-school education Latimer County lags behind state statistics for education beyond the high school diploma. Education levels have been shown to be highly correlated with other economic measures.

### Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Latimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Latimer County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>262 (3.7%)</td>
<td>115,248 (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>950 (13.2%)</td>
<td>232,987 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>2,429 (33.9%)</td>
<td>775,478 (32.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>1,614 (22.5%)</td>
<td>559,367 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>903 (12.6%)</td>
<td>159,557 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>619 (8.6%)</td>
<td>362,043 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>397 (5.5%)</td>
<td>176,139 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Latimer County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2010, Latimer County reported unemployment to be approximately 4.8% as compared with a statewide 7.7%. Both of these numbers place Oklahoma and Latimer County in better employment condition than was true of the United States at this same time.
Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Latimer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Latimer County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in the labor force (16 years and over)</td>
<td>4,781 (55.3%)</td>
<td>1,806,858 (63.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>4,454 (93.2%)</td>
<td>1,674,765 (92.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>2,716 (61.0%)</td>
<td>1,260,965 (75.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>1,310 (29.4%)</td>
<td>285,562 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>419 (9.4%)</td>
<td>124,013 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>9 (0.2%)</td>
<td>4,225 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, Latimer County comprises a rural area with approximately 15.3 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. Almost 27% of the population of Latimer County resides in Wilburton, the county seat, and Red Oak is the only other incorporated town in the county. The county population shows an average household income similar to the statewide average; additionally, a similar percentage of Latimer County residents are below the poverty level as is true statewide. A higher percentage of residents of the county have achieved their high school diplomas and associate’s degrees, but the county is below statewide educational statistics at higher levels of education.

Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities

Robbers Cave State Park offers a combination of recreational, historic, cultural, and natural resources that is matched only by Beavers Bend State Park in Oklahoma. These two parks are separated by distance of 120 miles and therefore do not directly compete with each other. Both parks offer New Deal-era historic structures in large park areas. Both parks offer campgrounds, cabins, and lodges. Both parks offer nature centers, interpretive programs, large festivals, hiking trails, and water-based recreation. The natural environment for the two parks is also similar with hilly to mountainous terrain, pine forests, and a sense of seclusion.

Closer to Robbers Cave there are three other state parks. Lake Eufaula State Park, including two distinct properties along Federal Highway 69, offers camping experiences, but in the setting of a large lake. Lake Eufaula State Park is also much more accessible than Robbers Cave State Park. Clayton Lake State Park is approximately 35 miles from Robbers Cave State Park and offers similar camping and water-based recreation, but in a much more compact park setting. Talimena State Park is similarly about 35 miles from Robbers Cave State Park and serves primarily as a staging location for access to the Ouachita National Forest.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations on Lake Eufaula and Sardis Lake offer camping experiences in a lake environment. However, both settings are quite different in atmosphere and management from that at Robbers Cave State Park.
One of the distinctive recreation opportunities provided at Robbers Cave State Park is the equestrian campground and extensive trail network. Cedar Lake in the Winding Stair National Recreation Area in Ouachita National Forest is the only other public park with dedicated equestrian camping and an extensive network of trails. Lake Eufaula State Park offers some equestrian camping, but with a much smaller trail base.

**Regional and Park History**

Robbers Cave State Park is one of the original state parks in the Oklahoma system. The property was originally designated as Latimer State Park, but that name was changed in 1936. In the biannual report of the State Game and Fish Commission for July 1, 1926 through June 30, 1928 (Oklahoma State Game and Fish Commission, 1928), a 1550 acre preserve north of Wilburton is identified as the core of an area for which the Commission considered “the purchase of several thousand acres . . . with a view to creation of a game preserve worthy of recognition and rapid development, and with a view as well to construction of a series of fishing lakes on Fourche Maline creek as public fishing grounds and to be opened as a public recreation center and beautiful State Park.” By 1934, this preserve in Latimer County had expanded to approximately 16,000 acres and was bisected by State Highway 2 (Oklahoma State Game and Fish Commission, 1934). A simple notation of one sentence is added: “A Civilian Conservation Corps camp is now stationed on both the McCurtain and Latimer county preserves and are concluding a program dedicated largely to the construction of roads and trails throughout both properties that, when finished, will prove of untold value and assistance in protecting the virgin growths of timber against fire hazards.”

A brief history of Robbers Cave State Park was prepared by Larry O’Dell for the Oklahoma Historical Society. This history states:

> “Located four miles north of Wilburton on State Highway 2, Robbers Cave State Park, originally Latimer State Park (name changed in 1936), encompasses more than eight thousand acres and includes three lakes and many tourist amenities. The lore associated with Robbers Cave area has a long history, dating to its use as an Osage hunting ground and as the object of French exploration in the eighteenth century. Later, Civil War deserters and outlaws reportedly hid in the cave, including the Youngers, the Dalton Gang, the Rufus Buck Gang, and Belle Starr. The location and local terrain made the cave an almost impregnable fortress, with the criminals allegedly able to escape through a secret back exit.

In 1929, Carlton Weaver, a Wilburton newspaper editor and state representative, donated 120 acres surrounding the cave to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for use as a camp. He served as the vice president of the Boy Scouts’ Choctaw Council. John Newell, warden at McAlester’s State Penitentiary, soon arranged for a group of skilled inmates to begin improving the site. Using locally quarried rock, the prisoners built a kitchen and several buildings that were used as headquarters for different scout troops. Named Camp Tom Hale, honoring a McAlester businessman and BSA supporter, the facility was adjacent to a tract of land that Weaver had leased and later donated to the state fish and game commission to create a large game preserve. In 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1825 was organized and located at the state game preserve. In 1935, under the supervision of the National Parks Service, the State Parks
Division took control of the area. Between 1935 and 1941 CCC Company 1825 built a bathhouse, cabins, trails, group camps, shelters, and roads. Again, native stone was used on these projects. In 1937 the CCC and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created Lake Carlton, named for Carlton Weaver.

Situated in the Sans Bois Mountains, Robbers Cave State Park features rock bluffs of sandstone and shale. A wildlife management area (WMA) with hunting grounds lies adjacent to the park. Deer and other small fur-bearing mammals, along with an array of reptiles and birds, inhabit the park. Game birds, such as wild turkey and quail, are cultivated in the WMA. Pine, cedar, walnut, and blackjack, among a host of hardwoods, compose the forest environment.

In 1994 the state renovated the bathhouse into a nature center. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the park offered a restaurant, a twenty-room lodge, an equestrian camp, stables, campgrounds, group camps, cabins, and fishing at Lake Carlton, Lake Wayne Wallace, and Coon Creek Lake, and in Fourche Maline Creek. Swimming, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and rappelling are other activities that attract visitors. In 1987 the park hosted its first annual Robbers Cave Fall Festival. In 1998 the Robbers Cave Bluegrass Festival began. In 2002 the state park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR 96000489).”

The role of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration as New Deal-era federal agencies is crucial to the history of Robbers Cave State Park. Historic structures on property remain from the efforts of the CCC. The design commonly utilized by members of these camps was “National Park Service rustic” architecture. As stated by Dr. Bob Blackburn (2004), “In the parks, the organic style could be seen everywhere. Roads nestled into natural contours of the land, offering a variety of vistas around every turn. Cabins were built with locally cut stone, hand-hewn timbers, and rough-cut plans, giving the impression that the structures grew out of the land. Signs with directions to campgrounds were artistically carved into stone and wood. The CCC boys also helped Mother Nature by planting millions of trees and shrubs, seamlessly connecting the built environment with the natural setting.” Appendix A identifies many of the CCC properties at Robbers Cave State Park.

CCC Company 1825 at Robbers Cave State Park differed from most CCC camps. The typical camp consisted of young men between the ages of 18 and 25. Company 1825 was composed of many married men, including World War I veterans. These men implemented the designs provided by Herbert Maier and a team of National Park Service architects. As was common at a number of locations, the CCC cooperated with other federal agencies and programs including the Works Progress Administration.
CCC Company 1825 is commemorated on a monument located near the nature center at Robbers Cave State Park. However, their work is evident throughout the park. Among the features of Robbers Cave State Park that remain from the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps are: the park nature center; the former boathouse beneath the community building; Lake Carlton dam redesigned and rebuilt by the WPA; the park manager’s residence; the bathhouse in Old Circle Campground; nine of the park cabins; a picnic shelter south of the equestrian campground; and the Station No. 12 Engine House. Other CCC projects in the park include several low-water dams, culverts, and metal park signs (Figure 2.5 on the following page).
A.R. Reeves (1936) reported on the work of the Oklahoma State Park Commission, indicating that Robbers Cave State Park was 8,340 acres in 1936. This land included property that is now part of the state park and part of the wildlife management area. The focal message of Reeves’ report was the establishment of CCC camps at seven state parks including Robbers Cave. In that report Reeves also documented 20,216 total visitors to the park in 1936 for an average daily visitation of 70.04 persons and 14.23 vehicles between June 1 and October 31.

In his 1938 first report of the Division of State Parks, Reeves (1938) described Robbers Cave State Park as “located on a beautiful stream, Fourche Maline Creek, six miles of which traverses through Robbers Cave State Park site, wending its way through natural scenic beauty and picturesque landscapes into deep gorges, waterfalls, lofty cliffs and rugged towering bluffs.”

In a similar manner, the efforts of Carlton Weaver in association with the Boy Scouts of America and John Newell at the state penitentiary produced several structures in Group Camp 2 that resemble the CCC architecture. These structures in Group Camp 2 actually pre-date the work of the CCC and WPA. The affiliation of several of these structures to non-profit service organizations is depicted in Figure 2.6 on the following page. The date of 1931 marked in the cabin of the Boy Scouts of America clearly indicates the historic value of these structures and their presence in the establishment of Robbers Cave State Park.
In more recent years the state of Oklahoma has restructured the governmental agencies responsible for the properties associated with what are now Robbers Cave State Park (OTRD) and Robbers Cave Wildlife Management Area (ODWC). Both departments are agencies of the state of Oklahoma. These agencies manage approximately 10,000 acres along Fourche Maline Creek. Of that acreage, approximately 6,300 acres are encompassed within the wildlife management area (ODWC). The additional 3,699.58 acres are managed as Robbers Cave State Park. Property documents included in Appendix B provide details related to the ownership of the property that comprises Robbers Cave State Park.

Figure 2.7 on the following page shows the location of the wildlife management area. The body of the WMA is just east of Robbers Cave State Park which extends west of Coon Creek and encompasses Coon Creek Lake, Lake Carlton, and Lake Wayne Wallace. In addition, state Highway 2 and additional park roads are shown on Figure 2.7 as are several campgrounds and lake access locations. As will be shown in later presentation, the state park and the wildlife management area provide one large, cooperative recreation location for many visitors.

Robbers Cave State Park hosts several large events each year, attracting visitors from across the state of Oklahoma and beyond. The Fall Festival and the Bluegrass Festival have become very popular events with significant economic impact for Latimer County and the surrounding area. The history, the legends, the natural resources, and the recreational opportunities associated with Robbers Cave State Park have developed a strong connection between the local community and the park management. As a result, Robbers Cave State Park is an integral component of the recreation and tourism for the entire region.

Boy Scouts have been associated with Robbers Cave State Park, even prior to its management as a state park. In addition to the original influence at Camp Tom Hale (Group Camp 2), Eagles Nest and Bobcat Crossing campgrounds are managed for group activity, including that of Boy Scouts.
Figure 2.7 – Robbers Cave Wildlife Management Area (ODWC)
Natural Resources in the Park

Climate and Air Quality

Latimer County is part of the Hardwood Forest region of Oklahoma, in a humid subtropical climate. Average annual precipitation is 48.80 inches, although the wettest year occurred in 1973 with 78.28 inches of precipitation and the driest year occurred in 1963 with 20.74 inches. May and September are the wettest months on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall for successful vegetative growth. Average snowfall is less than six inches annually, providing snow cover on the ground for about four days each year.

Temperatures average near 62° F, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an extreme daytime high of 113° F recorded in Wilburton (September 4, 1998) to a low temperature of -16° F also in Wilburton (February 2, 1951). The county’s average growing season is 211 days, and plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional two to five weeks.

Winds from the south and east are most common. Winds from the east occur about 15% of the time, averaging nine miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average is 75%, ranging from 43% to 96% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in June and lowest in March. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 50% in winter to 75% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 55 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 – 2003, Latimer County recorded 19 tornadoes. The most recent significant tornado (F2 intensity or greater) occurred on April 25, 1994 passing near the towns of Albion and Talihina. This F2 tornado affected parts of Pushmataha, Latimer and Le Flore counties along an eight mile path. There were six injuries from this event. The most significant tornado event occurred on May 5, 1960 along a 50 mile path through Latimer, Haskell, and Sequoyah counties. That F4 tornado caused 16 deaths and 106 injuries. Latimer County typically has about two events each year of hail exceeding one inch in diameter. As information collection has improved, both the number of reported tornadoes and the number of severe hail events have increased (OK Climatological Survey).

The Pollution Information Site (Scorecard) reports that 88% of all days in Latimer County show good air quality, with the primary pollutants being nitrogen oxide emissions. Having said that, according to the Clean Air Task Force website, Latimer County is among the 40 to 50 percentile of the worst counties in the United States on the ratings of air quality (Clean Air Task Force).

Archeology of Robbers Cave State Park

While archaeological history was reported in the earlier presentation of Latimer County, an archeological survey of Robbers Cave State Park has not been completed. As documented by the Oklahoma Historical Society (Everett, 2010), “Archaeologists have identified 124 prehistoric sites in Latimer County, three of which are of the Paleo-Indian era. Fifty-three are of the Archaic period, 6000 BC to AD 1. The McCutchan-McLaughlin Site (AD 400-AD 800), or Alford Mound, near Red Oak has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 72001071). Much of the prehistoric occupation of the area took place along Fourche Maline Creek from 300 BC to around AD 800.”
The Oklahoma Archeological Survey provided additional information relevant to the area along Fourche Maline Creek.

“People have occupied this site on the banks of Fourche Maline Creek for at least 3500 years. The first major occupation was during a period in prehistory known to archeologists as the Wister phase, lasting from 1500 – 300 BC. It was a time when people hunted deer with spears, fished and collected mussels and a variety of wild plants including nuts. The second main occupation occurred during a period known as the Fourche Maline phase, a period from 300 BC to AD 800. The most heavily occupied time at the McCutchan-McLaughlin site during the Fourche Maline phase was probably from AD 400 – 800. Although the Fourche Maline phase people lived very much in the way of their Wister phase ancestors, there were two important technological changes that distinguish their time. They began to use pottery for storage and cooking and they hunted with bow and arrow.

Archeologists excavated at McCutchan-McLaughlin in 1976 and 1977 at the request of the landowner. Bank erosion was endangering the site. Artifacts and charred animal bone, seeds and nutshells revealed much about the people who lived at the site. Analysis of burials also revealed many interesting details about their lives and deaths. The nuts, seeds, tubers, fish and game available in the Fourche Maline valley provided a healthy life for the inhabitants of the area. Later groups who depended heavily on a high-starch, maize diet were subject to diseases that did not afflict the McCutchan-McLaughlin people. Likewise, the degenerative diseases like arthritis were not found as frequently here as they were among the later farming groups.

Although the McCutchan-McLaughlin people were healthy, the most common identifiable cause of death among the burials was the result of warfare. Mass burials are observed for these groups where projectile points are found in the bodies. Projectile points which caused the deaths of a single group of nine individuals, mainly women and children, were made of chert found in the Boone formation from north and east of the Arkansas River. The McCutchan McLaughlin people did not use Boone chert for the manufacture of their tools. Thus it is believed that a raiding party from the north surprised the site occupants while most of the younger adult men were away and unable to defend them, and those killed were buried together in a single grave.

McCutchan-McLaughlin has been recognized as a significant site with its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Research continues today on this fascinating site in Latimer County.”

(http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/counties/latimer.htm)
**Topography**

Robbers Cave State Park and all of Latimer County are situated in the Interior Highlands division using the Fenneman Physiography Classification (National Geographic Society). This area is further defined as being within the Ouachita province. The area in northern Latimer County that includes Robbers Cave State Park is a section of the Arkansas Valley, whereas southern Latimer County is a section of the Ouachita Mountains as classified by Fenneman physiography.

Topographically, plains, hills, floodplains, terraces, and scattered mountains are characteristic of this ecoregion. All of these features are present in Robbers Cave State Park. In addition, savannas, open woodlands, or forests are dominated or co-dominated by upland oaks, hickory and shortleaf pine. Loblolly pine is present in the county, but that species is not native to the area.

**Geology**

Northern Latimer County and Robbers Cave State Park are situated in the Arkoma Basin north of the Ouachita Uplift. The Arkoma Basin is characterized by surface rocks of the Pennsylvanian period and the Paleozoic Era.

![Geological regions in Oklahoma](image)

*Figure 2.8 – Geological regions in Oklahoma*

Source: Charpentier (2010)

Suneson (2102) described the Arkoma Basin as being caused by the collision of the North American and Gondwanan plates in the Early Mississippian and ending in the Middle Pennsylvanian. Oil and gas are present in this basin, with active leases within Robbers Cave
State Park. In his abstract to *Arkoma Basin Petroleum – Past, Present, and Future*, Suneson states:

“The Arkoma Basin is a classic peripheral foreland basin bounded on the south side by a fold-and-thrust belt – the Ouachita Mountains. Thus, the basin can be viewed as the most northern, least deformed, and youngest part of a northward-migrating foreland basin that began forming in the Early Mississippian and contains the Stanley and Jackfork Groups, Johns Valley Shale, and Atoka Formation. The three oldest of these units, and much of the youngest, are now complexly deformed and were incorporated into the also northward-advancing tectonic belt. Some petroleum reservoir types occur (or should occur) in the Arkoma Basin and the Ouachita Mountains, and others are unique (or are they?) to one or the other. Applying what we know about the different reservoir types to other areas and/or other units will form the basis for future petroleum discoveries in southeast Oklahoma.

The history of Arkoma Basin and Ouachita tectonic belt hydrocarbon exploration and development started with coal and asphaltite. Early drilling for oil and gas focused on surface anticlines. During WWII, the US and Oklahoma governments produced a number of geologic maps designed to better understand the coal and petroleum resources of southeastern Oklahoma. Subsequent deeper drilling led to a better understanding of the structural geology of the area and facies relations of the different reservoir units. Most recently, advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have turned coal and shale into viable gas (and oil) reservoirs.”

Significant detailed reports of geological testing and surveys are available in the Oklahoma State Park office for Robbers Cave State Park. These detailed reports provide documentation related to exploration and drilling at several sites within the park.

**Soil**

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

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

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.
An association is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

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

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

Eighty-five percent of Robbers Cave State Park is composed of two soils: (1) the most dominant soil association is Carnasaw-Clebit association, coded as “4” in Figure 2.9 on the following page, and (2) Carnasaw-Pirum-Clebit association, coded as “8” in Figure 2.9. Carnasaw-Clebit association is found in the hilly portions and uplands surrounding the various creeks through Robbers Cave State Park. This association presents 8 to 30% slopes and makes up 50% of the park. Similarly, Carnasaw-Pirum-Clebit association is found adjacent to the various creeks through Robbers Cave State Park. This association presents 3 to 12% slopes and makes up almost 36% of the park.

Material about soils in the study area provides background information about suitability for recreational development. Various soils present characteristics that enhance their ability to support recreational development or limit opportunities for those developments. In most cases, limitations require additional engineering or mediation to permit development. Often these limitations of soils for specific development increase the cost of the respective development.

**Soil Suitability for Recreational Development**

The dominant soils within Robbers Cave State Park show some limitation to high limitation for development as camp areas. The only soil type within the park that is not limited for campgrounds is Sallisaw loam (coded 32 in Figure 2.9). Ninety-four percent of the park is limited in some manner. Carnasaw-Clebit association (coded 4) and Carnasaw-Clebit-Pickens variant association (coded 5) are very limited for campground development due to slope, slow moving water, stones and gravel. Similarly, Ceda-Rubble land complex (coded 11), and Counts Silt loam (coded 16) are also very limited for campground development, but these limitations are associated with potential for flooding and slow water movement. Similarly, Carnasaw-Pirum-Clebit association is somewhat limited due to slow water movement and stones.

Robbers Cave State Park is much less limited for paths and trails. The greatest limitation for paths and trails is shown in Carnasaw-Clebit-Pickens variant association (coded 5) due to slopes and stones. This association is found west of Wayne Wallace Lake extending to the west side of Lake Carlton. Ceda Rubble land complex (coded 11) and Counts silt loam (coded 16) also show some limitation for paths and trails due to potential for flooding, slow water movement, and stones.
Figure 2.9 – Soil map of Robbers Cave State Park

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service
The soils within Robbers Cave State Park also present limitations for development of picnic areas, playgrounds, septic absorption fields, and sewage lagoons. These developments show very similar patterns for soils and soil associations. In all these cases, the only soils that are not limited for these developments are Sallisaw loam (coded 32). Sallisaw loam is found below the Lake Wayne Wallace dam along Fourche Maline Creek, extending along the creek and roadway, with an additional location on the shore of Lake Carlton. The most developed portions of Robbers Cave State Park are presently in these locations.
Hydrology

Latimer County straddles portions of four watersheds, two of which cross the state border between Oklahoma and Arkansas, and one which crosses into Texas. These watersheds are:

- Lower Canadian (OK) – 11090204
- Robert S. Kerr Reservoir (OK, AR) – 11110104
- Poteau (OK, AR) – 11110105
- Kiamichi (OK, TX) – 11140105

The watershed that includes Robbers Cave State Park is the Poteau (11110105). Waters in this watershed flow eastward into the Poteau River. Waters in this watershed are impaired for enterococcus bacteria and dissolved oxygen. Fourche Maline Creek is specifically identified as being impaired for dissolved oxygen.

Only Lake Wayne Wallace is presently among the lakes that are tested by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. That testing shows that Lake Wayne Wallace is classified as a mesotrophic aquatic community with high nitrogen to phosphorus ratio (16:1). As a result, the waters in this watershed are phosphorus limited.

Additionally, most waters in this portion of Oklahoma are low in pH and slightly acidic. This is likely to be a byproduct of the composition of the soil.

Waters in Lake Wayne Wallace have not been adequately tested to document a beneficial use for primary body contact recreation. Without adequate information, swimming and other primary body contact recreation may require a warning or further testing. The waters are not true color and therefore do not support aesthetic quality.

Since Lake Wayne Wallace is upstream from Lake Carlton, it is likely that the waters in Lake Carlton are similar to those in Lake Wayne Wallace. Of some additional concern is the fact that the equestrian campground, located downstream from Lake Wayne Wallace and upstream from Lake Carlton, may produce additional waste and runoff that further reduces water quality in Lake Carlton.

There are three major impoundments within Robbers Cave State Park. These include Coon Creek Lake (also identified as Fourche Maline Creek Reservoir #4), Lake Wayne Wallace, and Lake Carlton. Figure 2.12 on the following page presents photographs of these three larger impoundments as seen from the downstream side. Lake Carlton is impounded by a concrete
structure, whereas Coon Creek Lake and Lake Wayne Wallace are earthen dams. Both of these earthen dams include woody plants on the face of the impoundments.

There are several smaller impoundments throughout the park including low water dams along the major creeks. Five impoundments in Robbers Cave State Park are identified as safety risks by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The most serious of these is the dam impounding Lake Carlton.

Figures on the following pages document the dates of construction and purpose of construction for Lakes Carlton and Wayne Wallace as well as water quality for Lake Wayne Wallace.
Figure 2.13 – Lake Wayne Wallace
Source: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
## Wayne Wallace

### General
- **Sample Period**: December 2007 – August 2008
- **Location**: Latimer County
- **Impoundment**: 1969
- **Area**: 94 acres
- **Capacity**: 1,746 acre feet
- **Purposes**: Flood Control and Recreation

### Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Notes/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Turbidity</strong></td>
<td>16 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)</td>
<td>All values &lt; 25 NTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average True Color</strong></td>
<td>98 units</td>
<td>All values &gt; OKWQS of 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Secchi Disk Depth</strong></td>
<td>76 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Clarity Rating</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trophic State Index</strong></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Previous value = 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trophic Class</strong></td>
<td>mesotrophic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Profile
- **Salinity**: 0.0 – 0.02 ppt
- **Specific Conductivity**: 46 – 59.5 μS/cm
- **pH**: 6.09 – 7.11 pH units
- **Oxidation-Reduction Potential**: 437 to 542 mV
- **Dissolved Oxygen**: Up to 20% of water column, 2 mg/L in August
  - Occurred at site 1, the dam

### Nutrients
- **Surface Total Nitrogen**: 0.47 mg/L, to 0.59 mg/L
- **Surface Total Phosphorus**: 0.027 mg/L, to 0.045 mg/L
- **Nitrogen to Phosphorus Ratio**: 16:1
  - Phosphorus limited

### Beneficial Uses
- **Fish & Wildlife Propagation**: S NS S S
- **Aesthetics**: S NS
- **Agriculture**: S S S
- **Primary Body Contact Recreation**: NEI

### Notes
- Sampling and Assessment by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board - 3600 Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK, 73116 – 405.530.8600 – http://www.owrb.ok.gov

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**Figure 2.14 - BUMP report for Lake Wayne Wallace**

Source: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Figure 2.15 – Lake Carlton
Source: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Vegetative Cover
Robbers Cave State Park is in the Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest using the Kuchler Vegetation Classification. The area is in the Subtropical Steppe division and the Great Plains Steppe and Shrub province.

The Lenihan Vegetation Classification identifies these areas with slightly different descriptors. Most of Latimer County including Robbers Cave State Park is in the Southern Mixed Forest.

As an ecoregion, Latimer County is classified as part of the Arkansas Valley, characterized by scattered high ridges and mountains. A mix of oak savanna, prairie, oak-hickory-pine forest, and oak-hickory forest is native on uplands. As shown in Figure 2.17, this portion of Latimer County is classified as “oak-southern pine” forest.

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

In the 1938 first annual report for the Division of State Parks, Reeves (1938) provided an assessment and listing of plants within the newly established Robbers Cave State Park. In his listing of native plants, Reeves identified 33 trees, 15 shrubs, and five vines. These were only a portion of the total varieties that are indigenous species. The report simply listed plants without providing details of frequency or density in the environment. However, the list includes trees,
shrubs, and vines that are present in the park today. A much more up-to-date assessment of species present in Robbers Cave State Park was generated from BioBlitz! 2009.

BioBlitz! is a project of the Oklahoma Biological Survey and the University of Oklahoma. In September 2009, volunteers counted 1,156 species during a 24-hour period. The BioBlitz! volunteers were active in Robbers Cave State Park and in the Wildlife Management Area. This provided a more accurate portrait of the diversity of wildlife present in the ecosystem.

### Figure 2.18 – BioBlitz! 2009 tally

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<th>Taxa</th>
<th>Number of Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians &amp; Reptiles</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic invertebrates</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrestrial invertebrates</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungi</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Plants</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lichens</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1156</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Materials provided by Robbers Cave State Park (Appendix C) for visitors include information on various birds and mammals that may be seen during a visit to the park. Robbers Cave Wildlife Management Area identifies several game species of interest including deer, turkeys, rabbits, gray and fox squirrels, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons. Black bears are also present in Latimer County. The lakes and streams within Robbers Cave State Park are stocked by ODWC, including the trout fishery below Lake Carlton.

Online blogs and comments indicate that anglers have encountered numerous venomous snakes at Coon Creek Lake. Five venomous snakes are identified as being native to Latimer County and the surrounding area. This includes (1) copperhead, (2) timber rattlesnake, (3) western diamondback rattlesnake, (4) western pygmy rattlesnake, and (5) western cottonmouth.

### Nuisance Species

Latimer County has one “nuisance wildlife control operator” as of 2013. The Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) program was developed to provide assistance to the public to control nuisance or damage by regulated species of wildlife or feral hogs.

Feral hogs are present in Latimer County and have been observed within Robbers Cave Wildlife Management Area. The estimated feral hog density for Latimer County was moderate at 13 to 58 hogs per square mile. However, higher densities were reported for the southwestern portion of Latimer County and along the Kiamichi River south of Latimer County (Stevens, 2007).

### Endangered or Threatened Species

There are no threatened or endangered species identified on the state listing or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing for Latimer County. However, it is possible that some species may be present since they are listed in adjoining counties. This includes the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), the American Burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the Leopard darter (*Percina panterina*), the Winged mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*), the Scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), the Ouachita Rock pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*), and the Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*).
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 the consideration of access in Robbers Cave State Park. The minimum requirements found in the NPRM for outdoor developed areas are based on several principles developed through the regulatory negotiating process. They include (U.S. Access Board, 2009):

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

Most of the trails within Robbers Cave State Park are natural surfaces, although hard surface sidewalks have been installed in some 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 2.19. 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).

OTRD began development of the properties at Robbers Cave 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. However, the number of designated accessible campsites and parking spaces in several locations are inadequate. In other settings, the restrooms are not accessible. At the time of preparation of the 2014 RMP, the playgroups within the group camps at Robbers Cave State Park were of earlier installation dates and were not in compliance with accessibility standards or Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines. By 2016, a contract had been awarded to replace the playgroups at the two group camps and the playgroup northeast of the swimming pool. Construction on these should begin in fall 2016. By contrast, the playgroups in the Lake Carlton area and in the cabin
area are fully compliant with accessibility and safety standards. The existing trails in these properties are not currently accessible trails, and such modification may not be desirable. The natural terrain varies considerably and is quite rocky; in addition, the environment includes vulnerable species. Thus, ADAAG-defined accessibility to every area of the park is not practical, nor necessarily desirable.

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

An example of this rule-making and interpretation took effect March 15, 2011 under the Department of Justice ruling that specified “other power-driven mobility devices” (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by individuals with mobility limitations. At present, the expectation is that the operating entity (OTRD) shall “make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of OPDMD cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted based on actual risks” (American Trails, 2011).
Figure 2.20 – Walkers in First Day hike campaign
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

As one of the original Oklahoma State Parks and one of the larger state park properties, Robbers Cave State Park is a historic, cultural, economic, natural, and recreational resource. The physical development of Robbers Cave State Park began in the 1930s through the dedication of and donation by Carlton Weaver. With the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps company in the early 1930s and the transfer of the park to the state of Oklahoma, Robbers Cave State Park became and has continued as an important resource for the people of Oklahoma.

The map on the following page, Figure 3.2, provides an overview of the features of Robbers Cave State Park. The park boundaries include 3,699.58 acres of land owned by Oklahoma State Parks. The property encompasses campgrounds, cabins, lodge, day use areas, three recreational lakes and multiple streams, lake access areas, trails, and other facilities. These facilities are detailed in the following discussion. For ease of presentation, the discussion and presentation begins at the southern entrance to the property comprising Robbers Cave State Park and proceeds north along State Highway 2 through the property.

For all visitors entering Robbers Cave State Park by automobile, the only highway access route is along State Highway 2 between Wilburton and Quinton. Multiple county roads and lesser routes intersect State Highway 2 at various locations north and south of the park. A park road parallels S.H. 2 and provides easier access to several of the park locations on the west side of S.H. 2.

Figure 3.1 – Entry signs on State Highway 2
Top photo: South entry                   Lower photo: north entry
Figure 3.2a – Map of Robbers Cave State Park
State Highway 2 and Environs

Traffic along State Highway 2 from Wilburton leaves the community through a commercially developed area and passes through rural agricultural development before beginning a slight rise. As S.H. 2 enters the south boundary of Robbers Cave State Park (Figure 3.3), visitors enter the typical oak-hickory-pine forest common to this portion of Latimer County. The surrounding environment remains forested with occasional openings as the roadway passes through the park. Since S.H. 2 passes through Robbers Cave State Park, every traveler on the roadway is technically a park visitor. Each traveler has the opportunity to enjoy the park environment for approximately two miles as S.H. 2 angles slightly to the northeast.

Numerous park roads intersect S.H. 2 and extend east or west into the park proper. As a result, S.H. 2 is the “spine” for the transportation route through Robbers Cave State Park.

Visitors traveling north on S.H. 2 will notice several broad parking lanes on the west side of the roadway. These parking areas allow individuals in vehicles to park and view Fourche Maline Creek below. Occasionally anglers also park in these areas to walk down to the creek.

Schwinkendorff Property

On the west side of S.H. 2, about a quarter mile south of the entry sign at the south boundary of Robbers Cave State Park, there is a piece of property that was donated to Oklahoma State Parks by Thelma Schwinkendorff (Figure 3.4 on the following page). The donation is commemorated with a granite marker as shown in Figure 3.4, specifically identifying the gift and the property with Robbers Cave State Park. The total donation of property was approximately 155 acres including property on both sides of S.H. 2.

A small house is situated facing the roadway with construction similar to that found in many buildings within Robbers Cave State Park. As a result, the structure of the house is quite fitting within this environment.

Near the house, there is an outbuilding of little value or significance. This outbuilding has several features that indicate it may have been a chicken house. In its present condition, this outbuilding is a visual detraction from the appearance of the property.
The physical condition of the house is such that it will require a major investment to renovate the property into a usable structure. Windows and frames show evidence of decay. Posts on the front porch show similar damage from moisture and weathering.

The location of the property offers a prime value at the southern access to Robbers Cave State Park and presents a number of options for consideration. While the location is somewhat separate from the heart of the park, it may offer potential for a visitor center along the main access route into Robbers Cave State Park. However, during preparation of the RMP, the structure was being renovated to become a rental cabin.

**ATV Area**

Following submission of the 2014 RMP, a portion of the Schwinkendorff property to the east of State Highway 2 was developed as an area for all-terrain-vehicles (ATV). Entrance to this area is along the east side of S.H. 2 and leads to a newly constructed, gravel parking lot. While the ATV area is primarily on the donated property, it does extend into the area of Robbers Cave State Park to the south of Hackney Hill Road.

A self-pay “iron ranger” (Figure 3.5 on the following page) has been installed in the ATV Area to permit voluntary collection of fees. A federal Recreational Trails Program grant was approved in 2016 to enable construction of an RV campground in this area.

This ATV area was opened in February 2016.
Figure 3.5 – Newly developed ATV area
Hackney Hill Road

Along the east side of S.H. 2, the next intersection encountered by visitors is a roadway leading uphill to the east. Hackney Hill Road (N.W. 136th Road) is a two lane gravel road leading through the park property to areas further east. Along Hackney Hill Road, a pump house for the rural water district (Figure 3.6) and an oil lease road (Figure 3.4) are the only anomalies. The oil lease road is gated, although it does not appear that the gate has been used recently.

Coon Creek Lake

Returning to S.H. 2 and turning right (north), the next intersection leads a visitor to Coon Creek Lake. In contrast to Hackney Hill Road, the entry to Coon Creek Lake is clearly marked with state park signage (Figure 3.7 on the following page), identifying the area for “day use only.” Multiple yellow placards highlight the fact that the state park is also a game refuge. The entry road is gated, although the gate has been damaged making it unusable at the time of preparation of the RMP.

The gravel entry road extends uphill and then flattens for a short distance, before again rising abruptly toward the lake. The impoundment of Coon Creek is on the right hand side (south) for a visitor entering the area. This impoundment was displayed in Figure 2.12 and has a number of woody plants growing on the downstream side of the dam.

A monument has been placed along the entry road identifying features of Coon Creek Lake. The lake is also identified as Fourche Maline Reservoir #4 and was authorized under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Coon Creek Lake has a recreational pool of 262 acre feet with a total capacity of 2,636 acre feet. The dam is 82 feet high.

A roadway, visible in Figure 3.7, extends along the north side of the lake leading to a boat ramp. The ramp and lake can accommodate small boats. There is evidence in online reviews of the high quality fishery provided by Coon Creek Lake, with at least two notations of the lake being the second best bass fishery in Oklahoma.
Figure 3.7 – Coon Creek Lake

Top left and right: access road with sign
Right: Monument
Above: lake view and regulations
Main Entrance

Returning to S.H. 2, a right hand turn to the north leads directly to the main entrance to Robbers Cave State Park. The intersection at this location has park roads leading east into the campgrounds, cabin area, and lodge area (Park Cabins Road) with a park road leading west into the Lake Carlton area (Figure 3.8). State Highway 2 traffic does not stop at this intersection, although accommodation has been made with a turning lane for traffic heading north and turning into the Lake Carlton area.

The intersection at this location can be quite busy with multiple signs describing various locations and directions. The dominant sign is shown in Figure 3.8 below directing visitors to the various major features in Robbers Cave State Park: the cabins, lodge, RV camping in each direction, café, equestrian area, and group camps.

For ease in describing the various park features accessed from this location, a right hand turn (eastward) onto Park Cabins Road leads a visitor up a hill into a well-developed area of the park. Near this roadway leading into a busy portion of Robbers Cave State Park there are two other features. A short spur leads to a gas pipeline feature (Figure 3.9) located just south of Park Cabins Road. Between these two features, a foot trail (Figure 3.9) leads from the developed portion of the park west to Lake Carlton and east to the campgrounds and cabins east of S.H. 2.
Horseshoe Bend Campground and Park Residence

Park Cabins Road winds uphill from S.H. 2 into one of the more densely developed portions of Robbers Cave State Park. The environment is heavily wooded with a mixture of pines and hardwoods. The roadway makes a horseshoe turn a short distance up the hill. On the inside of the horseshoe curve there is an unimproved campground. The campsites in this area are somewhat undefined although there are grills and fire rings distributed throughout the area (Figure 3.10) indicating seven campsites. A few locations also have lantern hangers.

Parking access for the various campsites has worn vehicle tracks in the natural surface. These campsites have developed based upon the preference of park visitors.

![Figure 3.10 – Horseshoe Bend Campground](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Horseshoe Bend campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Connections to longer trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing pier</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About a hundred yards further along Park Cabins Road, there is a park residence and a small building, now used as a Guest House associated with the park residence. The residence is visible from the roadway, but fits quite naturally into the setting. This residence and associated outbuildings (Figure 3.11 on the following page) were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and retain the characteristics of rustic park architecture. While it is apparent that the carport and other minor modifications have been added, the setting and the architecture are symbolic of Robbers Cave State Park and New Deal-era features.
Bobcat Crossing Campground

Park Cabins Road continues to wind uphill as it passes through the wooded environment. At the next curve, a parking lot on the outside of the turn and signs mark Bobcat Crossing Campground (Figure 3.12). Bobcat Crossing Campground is similar to Horseshoe Bend Campground in that the sites are limited in design. Lantern posts, moveable picnic tables, grills or fire rings define four sites. The major difference between the two campgrounds is that a parking lot, circled by a split rail fence, identifies an area for campers to park and walk to their respective campsites. However, it is common to see vehicles parked throughout the campground.

Figure 3.12 – Bobcat Crossing Campground
Left and right: signage
Middle: typical campsite
Bottom: parking area
**Table 3.2 – Campground Detail for Bobcat Crossing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Bobcat Crossing campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 50)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Connections to longer trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing pier</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Whispering Pines Campground**

A much more developed campground is located at the next curve. Whispering Pines Campground includes modern and semi-modern campsites with well-defined and landscaped areas. The layout of the campground is shown in Figure 3.14 on the following page. Sites 1 through 17 are included in Whispering Pines, of which 12 sites are modern and 5 sites are semi-modern.

Whispering Pines Campground included a campground host during preparation of the RMP. In addition, the campground showed frequent occupancy. Amenities in the campground are shown in Figure 3.15 on a later page.
Figure 3.14 – Whispering Pines and Old Circle Campgrounds
The amenities associated with Whispering Pines Campground include an accessible comfort station, a picnic pavilion, and horseshoe pits (Figure 3.15). In addition, trails radiate from the campground heading toward Lake Carlton on the south and to the Coon Ridge Trail on the north.

### Table 3.3 – Campground Detail for Whispering Pines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Whispering Pines campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 50)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>2 trailheads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Old Circle Campground

As shown on the map in Figure 3.14, Whispering Pines Campground adjoins Old Circle Campground. The two campgrounds are separated by a short distance, but they have distinctly different “personalities.” Old Circle Campground was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and retains many of the characteristics of that architecture, including the comfort station within the campground.

Old Circle Campground is an elongated oval with 24 campsites of which 8 are modern and 16 are semi-modern. These sites vary in size and configuration, including some that are pull-through in design while others are back-in sites (Figure 3.16). Comments in blogs and reviews by campers indicate that some of these sites are too small for contemporary camping units and that turns within the campground are difficult to negotiate.
The comfort station in Old Circle Campground (Figure 3.17 below) was constructed by the CCC and is located in the center of the elongated oval. Trails radiate from several locations in the campground to permit foot traffic to the restroom. A road also provides vehicular access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Old Circle campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>1 (trail to Lake Carlton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.16 – Old Circle Campground

Figure 3.17 – CCC era comfort station in Old Circle
In addition to the camping facilities, Old Circle Campground includes a sanitary dump station (Figure 3.18) that serves the camping complex. The two-cell sewage lagoon shown in Figure 3.18 is slightly lower than Old Circle Campground and just north of the campsites. While visible from the campground area, the lagoons are fenced and marked appropriately.

Cabin Area

The cabins at Robbers Cave State Park are located at the next higher elevation above Old Circle Campground. The cabin area is accessible by road directly along the signed route from the Robbers Cave cabin office. These cabins are also part of the CCC heritage at Robbers Cave State Park. While cabin 106 burned and has been rebuilt, the other cabins numbered 101 to 110 remain from the original CCC construction. These cabins have been modified for safety and visitor amenities, but retain their original frames. Sixteen other cabins have been constructed giving park visitors the option of single cabins or duplex cabins with seven two-bedroom units.

The cabin area (Figure 3.20 on the following page) has been developed in a line extending southwest to northeast along a ridge overlooking Coon Creek Lake. Road access passes along this line with two loops leading to cabins more distant from the main roadway. Figure 3.19 shows the directional relationship between the cabins and Belle Starr View Lodge.

An accessible and modern playgroup (Figure 3.20) is located near the northern end of the cabin area. Adjacent to the playgroup there is a waste collection site. A foot trail also leads from this area toward Old Circle Campground and on to Lake Carlton.

Figure 3.18 – Waste management facilities
Above: sanitary dump
Left: lagoons

Figure 3.19 – Directional sign to cabin area
Belle Starr View Lodge

Along the same ridge on which the cabins were constructed, Belle Starr View Lodge provides hotel style lodging and a great room. The lodge includes 20 rooms and a great room that serves as a good location for groups to gather. Each of the rooms includes two double beds and other amenities; as a result the lodge accommodates about 80 people. The lodge is designed with the Butterfield Room in the center and two wings of rooms extending from the central great room (Figure 3.21).

Belle Starr View Lodge is ADA compliant, fully accessible for persons with mobility limitations. The lodge does not include food service, but does include some vending services. A large parking lot at the front of the lodge provides essential support for visitors with vehicles.

The hotel-style design of Belle Starr View Lodge has room access from the front and rear of each room directly to the outside (Figure 3.22 on the following page).

Walkways along the front of the building provide accessible routes to each room. The rear of each room opens to a private patio with a larger central patio from the Butterfield Room (Figure 3.23). The view from the lodge across the ridge, Coon Creek Lake and the valley is impressive.
Coon Creek Ridge Trail is accessible from the parking lot outside Belle Starr View Lodge as shown in Figure 3.24. This trail traverses the wooded environment before linking with the longer portions of the trail.

Guests at Belle Starr View Lodge may also utilize the playgroup associated with the cabin area.
That location is a short walk from the parking lot at the lodge.

A small storage building is adjacent to the parking lot and near the trailhead. Other essential support facilities are also a short distance from the lodge, but are less visible. This includes the water and waste treatment area.

A park store and the cabin office are among the various visitor amenities that are more visible to the public.

**Robbers Cave Store and Cabin Office**

The Robbers Cave store and cabin office (Figure 3.26 on the following page) is located along Park Cabins Road near the comfort station in Whispering Pines Campground. As with other park buildings, the architecture for the store fits well within Robbers Cave State Park. Vending, ice, and compressed air are available for park visitors in an open shelter. Bicycle rentals are also available at the store. The rear of the office includes a storage barn and parking for staff. The building appears that it has also served as a residence in the past.

Belle Starr View Lodge and the cabins are further uphill from the store. However, the location of the store and cabin office provides convenience for guests at the lodge, in the cabins, and in the three campgrounds in this area. Figure 3.25 below shows the signage that directs visitors into the cabin area or into the camping area that includes Whispering Pines and Old Circle.
Figure 3.26 – Robbers Cave State Park Store

Figure 3.27 – Waste & water treatment
Water and Waste Treatment Area

Figure 3.27 on the previous page shows the water and waste treatment facilities that serve a large portion of Robbers Cave State Park. Although the water and waste treatment facilities are just north of Belle Starr View Lodge, the road leading to those facilities is near the intersection with Park Cabins Road leading directly into the cabin area. This road (Figure 3.27) is gated and marked for authorized personnel only. The road leads first to a two-cell stabilization pond (sewage lagoon shown in Figure 3.27). Further along this road is the water treatment and water storage facilities also shown in Figure 3.27. These facilities are fenced, gated, and appropriately signed for no trespassing.

The water treatment facility is no longer in operation, since potable water in Robbers Cave State Park is purchased and distributed from a rural water district. However, the water storage tank is still used to service this area of the park. It is supplied from the water district rather than from the former treatment plant.

Lake Carlton Area

Returning to the main entrance for Robbers Cave State Park on S.H. 2, the area on the west side of the highway is the central activity area within the park. The Lake Carlton Area is a meadow surrounded by trees with occasional development within the meadow. The Lake Carlton Area extends from S.H. 2 down to the shores of Lake Carlton and from a ravine on the south edge of the meadow to Fourche Maline Creek on the north. Development within this area has occurred in “nodes” defining activities and traffic patterns. Carlton Loop circles the meadow with a park road parallel to S.H. 2 that permits slower rates of speed, a distinctly “park” experience, and dispersion of traffic to the various activity locations in Robbers Cave State Park.

Upon entry into the Lake Carlton area a visitor will pass an attractive kiosk (Figure 3.28). The west face of the kiosk provides interpretive panels and information pamphlets for visitors.
Immediately west of the kiosk and behind a visitor who may read the interpretive panels is the gravesite for Carlton Weaver (Figure 3.29). A monument documents the important role he played in the history of Robbers Cave State Park. While it is somewhat unusual to have a gravesite within a state park, there are several cemeteries within other Oklahoma state parks. The commemoration of an individual in this setting is appropriately incorporated into the main portion of the park and in compliance with the request of Carlton Weaver.

Carlton Loop extends west from Park Road toward Lake Carlton. A wood-frame building (Figure 3.30) and a restroom are adjacent to Carlton Loop and the larger parking areas in the Lake Carlton area. The wood-frame building has had various uses over the years. At one time this building was the Naturalist’s office, prior to the renovation of the current Nature Center. At another time, this building was utilized as a concession stand. Currently it is a rental cabin called the “Fisherman’s Hut.” This cabin does not have a bathroom with tub or shower, although it does have a toilet and lavatory. The adjacent restroom is frequently utilized by those who rent the Fisherman’s Hut.
The southwest quadrant of the Lake Carlton meadow includes several important activity features in Robbers Cave State Park (Figure 3.31). The miniature golf and boat rentals were concessioned services at the time of the 2014 RMP. However, contracts for these operations were not renewed and the miniature golf and boat rentals are now park operations. In addition, the playgroup and the beach are park operations. These activity areas concentrate specific recreation visitation near Lake Carlton. Disc golf and horseshoe pits are also included on-site.

In this same area, the Robbers Cave State Park community building is a remnant of the CCC structures. As shown in Figure 3.32 on the following page, the main floor of the community building is more modern construction, above the remaining structure from the CCC. This structure once served as the boathouse for the park and the three bays are visible on the lower rear level. The lake frontage permits visitors to walk along the lake. As shown in Figure 3.32, the boat rental concession is seen to the rear of the community building. A seasonal restaurant is also available in this area.
Continuing north from the beach, the next major development is an amphitheater, constructed during the 1970s (Figure 3.33). This amphitheater shows rear entries constructed of native stone with concave seating facing the stage. The view behind the amphitheater includes Lake Carlton and the hillside on the far shore.

Wooden benches provide the seating, but these benches show considerable weathering. The deterioration of the wood presents potential for “slivers” and other hazards for visitors.
One of the several CCC structures in Robbers Cave State Park is slightly to the rear of the amphitheater. This CCC building now serves as the nature center, heritage center, and gift shop (Figure 3.34). In his 1938 report of state parks, Reeves commented on the beauty of this structure which served as the bath house in its original design. Presently, the gift shop is situated in the center of the building with the nature center and the heritage center in the two wings.

Interpretive displays (Figure 3.35) include static, living and interactive techniques to enhance the experience of visitors. These displays include living history, cultural history, and natural history of the area.
Additional interpretive information is provided outside the nature center as shown in Figure 3.36. These displays are adjacent to the monument to the Civilian Conservation Corps and further explain their role in the development of Robbers Cave State Park.

A newer bathhouse and swimming pool are located in the center of the Carlton Loop as shown in Figure 3.36. This swimming pool is managed as a concession, but provides recreational options for those people desiring to swim. The pool includes slides and is designed as a recreational pool. In 2015 following the initial RMP, the pool received significant renovation. Several water features to enhance the recreation experience were added and a “splash pad” was incorporated into the pool deck. Entry to the pool is gained through adjoining shower rooms which have been modified to permit compliance for accessibility. These shower areas also include restrooms, intended primarily for those using the swimming pool. Additional restrooms are located at the nature center. The necessary hydraulics and chemicals are housed on a lower level at the rear of the swimming pool (Figure 3.37). While this area is visible for persons walking back to the parking lot from the beach area, it is generally out of the public view. Proper signs are in place and the door is locked limiting access to the potentially hazardous materials stored in this area.
There are two picnic shelters located within the Carlton Loop. Shelter #2 is beside the swimming pool and Shelter #6 is situated between Shelter #2 and the amphitheater. Shelter #2 serves as the headquarters for the Fall Festival (Figure 3.38) and is slightly smaller than Shelter #6. Although the intent of the design is for people to walk to the structures, it is common to see visitors drive right to the individual shelter. As with other picnic pavilions in Robbers Cave State Park, these shelters can be reserved.

Along the upper reaches of Lake Carlton and northwest of these two pavilions, the Fourche Maline Outdoor Classroom (Figure 3.39) provides an outstanding opportunity to link recreation, interpretation, and education. This classroom is based on the stream, lake, and wetlands environment with a boardwalk leading to a gazebo. Trails extend further into the wooded wetlands beyond these structures. The park naturalist and other educators utilize the outdoor classroom, while visitors can also enjoy the facility on their own.
Figure 3.40 depicts the quiet, pastoral beauty of the Lake Carlton area. Much of the central portion of the Carlton Loop is a meadow surrounded by trees, picnic tables, activity areas, and buildings. During Fall Festival in October, this area takes on a very different appearance (Figure 3.41 on the following page) as it does for other special events. The Lake Carlton area is extremely popular with the visiting public and becomes a central focus for many activities for visitors at Robbers Cave State Park.
Figure 3.41 – Robbers Cave State Park during Fall Festival
**Dogwood Campground**

At the main entrance into the Lake Carlton area, a sign directs campers to four tent campgrounds south of the Lake Carlton public area (Figure 3.42). The furthest south of these campgrounds is Dogwood.

Dogwood Campground is located along the banks of Fourche Maline Creek. The park road leading into Dogwood and Younger’s Bend Campground, just to the north, was under construction at the time of the preparation of the RMP. As a result the south gate exiting from Dogwood was open during this period. S.H. 2 is located at an elevation above and east of Dogwood Campground.

Dogwood Campground is a preferred location for anglers along the trout fishery of Fourche Maline Creek.

**Table 3.5 – Campground Detail for Dogwood**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Dogwood campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>9 sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.42 – Camping south of Lake Carlton area*

*Figure 3.43 – Dogwood Campground*
Younger’s Bend Campground

Immediately north of Dogwood campground along Fourche Maline Creek, there is a second unimproved campground. Younger’s Bend campground offers ten unimproved sites (Figure 3.42). No restroom facilities are associated with either Dogwood campground or Younger’s Bend campground: the closest comfort station is to the north in Deep Ford campground.

Roadways and sites within these two campgrounds are natural surfaces, with occasional gravel for some of the roadway. Sites are somewhat identifiable due to the placement of tables, fire ring or grill, a concrete slab, and an occasional lantern hanger.

Both campgrounds are subject to highway noise from traffic along S.H. 2 above and east of the campgrounds. However, these campgrounds are preferred by many visitors, including day visitors, who use this area for access to Fourche Maline Creek.

Table 3.6 – Campground Detail for Younger’s Bend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Younger’s Bend campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.44 – Younger’s Bend campground
Deep Ford Campground

The road south from the Lake Carlton area is named Deep Ford Road and leads to Deep Ford Campground. This campground is adjacent to Fourche Maline Creek below the impoundment. The impounded Fourche Maline Creek is a major feature for Deep Ford Campground (Figure 3.46). The creek is a designated ODWC trout fishery. The creek is also a recreational attraction as shown by the rope swing in Figure 3.46.

An older, non-accessible restroom provides basic hygiene support for Deep Ford Campground. The sites are aligned along a spur between Fourche Maline Creek and Deep Ford Road. While there are two semi-modern sites in Deep Ford Campground, the remaining sites are not improved. Water spigots are distributed throughout the campground with many identified by markers from the CCC-era.
Table 3.7 – Campground Detail for Deep Ford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Deep Ford campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Walkways along the creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing pier</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1 (not-accessible)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North of Deep Ford Campground along Deep Ford Road, there is a boat ramp and small parking lot to allow visitors to access Lake Carlton. The boat ramp is situated just upstream of the dam and includes signage related to lake regulations.

A roadway leads south from the boat ramp area along Fourche Maline Creek toward Deep Ford Campground. There are a few picnic tables adjacent to this short drive, but the creek and the few amenities serve to attract and support recreational activity at this location.

Figure 3.47 – Lake Carlton dam area
Lake Carlton Campground

Immediately south of the development around Carlton Loop, a cove and wetlands area limits further buildings. However, Lake Carlton Campground is situated on the south side of that cove. Lake Carlton Campground is properly accessed along Deep Ford Road, but visitors have created their own drives across the grassy area around the cove.

Lake Carlton Campground features several elements from the CCC including an entry arch sign, water spigots with specialized metal signs, and other features in the layout of the area. The campground is shaded with somewhat undefined campsites. One site is semi-modern while the remaining sites are unimproved. Pavilion #1 supplements the campground (Figure 3.48) and offers an attractive setting with Lake Carlton in the background.
Table 3.8 – Campground Detail for Lake Carlton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Lake Carlton campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 50)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Foot paths along the lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing pier</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>Adjacent area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance Area

Park Road extends north from the Lake Carlton area and Carlton Loop parallel to Highway 2, but at a lower elevation. Park Road intersects with the exit road from the Equestrian Campground. At that location a secondary road leads across Fourche Maline Creek into an area for authorized personnel only (Figure 3.49). This area includes a park residence and the maintenance yard in a wooded and visually sheltered setting.
The maintenance road leads through the work area to a five-cell stabilization pond (waste management lagoon) to the southwest of the area. This lagoon is out of sight for most visitors to the park and is accessible only through the maintenance yard.

To the north of this area are clearings in the forest canopy that permit space for storage and dumping of items of limited use or outdated purpose from within the park. At one time, an incinerator from the New Deal-era agencies was operated at Robbers Cave State Park. Remnants of that incinerator are also present.

Most notably there are large mounds of trash bags (Figure 3.50) mixed with straw, hay, and other items. These trash bags contain horse manure bagged and removed from the equestrian campground. Many of the bags have been broken open. Animals and insects are active in the area. The entire space is within the immediate watershed for Fourche Maline Creek and all runoff from this area flows directly into Lake Carlton.

Figure 3.50 – Storage of equestrian waste
Near the intersection of Park Road and the exit from the Equestrian Campground, there are several reminders of the CCC heritage present at Robbers Cave State Park. The most apparent of these structures is Pavilion 3 (Figure 3.51) located along Park Road in a shaded grove. This structure features many of the architectural components common to CCC-construction. In addition to the main pavilion, the structure includes a patio and rock picnic table as shown in Figure 3.51.

Additional CCC-structures in this general vicinity include the culvert and dam along the roadway leading into the maintenance yard.

Pavilion #4 is located just north of Pavilion #3 along Park Road; however, Pavilion #4 is a more modern structure adjacent to the Equestrian Campground and an artesian well (Figure 3.52). Pavilion #4 is supported with a hard-surfaced parking area adjacent to Park Road.
Equestrian Campground

The Equestrian Campground is clearly visible from Pavilion #4 as a rustic, split-rail fence defines and separates the campground from the picnic and day use area. Entry along a one-way road from Park Road provides access into the Equestrian Campground. The actual campground includes a loop on the north end and the one-way route through the area exiting near Pavilion #3 on the south.

There are 50 campsites within the Equestrian Campground of which two are modern sites and 43 are semi-modern, with five unimproved sites. However, the campsite design offers unique options for campers. In addition to pull-through and back-in designs and accessible sites, the campground offers single, double, and triple campsites (Figure 3.53). The Equestrian Campground also offers a variety of flexible corrals, hitching posts, and other tie-down options for horses.

Figure 3.54 on the following page shows a map of the Equestrian Campground with detail related to arrangement and design of the various campsites. Upon entry into the campground, signs inform visitors that a current negative Coggins test is required for all horses brought into the area.

In addition to the features related to the layout, configuration, and design of the campground, multiple amenities are provided for the visitors. These include two comfort stations, one located at the north end of the campground and a larger second comfort station near the middle of the one-way route through the campground. An accessible and safety compliant playgroup has been installed near this second comfort station. Fire rings and grills are located throughout the campground in association with the individual sites. Finally, there is a sanitary dump station at the southern exit from the one-way route through the Equestrian Campground.
Figure 3.54 – Map of the Equestrian campground
Figure 3.55 – Amenities in the Equestrian campground
Table 3.9 – Campground Detail for Equestrian Campground

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Equestrian campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 50)</td>
<td>Pavilion #3 and #4 adjacent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>Connectors to larger system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing pier</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary dump station</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ash Creek Road area

Park Road continues northward from the Equestrian Campground parallel to S.H. 2 and Fourche Maline Creek. About one-eighth of a mile north of the Equestrian Campground, Park Road intersects with Ash Creek Road. Ash Creek Road originates at S.H. 2 and extends northwest toward the James Collins Wildlife Management Area beyond the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park. Traffic on Ash Creek Road must stop at the intersection with S.H. 2. In addition, the intersection of Ash Creek Road and Park Road is a four-way stop.

Park development along Ash Creek Road includes the Robbers Cave Stables and the Lake Wayne Wallace area. Additional side roads along Ash Creek Road within the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park lead to oil and gas leases (Figure 3.57) or other infrastructure. Most of these roads are gated and quite rough. Signs designating the lease also mark the access roads. Equestrian trails also intersect Ash Creek Road.
Robbers Cave Stables

Less than a quarter mile northwest on Ash Creek Road from the intersection with Park Road, a visitor would come to the Robbers Cave Stables (www.RobbersCaveStables.com). The stables are a concession operated within Robbers Cave State Park. The access road leading uphill toward the stables is NW 158th Avenue. The Robbers Cave Stables (Figure 3.58) are located at the top of a hill above Ash Creek Road and are not easily visible from the roadway. The signs at this location are quite limited and the roadway is similar to that for some of the oil and gas leases.

![Figure 3.58 – Robbers Cave Stables](image)

Lake Wayne Wallace

Lake Wayne Wallace is situated on the southwest side of Ash Creek Road. This impoundment is part of the Fourche Maline Creek Watershed Project as discussed earlier. From a recreational perspective, there are three locations associated with Lake Wayne Wallace that are accessible for most visitors. The area below the dam offers some hiking and day use opportunities. Lake Wayne Wallace campground is located along the northeast shore of the lake, while Eagles Nest campground is further up the lake near the northern limits of the impoundment.

Additional recreational use around Lake Wayne Wallace includes the equestrian and hiking trails located along the western hillside and below the dam. Lake Wayne Wallace is limited in boating activity, although small boats can be launched from the boat ramp in Lake Wayne Wallace campground.

![Figure 3.59 – Monument at Lake Wayne Wallace](image)
Figure 3.60 documents the view of the area below Lake Wayne Wallace dam. The roadway from Ash Creek Road extends downhill and passes on the downstream side of the dam. The area near the intersection is used for overflow parking for special events such as Fall Festival, although the area is quite soft when wet. In addition, the view below the dam is less than attractive and reveals woody plants growing on the face of the dam.

Ash Creek Road continues to the west. The Frank Glenn Bridge crosses Fourche Maline Creek and provides aesthetically pleasing views across the lake and up the valley to the north. Just northwest of the Frank Glenn Bridge, a natural-surfaced road leads down to the Lake Wayne Wallace campground.

Lake Wayne Wallace campground offers six unimproved campsites, although these sites are not well defined. The boat ramp within the campground permits launching of small watercraft and the lake is limited to idle speed only. The position of the entry signs restricts the view of lake information.
Table 3.10 – Campground Detail for Lake Wayne Wallace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Lake Wayne Wallace campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>6 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat ramp</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>In the lake area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eagles Nest Campground

Continuing to the northwest, Ash Creek Road crosses a second creek as it parallels the north shore of Lake Wayne Wallace. Roads to oil and gas leases are evident along the north side of the road, while another road leads into Eagles Nest Campground. The road leading into Eagles Nest Campground is properly signed and gated (Figure 3.62). The area is unimproved other than placement of several picnic tables, fire rings, and lantern stakes. Campsites are somewhat undefined with use intended for groups such as Boy Scouts. At the time of preparation of the RMP, a shrine (Figure 3.62) had been constructed within the campground.

Table 3.11 – Campground Detail for Eagles Nest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Eagles Nest campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>9 sites for group use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail</td>
<td>In the lake area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To the northwest of Eagles Nest Campground, Ash Creek Road exits the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park at NW 1030th Avenue.
Group Camp 1

Returning to the intersection of Ash Creek Road and Park Road, Park Road (NW 1026th Avenue) continues northward within Robbers Cave State Park. The first turn to the north of this intersection is NW 1021st Avenue, marked as a private drive. However, that roadway enters Group Camp 1. The official public entry into Group Camp 1 is a short distance further along on Park Road.

Group Camp 1 was the site of Civilian Conservation Corps Company No. 1825. As a result, many of the buildings and the property retain the features of that historic involvement. The community building in Group Camp 1 was the company’s mess hall; a pavilion, the flag pole, a rock council ring, and several storage buildings also remain from this era.

Group Camp 1 includes 12 bunkhouses with 16 beds and a larger bunkhouse of 56 beds for a total of 250 occupants with additional beds in other cabins for a capacity of 274. In addition, the camp has a community building incorporating a dining hall, a fully-equipped kitchen, and sleeping quarters for a cook. Several of these lodging facilities and support buildings are shown in Figure 3.64. Additional amenities that enhance Group Camp 1 are shown in Figure 3.65 on the following page. These include a tabernacle, a separate shelter, and recreational facilities. An older playgroup within the camp is not compliant with current safety standards, but is scheduled for replacement. A basketball court and sand volleyball court add activity space for camp occupants.

Figure 3.64 – Lodging, cabins, kitchen, and dining areas in Group Camp 1
The council ring in Figure 3.65 is a CCC-era installation. Much newer installations in Group Camp 1 include ten campsites with electricity as shown in Figure 3.65. During preparation of the RMP, one building in Group Camp 1 was utilized as a park residence.
Group Camp 2

Group Camp 2 is located approximately one-half mile further north of Group Camp 1 on Park Road. Group Camp 2 is actually older than Group Camp 1 having been constructed originally as Tom Hale Boy Scout Camp. The community building and most of the cabins were constructed in 1931 or shortly after that time. The structures bear the names and logos of various organizations that worked with Carlton Weaver and represented interests in youth development from the surrounding area. This Group Camp was the site of intriguing research into group conflict as conducted by Sherif and others (Sherif, et al. 1961).

Group Camp 2 has seven bunkhouses, two duplex cabins, a director’s cabin, and a total occupancy of 250 persons. As with Group Camp 1, Group Camp 2 also includes a community center incorporating a dining hall, fully-equipped kitchen, and sleeping quarters for a cook.

Group Camp 2 is accessed by road from the intersection of Park Road and the route leading to Robbers Cave. Entry into Group Camp 2 is a slight uphill drive past a gated entry (Figure 3.66) leading to a secluded camp location.

There is a sense of seclusion and separation from the rest of the park in this location. The gate can be closed for additional security.

Once within Group Camp 2, the area is designed as a loop with many of the older structures around and within the main loop. Newer structures are located at the south end of the camp grounds. Figure 3.67 on the following page shows several of these structures from the various eras. The newer restroom and cabins are located south of the community building, while the older cabins are to the north. Additionally, there is a tabernacle and five RV campsites with electricity.

Additional amenities associated with Group Camp 2 are shown in Figure 3.68. These amenities include a second restroom and a lagoon for waste management. Additional play features are distributed throughout the camp area, but these features are not in compliance with current safety and accessibility standards but are scheduled for replacement in fall 2016.
Figure 3.67 – Lodging, cabins, commons building and amenities in Group Camp 2
The playfield shown in Figure 3.68 includes a backstop for softball. However, the field is minimally acceptable for safe play. The basketball court and the playgroup are also minimally acceptable for safe play.
**Redbud Campground**

At the corner of Park Road and the route leading to Robbers Cave, near the entrance to Group Camp 2, there is a small, unimproved campground. This campground is designated as Redbud campground and may be leased by groups.

Redbud campground offers a stream-side environment for campers, but does not have a restroom or other amenities. The campsites are generally defined by a picnic table, some of which are portable, some of which are concrete. Additional features associated with the campsites are fire rings or grills, and lantern hangers. The area lacks defined roadways and has limited landscaping to aid in identifying specific campsites.

**Table 3.12 – Campground Detail for Redbud**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Redbud campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>6 for general use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Park Road continues to the north of Redbud Campground, but is restricted for public access. The public visitors would be directed toward Robbers Cave and Group Camp 2 (Figure 3.66), whereas oil/gas leases are accessed directly north (Figure 3.69). This road is gated, although the gate is frequently open. A low water dam also impounds Fourche Maline Creek producing a small pond to the north of the intersection as shown in Figure 3.70.
The namesake feature for Robbers Cave State Park is nestled into the northern extreme of the developed portion of the park. Robbers Cave, with its history and mythology, is located on an elevated portion of Robbers Cave State Park to the north of Group Camp 2 and west of Redbud campground.

Visitors seeking to visit Robbers Cave would bear to the right at the intersection leading either to Group Camp 2 or to the Robbers Cave area. The road increases slightly in elevation leading to a parking lot. Figure 3.71 documents three major amenities for visitors entering this portion of Robbers Cave State Park. The pavilion is on the south side of the parking lot, whereas the restroom is located on the northeast corner of the parking lot. This restroom is the only public restroom in the northern portion of the park and the pavilion is also the only public picnic shelter north of Ash Creek Road.

The north edge of the parking lot is dominated by a large rock outcrop with an information kiosk (Figure 3.71) providing detail on walking and hiking experiences in the surrounding area. In addition to the detail provided on this information kiosk, a second kiosk is located at the northwest corner of the parking lot, shown in Figure 3.72 on the following page. The detail provided on these maps provides general information and graphic portrayal of the numerous hiking and equestrian opportunities in Robbers Cave State Park.

Several of these hiking or equestrian opportunities extend beyond the immediate vicinity. The equestrian trail is well marked at the northwest corner of the parking lot and permits access to the Rough Canyon Trail leading to a much more extensive trail system. The Robbers Cave Nature Trail is the focal hiking opportunity in this location, but it also provides access to additional trails.
The Robbers Cave Nature Trail is a loop trail of about three-quarters mile. It has significant elevation change and steep grades, especially on the two CCC trails as segments of the longer nature trail (Figure 3.73 on the following page). Various sections of the nature trail have specific names (Figure 3.72) and benches are provided at key locations for walkers to rest. The route is quite well marked with orange blazes painted on trees or rock surfaces.

The namesake feature, Robbers Cave, is accessed by various routes, while the horse corral is best accessed by a single route. Intersections with longer trails permit hikers to have a more extensive experience by linking with these longer trail systems.
North Entry

There is limited development for the average park visitor north of the Robbers Cave area. The park roads terminate at this location. Visitors would return to State Highway 2 by retracing their route back to Ash Creek Road or to one additional point of intersection linking Park Road and S.H. 2. Continuing north on S.H. 2, a visitor passes through the wooded environment of Robbers Cave State Park before exiting into the WMA. Travelers heading south on S.H. 2 enter Robbers Cave State Park and are informed of this boundary at a stone and timber sign shown in Figure 3.74. Roadways also lead into the WMA or to leases along the highway. In addition, a pipeline easement extends diagonally across S.H. 2 as marked by equipment (Figure 3.74) and clearing of timber along the right-of-way. This pipeline extends westward and is again apparent along Ash Creek Road to the northwest.
Back-Country Campsites

Robbers Cave State Park and the surrounding Wildlife Management Area encompass additional recreation resources. Trails and campsites cross the boundary between the State Park and WMA at several locations. Within Robbers Cave State Park there are four back-country camping sites that require specific permits for use. These back-country sites are Coon Creek Camp, The Quarry, Rocky Top, and Lost Lake.

Coon Creek Camp is situated north of Coon Creek Lake along the east bank of Coon Creek. Access to the campsite along a preferred route is via Coon Ridge Trail from the park office. A hike of approximately three-quarters of a mile includes a significant elevation change to get to the campsite. Coon Creek Camp is located near an old WPA dam that impounds Coon Creek and forms an upstream reservoir from Coon Creek Lake.

The Quarry is a second back-country campsite to the southwest of Lake Carlton and west of Deep Ford Campground. A trail head at the low water dam in Deep Ford Campground permits access to Mountain Trail. A hike of slightly over one mile connects to the Old Quarry Trail and leads uphill along an old road. The Quarry is a remnant of the hill that was cleared in the 1930s by the CCC in removing rocks that are used in construction of numerous buildings and features in Robbers Cave State Park. An additional feature near The Quarry is a spring that once provided water for local residents.

A third back-country site is Rocky Top (Figure 3.75), located on the northwest side of Lake Wayne Wallace. While there are several access routes to Rocky Top, the recommended route is from the trailhead of Mountain Trail at Deep Ford Campground along the trails for approximately three miles. Significant increase in elevation leads a hiker along the west side of Lake Carlton, providing excellent views of Robbers Cave State Park. A shorter route of access to Rocky Top is from Eagles Nest Campground, but a hiker would need to be aware of trail interchanges to find the proper route. The distance for this route is about one-half mile. However, the shortest route of access to Rocky Top is located about a quarter of a mile north past the Eagles Nest Campground entrance. There is a semi-accessible turn off to the west on Ash Creek Road. Rocky Top is approximately a 60 yard hike to the west of the turn off according to Mike Prince.

The fourth back-country campsite is Lost Lake, near the northern boundary of Robbers Cave State Park. Lost Lake is about one and three-quarters mile from the Robbers Cave parking lot via the Rough Canyon Trail. This route is an easy loop trail with minimal elevation change. Lost Lake was the former water supply for Camp Tom Hale Boy Scout Camp (now Group Camp 2). The concrete dam impounding Lost Lake was constructed by the CCC.

Figure 3.75 – Rocky Top primitive campsite
Hiking/Walking/Riding Trails

Numerous, varied and long-distance trails are among the distinguishing recreational features in Robbers Cave State Park. There are five major trails within Robbers Cave State Park. These trails within Robbers Cave State Park are marked with a consistent pattern: (1) Coon Ridge Trail marked with red paint blazes, (2) Canyon Trail marked with single blue dots, (3) Multi-use Trail marked with multi-colored blazes, (4) Cattail Pond Loop Trail marked with blue double dots, and (5) Mountain Trail marked with blue paint blazes. Several of these trails provide linkage and access to an extensive network of additional trails in the surrounding wildlife management area. The general routes of these trails are shown in Figure 3.77 on the following page.

Mountain Trail (marked with blue blazes) originates at a low water dam on the west side of Fourche Maline Creek directly west of Deep Ford campground. The trail is intended for foot traffic along the route heading north from the trailhead at the low water dam and winding uphill and northward past Lake Carlton. Mountain Trail circles Lake Carlton along the south shore, along the west shore, and continues north. In the higher elevations on the west side of Lake Carlton, Mountain Trail offers hikers an excellent view across Lake Carlton toward the main development within Robbers Cave State Park. Midway between Lake Carlton and Lake Wayne Wallace, Mountain Trail intersects with the spur equestrian trail leading from the Equestrian Campground. Mountain Trail then continues north around the west side of Lake Wayne Wallace to an alternate trailhead at Ash Creek Road. Mountain Trail continues across Ash Creek Road before intersecting with Cattail Pond Loop Trail. The total distance for Mountain Trail is 4.75 miles. Rocky Top primitive campsite is located along Mountain Trail west of Lake Wayne Wallace.

Cattail Pond Loop Trail (marked with double blue dots) originates at its intersection with Mountain Trail. Cattail Pond Loop Trail is used by hikers and equestrians. The trail loops through the forest, leading past Cattail Pond in the far northern extent of Robbers Cave State Park and then follows Ash Creek back to complete a loop. The trail also intersects with Rough Canyon Trail. Cattail Pond Loop is 2.1 miles in length.
Figure 3.77 – Trails of Robbers Cave State Park
Rough Canyon Trail originates at the parking lot for Robbers Cave. From that location, the trail heads west to intersect with Cattail Loop Trail and follows a joint path with Cattail Loop back to the east before separating from the loop trail and continuing along Ash Creek to extend to Lost Lake. Rough Canyon Trail then continues with two branches: one leads to the parking lot at Robbers Cave while the other leads to Park Road. Rough Canyon Trail is 2.95 miles in length. Lost Lake primitive campsite is located along Rough Canyon Trail.

Coon Ridge Trail, marked with a red blaze, is a 1.5 mile loop trail intended for day hikes, permitting views of Coon Creek Lake and the surrounding forest. A spur trail from the cabin office and a second spur from Belle Starr View Lodge provide access to the Coon Ridge Trail.

Multi-use Trail is intended for mountain bikers and hikers along a trail marked with a blaze of yellow on red on blue. At 6.3 miles in length, Multi-use Trail provides a route that permits a complete loop of Robbers Cave State Park. The trail can be accessed at Robbers Cave and joins Rough Canyon Trail before looping northeast and then swinging to the south. Multi-use Trail intersects S.H. 2 and uses the culvert as the route to pass under the roadway. The trail then continues south and the east side of S.H. 2, crosses Coon Creek, passes Coon Creek Lake on the east side and extends southwest to return to pass under S.H. 2.

Belle Starr Loop Trail is not included on maps provided in Robbers Cave State Park, although information is available at the cabin office. Belle Starr Loop Trail circles Coon Creek Lake following a descent from a location between Belle Starr View Lodge and cabin 124. After a hike of about 1.6 miles, a hiker would then ascend back to the starting point.

Probably the most recognized trail within Robbers Cave State Park is the three-quarter mile long trail leading into the cave area. Various routes allow hikers to take the CCC paths shown in Figure 3.71 or less strenuous routes marked with orange dots. The more strenuous routes are marked with red dots.

Additional short trails link various developed areas within Robbers Cave State Park. A trail of about one-third mile links Old Circle Campground, Whispering Pines Campground, and the main entry to the Lake Carlton area (Figure 3.78). A second developed trail is the Outdoor Classroom Trail associated with the Outdoor Classroom and located in the wetlands at the north end of Lake Carlton.

![Figure 3.78 – Trails of Robbers Cave State Park](image)
Several other informal trails are evident along Fourche Maline Creek. Most of these have developed from foot traffic of anglers seeking good locations from which to fish. Similarly, foot trails parallel the banks of Lake Wayne Wallace.

Robbers Cave Stables utilize multiple trails north of Ash Creek Road for their rides. Some of these trails connect to additional equestrian trails beyond Robbers Cave State Park. In addition, there are six developed equestrian trails within Robbers Cave State Park. These equestrian trails are numbered 1 through six and vary in length. Trail #1 is 21 miles long; Trail #2 is 7.5 miles in length; Trail #3 is 3.0 miles; Trail #4 is 4.75 miles long; Trail #5 is 6.5 miles; and Trail #6 is 4.5 miles long. Among these trails, Trail #1 remains open from October 1 through October 15, while all the trails are closed October 16 through December 31 and during spring turkey hunting season.

The Oklahoma Equestrian Trail Riders Association has been an integral partner in developing trails beyond Robbers Cave State Park. Their extensive network of trails exceeds 50 miles in length (Figure 3.80 on the following page). These trails, including those within the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park, include named sections and features. Marking of these routes is typically handled by OETRA and varies greatly as shown in Figure 3.79.

The mixture of paint blazes with various other signage can be confusing to hikers and riders. However, discussions with equestrians revealed an affinity for the individualized signs, each of which has meaning to the individuals or groups involved.
Figure 3.80 – Equestrian Trails of Robbers Cave State Park
Cemeteries and Sensitive Resources

Within the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park there is a cemetery dating from the late 19th century into the early 20th century (Figure 3.81). This cemetery is located west of Ash Creek Road near Lake Wayne Wallace and is not marked in a way that would attract public interest. The clearest identification of the location of the cemetery is by blue paint on fence posts along Ash Creek Road. The cemetery is adjacent to old Ash Creek Road and is subject to occasional flooding.

This particular cemetery includes several headstones. One or more of these headstones identifies the burial location for children. The actual burial ground is fenced and minimally maintained.

There may be additional cemeteries in the Wildlife Management Area that would be accessible to trail hikers or riders. In addition, it is possible that there are other, as yet unidentified, sensitive and historic resources located throughout the hills and valleys of Robbers Cave State Park.
Public Access and Entry Aesthetics

Access to Robbers Cave State Park was discussed earlier. Almost all visitors coming by vehicle will travel along Oklahoma Highway 2 from Wilburton on the south of along S.H. 2 from the north. A few local visitors may know of alternate routes leading to Ash Creek Road to permit entry into Robbers Cave State Park from the northwest. Since S.H. 2 and Ash Creek Road pass through Robbers Cave State Park, all travelers along those routes are park visitors for the time in which they are within the park boundaries.

Both routes lead through rural, forested environments offering natural beauty with the vegetation and changing topography. It is common to see wildlife along these routes, a feature that typically enhances the drive experience for most visitors.

Park Visitation

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. In his 1938 report of the original Oklahoma State Parks, Reeves (1938) indicated 20,216 visitors had been at Robbers Cave State Park making it the second highest visited park in the system at that time. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor – but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At Robbers State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park to utilize the restroom or for other purposes. The physical location of Robbers Cave State Park along S.H. 2 and Ash Creek Road requires that persons driving on the roadway pass through the park. These motorists would be park visitors and benefit from the park environment.

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 Robbers Cave State Park and specific usage of particular areas within the park.

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

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Visitation for Robbers Cave State Park has decreased during the past five years from a reported 1.4 million visitors in 2009 to a low of 812,181 in 2011. A number of factors may have influenced this attendance including the poor economy during this period and high gasoline prices. Since 2011, visitation at Robbers Cave State Park has increased slightly. The number includes day visitors and overnight visitors. The day visitors include pass-through sightseers, anglers, boaters, picnickers, trail hikers, and many other recreational visitors. Overnight visitors include campers who spend one or more nights within Robbers Cave State Park. Of particular note, the number of cabin guests declined from 2009 to 2010, but has been increasing each year since 2010.

Determining the number of campsites rented is more accurate than is the calculation of total visitors to the park. Total visitors are calculated based on traffic counters and a proxy variable for number of occupants in vehicles passing entry points into the park. Total number of visitors
should not be interpreted as “individuals” in that numerous individuals are repeat visitors to the park on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis. In addition, guests may enter the park, leave the park, and return to the park multiple times on a single visit. In such cases, traffic counters would record each entry. At Robbers Cave State Park, the number of day visitors has not been calculated using the traffic counter in recent years. As a result, the total visitation is an estimate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Campsites rented - improved</th>
<th>Campsites rented - unimproved</th>
<th>Total Visitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>6,863</td>
<td>3,099</td>
<td>1,424,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5,389</td>
<td>2,918</td>
<td>948,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,673</td>
<td>3,070</td>
<td>812,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>3,277</td>
<td>878,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6,207</td>
<td>2,989</td>
<td>849,959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the figures in Table 3.13, it is apparent that visitation during the recent five-year period peaked in 2009 for both day visitors and overnight guests. In all likelihood, the decline in visitation is a reflection of economic conditions during the past few years and the price of gasoline. Another factor that may have influenced park visitation was the extreme heat and drought experienced across Oklahoma in 2011 and 2012. This pattern has also been seen in several other parks across Oklahoma.

It is difficult to identify exactly how many campers are individually associated with a registration. In the campgrounds, records are maintained of the number of campsites rented. As demonstrated in the photographs presented it is fairly common for one campsite rental to include a recreational vehicle and one or more tents. In addition, it is common for multiple motorized vehicles to be associated with a single campsite rental. Logically, group size associated with a single campsite rental can vary greatly.

Table 3.14 on the following page presents the campsite rentals for the past five years. These sites are defined as improved or unimproved, for which the category of improved sites includes modern and semi-modern site design. The number of campsites available varies slightly as new sites are developed, old sites are taken “off-line,” and new campground design changes the configuration of a campground. The number of campsites available is an estimate, calculated based on number of sites of a given category multiplied by 365 and reduced by 5% for days on which individual sites may have been unavailable due to maintenance or construction.

Table 3.4 does not include a defined number of sites for Bobcat Crossing or Horseshoe Bend campgrounds. As a result, some camping occurs in those two locations, but the areas are not well defined by traditionally designated sites. Robbers Cave State Park includes 89 improved campsites and 64 unimproved campsites for these calculations.
### Table 3.14 – Camping at Robbers Cave State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Type of campsite</th>
<th>Campsites rented</th>
<th>Campsites available*</th>
<th>Occupancy rate on campsites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>3,099</td>
<td>22,192</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>6,863</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>2,918</td>
<td>22,192</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>5,389</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>3,070</td>
<td>22,192</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>5,673</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>3,277</td>
<td>22,192</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>2,989</td>
<td>22,192</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>6,207</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on number of total sites, either improved or unimproved, less 5% for maintenance

The occupancy rate on unimproved campsites is hindered by extremes of weather since these sites do not have electricity. The heat of the summers in 2011 and 2012 certainly had an adverse impact on occupancy in unimproved sites.

The occupancy rate for all campsites at Robbers Cave State Park has been quite consistent and stable over the past five years. There is a combination of factors that may explain this trend. Robbers Cave State Park offers a variety of camping experiences allowing guests to benefit from that diversity. Robbers Cave State Park is more shaded than other state parks, offering some climatic relief. Robbers Cave State Park offers a range of activities that attract visitors for more than a camping experience.
As presented earlier, Robbers Cave State Park includes 26 cabins, of which seven are designed as two-bedroom units. These cabins include individual and duplex units, most of which also include fold-out sleeping arrangements in addition to traditional beds. Table 3.15 reports the total number of cabin guests and percentage of occupancy as determined by park management. With the exception of 2010, cabin guests have increased each year with a parallel increase in occupancy percentage.

**Table 3.15 – Cabin occupancy at Robbers Cave State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total Cabin guests</th>
<th>Percent occupancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>19,280</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18,518</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>19,415</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23,306</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>23,849</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other overnight guests at Robbers Cave State Park include those who utilize Group Camp 1 and Group Camp 2. The numbers of these guests are reported in Table 3.16. Group Camp 1 has a capacity of 274 campers, while Group Camp 2 has a capacity of 250 individuals. Using a similar calculation to that used for the campgrounds, the group camps have an annual capacity of 191,000 persons if fully occupied. By occupancy, the group camps are at less than 1% of capacity. An alternative is to use the occupancy based on number of rental nights. That information was not provided.

**Table 3.16 - Group camp occupancy at Robbers Cave State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total Group Camp guests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The third overnight lodging option at Robbers Cave State Park is provided by the twenty rooms in the Belle Starr View Lodge. Belle Starr View has a maximum number of rental nights of 6,935 room nights. Most of the rooms are designed to handle a maximum of four guests. The
Butterfield Room in Belle Starr View Lodge can be rented separately from room rentals. There are approximately 30 such rentals of the Butterfield Room each year yielding about $6,000 in revenue. This would also be about 8% occupancy of possible rental and occupancy of the Butterfield Room

Table 3.17 – Occupancy at Belle Starr View Lodge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total lodge guests</th>
<th>In-state lodge guests</th>
<th>Out-of-state lodge guests</th>
<th>Percent occupancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,844</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,343</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,024</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Perception of Robbers Cave State Park

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

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

- We started our September trip at Beavers Bend and then to Robbers Cave. I liked Robbers Cave better. Things seem to be cleaner and maintained better. The cave itself was small but the guided tour is well worth the $3.00 cost. We stayed in the Old Circle camp ground and it was very nice. No tv or cell service. Definitely on our list to revisit. They do take reservations. We are RVers so we didn’t see the insides of the cabins but all of them we saw had central air.

- We spent the weekend here and had a fantastic time. The cabins are very nice and the folks in the cabin office are friendly and helpful. The park offers a variety of fun, family activities - hiking to the cave with a Park Naturalist (Ted, who was terrific), cane pole fishing (“Hillbilly” fishing), hayride, etc. We had a blast. The (free) morning hike was filled with local history. We hiked to the cave, the stone corral, (what was) the Devil’s Slide, and through the fault line. Cane pole fishing was fun (free). We made our own poles and most everyone caught some perch or had lots of nibbles. We also went on the park’s horseback ride (extra fee). The trail was beautiful and the wrangler couple was nice and told us lots more about the local area. Their horses were all exceptionally gentle and well-mannered. Additionally, the paddle boats and kayaks were a bargain and a great activity before hitting the road for home.

- We came to Robbers Cave from Oklahoma City ... we figured it to be 128 miles, maybe 2.5 to 3 hours. We must have gone the long way because it took us nearly 3.5 hours, and
the scenery was basically the same through Shawnee (we did like the horse statues), Seminole and McAlester. Once we arrived we headed directly to the cave and went with the ranger on the 30 minute tour. The path wasn't particularly rugged (there were physically challenged people doing it with the aid of walking sticks) and the cave ... so sad, had been filled in due to potential dangers. They had even destroyed a chamber that had natural benches ... in effect, all that was left was the “entrance to the cave”. That was it ... and, disappointingly, there is no documentary evidence that the robbers even lived here. On the plus side there is an awesome overlook above the cave, great canoeing on the lake, plenty of benches around the lake, and a ramp and roped off area where the kids can swim. If you’re in the area, it would be fine for a day’s outing and would be especially grand for a boy scout troop or those who want to learn to rappel.. but to come the distance we did (and then drive to Dallas)....uh uh.

- We made a quick stop here on our way to Arkansas. It was a nice surprise and wished we could have stayed for the day. The lake is beautiful and the trails we did go on were good. A little history combined with nature and relaxation.

- My boyfriend and I stayed here back in February and rented a cabin for two nights. The cabin was so cozy and cute! Also very clean and roomy. We got there that day with a little bit of time to spare so we walked the short trail near the cabins, called Coon Ridge Trail. Really enjoyable short walking trail. The first night we sat out by the campfire and made s’mores. Was very relaxing because I think only a few of the cabins were rented out at this time of the year, was only us outside enjoying the night. The next day we did both the rough canyon trail and the cattail pond lake trail. We enjoyed both of the trails and the views. Was pleasantly surprised with how wonderful the cabins were as well as the trails in the park!

- I have lived in the area all my life but had not visited Robbers Cave until last week. I should have went [sic] sooner. We spent the afternoon fishing, but you could easily spend a short week there. They have canoe rentals, cabin rentals, boat ramps, horseback riding, hiking trails, swimming pool, nature center, and of course the cave and rock climbing. It was a busy place but not crowded on this 100 degree day, lots of people enjoying themselves. I’d say give it a try.

- We visited in March of this year and had a great time. The two bedroom cabin was wonderful. There was a fireplace inside that just really set the mood of the trip and a must for the kids.

- There are guided nature walks in several different areas and well worth the $2 charge. We loved the cave tour. Much more informative than we would have had on our own and the guide was great. He took it slow for us as we had small kids with us.

- There are miles of trails to explore as well. Such a nice area and away from everything. Definitely worth the trip.

- Park is big and is well kept. They have cabins, a small lodge, swimming pool, a lake for swimming, hiking trails, horseback riding in the area, and several camp sites including an RV area, two group camp sites, an equestrian camp and several tent sites. Some of the trails seemed a little overgrown, but July in Oklahoma is not usually hiking weather. The park had many activities planned including an interpretive hike to some very interesting large rocks/caves where the James and Younger brothers were believed to have been! The staff over booked the cabins, so we were given a room in the lodge and they gave it to us for half price! All of the staff were very friendly and helpful. Only drawback that I
could see was lack of a restaurant in the area, although they do have a few items in the camp store where you check in. Better eat before you go or pack your dinner!

- Loved Robbers Cave State Park in Wilburton, OK. The campgrounds for both RV and Tent sights [sic] were clean, kept up, and maintained wonderfully. The staff in the office and in the camping areas were friendly and helpful. And the park was beautiful. There was plenty to keep the family busy and happy with lake & river swimming, pool, fishing, horseback riding, cave climbing and exploring, hiking and so much more. There’s a store at the park and Wilburton was just a short drive away with everything you need including an Ace Hardware, grocery stores and even small Indian casinos, just in case you feel the need. We are definitely coming back very soon. Recommend this park to anyone!

- We spent two nights here (March 21-22, 2013) and it was lots of fun. Lots of hiking trails and rocks to climb on, which made my 12 year old happy. My only complaint is that the bathrooms are gross! They do have a new bathroom by the camp store, which was nicer, but farther from the RV camp site we were in and if you want to take a shower in the new nice bathroom it is .50 for every 3 minutes! But overall we were very happy and hope to go back in the summer when it’s warmer.

- We stayed here March 15-17. It’s beautiful here and very family oriented. Everything was open such as paddle boats, mini golf, horse riding, snow cone stand, etc. They had scheduled hay rides and guided hiking tours, if you choose. Each activity costs about $4 per person. We just came from Lake Murray state park and they had nothing open and no activities. We stayed in Belle Starr lodge. There’s NO RESTAURANT in this lodge. It’s just hotel rooms. Rooms and bedding are very nice and updated. We drove to Wilburton about 10 minutes away and ate at a great Mexican food place downtown and Subway. The lodge has about 6 shared grills & picnic tables right outside your room. Wonderful views here! All hiking trails are well marked and they have a huge equestrian area that was full with people camping & trail riding. This is an outstanding state park and we will return again.

- My wife and I drove to the San Bois Mountains to visit Robbers Cave State Park. The park has three lakes, multiple camp grounds (including one with a corral for those camping with horses), several hiking trails, the Belle Starr lodge, nature center, a general store, etc. My wife and I will probably return in the Fall to camp or stay at the lodge. We hiked on the Coon Creek trail and on the Robbers Cave trail.

- Great park. Many beautiful things to see. The lodge/cabins/RV camping are on one side of the park. The lake/nature center/Museum/Cave and many more things are on the other side of the park. We stayed in a “Modern” campsite (Full Hook up) $23, $21 with senior discount. Mostly back In’s with a few pull throughs. Did find out that if you call a week or more in advance you can Reserve some of the sites. We were in #26. Great! Shade trees, pull through, table, BBQ grill, fire ring and level. We WILL go back. Campground staff is wonderful. We camped here in a Travel Trailer.

- Coon Ridge Trail - A short loop trail through the woods with views over a small valley. It has a great backpackers’ camp that is not really advertised. Had I known, it would have been a great camp for the first day there before I did the longer trails the next day.

- Awesome camping and hiking! Robbers Cave Trail was great! Fun geocaching as well! Cabin 110 is perfect!
User Evaluations of Robbers Cave State Park

The most formal and scientific evaluations for Robbers Cave State Park were generated during the 2003 park visitor survey (Caneday & Jordan, 2003). These evaluations were 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 or camper. Although dated, 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.

Day visitors to Robbers Cave State Park were familiar with the park, averaging ten visits per year with a mode of five visits annually. Almost 80% of all day visitors interviewed were repeat visitors to the park. The most frequent recreational activities reported by these day visitors were hiking, walking, and swimming. Day visitors tended to be satisfied with their experiences at the park, showing the least satisfaction with the restrooms in the park. The park was the primary destination for all of the day visitors, who were motivated to visit the park to be with friends or family and because Robbers Cave State Park was close to their respective homes.

Day visitors tended to be in groups, ranging up to four individuals, but the most common grouping of day visitors was three members. The day visitors contacted during the survey tended to be white or Native American, non-Hispanic with some college education or above. However, 25% of day visitors indicated they were Native American. They ranged in age from 19 to 71 years of age, with a median of 38 years of age; they included similar numbers of males and females. Since these individuals were day visitors, they had traveled a limited distance to get to Robbers Cave State Park, reporting a median of 45 miles in travel. It is likely that a substantial number of these day visitors were from the larger surrounding communities including Wilburton and McAlester.

Campers at Robbers Cave State Park were also quite familiar with the park in that they were repeat visitors. Approximately 66% of responding campers were repeat visitors; they had visited the park an average of four times in a year, although that mean was skewed by several campers who stayed at the park more than 50 nights in the year. These campers participated in a wide range of recreation activities, but most frequently they walked or hiked, picnicked, or rode their horses in the park. Campers expressed great satisfaction with the facilities provided in the park. Robbers Cave State Park was the primary destination for all of the campers contacted in the survey. They chose to visit the park to hike, walk, and to be with friends or family, with the single highest factor in motivation being “rest and relaxation.” The vast majority of the campers were white and non-Hispanic, although about 6% of respondents were Native American. In addition, the campers were well educated in that they presented some college education or above as the highest level.

Campers reported having traveled an average of 125 miles on their visit to Robbers Cave State Park. This would indicate that the majority of campers at the park traveled from Tulsa or Oklahoma City rather than more local settings.

In the same manner, 75% of the cabin guests at Robbers Cave State Park indicated they had also visited the park on previous occasions. These cabin guests ranged from 33 years of age to 64 years of age, but averaged 53 years of age. They hiked, walked the trails, or drove to see the
sights in the park. Cabin guests tended to be white, well-educated with some college or higher, and traveled 100 miles on average to visit Robbers Cave State Park.

A smaller number of lodge guests responded to the survey. Sixty percent of these lodge guests were repeat visitors, averaging two visits to Robbers Cave State Park annually. They hiked, walked, or went swimming while in the park. The mean age of respondents who stayed in the lodge was 48 years of age. Most of these guests were white, well-educated, and had traveled 100 miles on average.

**Park Management**

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

Robbers Cave 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 for Robbers Cave State Park has been very stable in numbers over the past five years, although the individuals in specific positions have changed. The major personnel change occurred as the former park manager was promoted to become Southeast Regional Manager. Table 3.18 documents the staffing pattern for Robbers Cave State Park in recent years. The numbers reported for Robbers Cave State Park also include personnel who work at Belle Starr View Lodge, whereas some state parks in Oklahoma report these numbers separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal staff Park</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most state parks in Oklahoma experienced some reduction in staffing during recent years in response to budgetary appropriations. Robbers Cave State Park has sustained a dedicated, loyal staff over the years.
Revenue and Expenses

Data related to revenue and expense at Robbers Cave State Park was provided by local staff and augmented with material from the central OTRD office. Table 3.9 reports this revenue and expense data for the past four years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Difference Revenue - expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>$1,221,035</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Total</td>
<td>$1,189,464</td>
<td>$928,502</td>
<td>($260,962)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>$1,239,525</td>
<td>$882,308</td>
<td>($357,217)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>$1,275,182</td>
<td>$971,198</td>
<td>($303,984)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Total</td>
<td>$1,325,778</td>
<td>$1,003,144</td>
<td>($322,634)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The principal revenue sources for Robbers Cave State Park are cabin rentals, lodge room rentals, campsite rentals, group camp rentals, swimming pool fees, and concessions. Most other services within the park are supported through state appropriations and allocation of state budgeted funds. As a result, the difference between revenue and expense for operation of Robbers Cave State Park has been in the range of $300,000 annually. Such expense is reflected in operation of the swimming pool, the lodge, the cabins, general maintenance and operations of buildings, mowing and other grounds maintenance, and related park operations.

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, Robbers Cave 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 Robbers Cave State Park include the steep terrain, flora and fauna, as well as a number of other natural conditions or events. In addition, the development of facilities encourages visitors to interact with the natural environment, encouraging people to participate in recreation in an outdoor setting. For example, trails invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, distressed and lost hikers are not uncommon. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions.
Due to the topography of Robbers Cave State Park, it is possible for an individual to become “lost” on property, but that is an unlikely occurrence. Boating, swimming, climbing, and other aquatic activity present greater risks for most visitors. Rock climbing is an increasingly popular activity and is occurring at various locations within Robbers Cave State Park (Figure 3.82).

Among the natural hazards present in the park are those associated with weather events. The National Climatic Data Center reports a variety of such hazards by county over several years. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes, 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.

Personnel at Robbers Cave State Park are first responders in “search and rescue” operations within the park. Such operations have included the need to aid people and horses.

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 Robbers Cave State Park. Since Robbers Cave State Park is in “bear country,” information provided through the park includes material related to properly managing food and behaviors in habitat that may include bears. The park and forest encompass 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 animals include armadillos and the possibility of bears, bobcats, and mountain lions – although these are less likely.

The forest and grassland environment in and around Robbers Cave State Park is home to mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders—all of which may be hazards or present hazards to recreational visitors. The Brown Recluse spider and the Black Widow are native to Latimer County. Both spiders have produced adverse effects for humans in recreational settings (and other environments). Both types of spiders are possible in cabins, in the group camp, and in other structures in other locations in the park. In addition, ticks are known carriers of a number of serious diseases in humans.

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

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

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

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 Robbers Cave 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.

Robbers Cave State Park receives its potable water from approved public water supplies through a rural water district. Water is stored appropriately within Robbers Cave State Park. As with all water supplies, there is the potential to be a host for waterborne disease through the drinking water provided on-site. Such a risk is no greater for a park visitor than would be true in a private residence. By contrast, surface waters in lakes, in streams, and in ponds have a greater chance of being a source of a waterborne-disease. There is some concern for the quality of water in Lake Carlton due to upstream activity including the location of the Equestrian Campground.

**Operational Hazards**

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

At present, emergency fire service and other emergency services are provided by the Ash Creek Rural Fire Department and other local volunteer fire departments, including that from Wilburton. Emergency response time is estimated to be twenty minutes.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to Robbers Cave State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors include play structures which utilize a variety of surfacing materials. 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 at this time. Sections of many of the trails throughout Robbers Cave State Park show erosion and tripping hazards since these trails are in rough, natural terrain.

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, Robbers Cave 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 through Robbers Cave State Park, there are two CLEET certified rangers available for Robbers Cave State Park, although there was only one in each of the prior four years as shown in Table 3.20. With the promotion of the former manager to regional manager, one position is presently vacant. 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 Robbers Cave State Park relies on the support and cooperation of the Latimer County sheriff in the appropriate jurisdiction and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol along S.H. 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>CLEET Certified</th>
<th>Reserve CLEET</th>
<th>Total ranger staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citation records were available specifically for Robbers Cave State Park, although only for a portion of the past five years, and are shown in Table 3.21. The incidents and citations range from drug and alcohol related situations, to vehicular accidents and traffic incidents, to domestic difficulties, and conflict between park visitors. It can be assumed that patterns of behavior among visitors are similar to those in other parks. In spite of these experiences, Robbers Cave State Park is a safe, secure environment for the recreational visitor.

Table 3.21 – Citation and Incident Reports at Robbers Cave State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Incident Reports</th>
<th>Citations Issued</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
<th>Combined Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 and police officers in their respective jurisdictions and shall possess all immunities and matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and police officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their employment, provided, however, they shall comply with the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

In parks with CLEET certified or reserve certified personnel, written logs are maintained by park staff to document incidents. In addition to the regular log, staff 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.

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

Perhaps one of the most essential operational hazards related to the public is the concern that cell phones and radios have limited to sporadic service in rural areas, and possibly within the park. During the preparation of the RMP, research staff members were able to acquire and maintain cell phone signals throughout developed areas within Robbers Cave State Park. Thus, in case of injury, illness, fire, or other emergency, park visitors with personal cell phones should be able to contact necessary emergency services. Those without personal cell phones or with inadequate signals must use a landline based telephone to call emergency personnel.

**Waste Management**

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

Solid waste is transported off-site under a multi-year contract with Allied Waste Management. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Liquid waste is managed on-site through septic systems for individual buildings, as well as four lagoon systems for other developed areas in Robbers Cave State Park. While the septic systems tend to be concentrated on a single structure, the lagoons serve multiple buildings or larger developments. These lagoons may require lift stations to transport liquid wastes to the respective lagoons, although several of the lagoon systems are gravity flow. For example, a lift station is needed to move waste from the lagoons near Old Circle Campground to the newer lagoons located north of Belle Starr View Lodge.

Park management did not express any concerns or problems with waste management at Robbers Cave 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.

*Figure 3.83 – Solid waste dumpsters in Robbers Cave State Park*
Figure 3.84 – GPS coordinate marker in Eagles Nest
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Robbers Cave State Park. During review of background materials related to the park, in discussions with park management, and throughout the RMP process, several issues were addressed. These issues are presented in the following discussion with alternatives for management to consider. In each case, based on the available information a preferred alternative is identified.

Issues and Alternatives

Issue Statement 1: Qualification and branding as a state park

One of the central issues for consideration related to each of the properties being reviewed during the Resource Management Plan project is qualification and branding as a state park. That question may not be as apparent for Robbers Cave State Park as for other properties, but several aspects of management as a complex, developed park require resolution of this issue for this property.

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

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

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

By contrast, other classifications of National Park Service properties include National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, and National Preserves. National monuments must be significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources, but may be managed by entities other than the National Park Service. National preserves are limited to significant environmental resources and may vary in ownership and management of the resource. National recreation areas, including Chickasaw National Recreation Area in south-central Oklahoma, are managed for more intensive recreation in outdoor settings.
OTRD policy related to acquisition of property uses some of this language, thereby establishing a general pattern of resource qualification. These criteria include (1) state-wide significance for natural beauty, uniqueness, or other recreational and resource preservation purposes, and (2) sites which will improve the overall availability of public recreation facilities to the recreating public while possessing resource significance (Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, 1988).

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

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

1. Robbers Cave State Park offers historical, cultural, and environmental resources of statewide significance. Robbers Cave State Park was developed under a historic agreement between the federal government and state government through the presence of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Robbers Cave State Park also benefited from significant local advocacy. As one of the original Oklahoma State Parks, Robbers Cave State Park is large enough to include significant statewide natural resources, encompasses historic and cultural resources including features designated as a National Historic Site, and offers a range of recreational experiences.

2. Robbers Cave State Park is feasible to manage within the agency and fits within the mission of Oklahoma State Parks. Robbers Cave State Park is truly a valuable property as a classic state park. Being adjacent to a large wildlife management area enhances the value of Robbers Cave State Park.

3. Robbers Cave State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD and the park’s state purpose as a pre-eminent property with natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources deserving of protection and management for the present and future generations.

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

Alternatives

A. Seek to sell the property at Robbers Cave State Park;
B. Seek to transfer Robbers Cave State Park to some other management agency;
C. Retain Robbers Cave State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is. Retain Robbers Cave State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.
Issue Statement 2: Safety of impoundments

As indicated in the RMP, there are several reservoirs within Robbers Cave State Park impounded by earthen dams. The largest of these are Coon Creek Lake and Lake Wayne Wallace. At present there are a number of woody plants growing on both sides of the embankment of those impoundments. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA, 2005) asserts “trees and woody vegetation growth have no place on the embankment of an earthen dam.”

Figure 4.1 – Mid-life crisis of a dam
Source: FEMA, 2005.

The risk associated with plants on the embankment varies by zones. FEMA identifies five zones for inspection and evaluation on earthen dams. FEMA also addresses proper procedures for management of those situations in which woody plants are present and should be removed.

Failure of any of these impoundments is unacceptable, but must be recognized as a possibility. If the impoundment at Lake Wayne Wallace were to fail, it is likely that failure at Lake Carlton would follow, resulting in serious downstream damage. Therefore, appropriate inspection and remedial measures are essential.

Five impoundments in Robbers Cave State park are identified as safety risks by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The most serious of these is the dam impounding Lake Carlton. The impoundment of Lake Carlton differs from those at Coon Lake and Lake Wayne Wallace in that it is concrete. However, as the downstream impoundment, it is the final protection for the watershed further downstream. Each of these impoundments is important within Robbers Cave State Park, serving purposes for which the impoundments were authorized, but also enhancing the recreational experience within Robbers Cave State Park.
Alternatives

A. Employ qualified inspectors to evaluate the condition of the impoundments and make recommendations regarding best management practices;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: Employ qualified inspectors to evaluate the condition of the impoundment and make recommendations regarding best management practices.

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**Issue Statement 3: Equestrian area and water/environmental quality**

As reported in the RMP, only Lake Wayne Wallace has been tested to document its water quality. That testing by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board classified Lake Wayne Wallace as a mesotrophic aquatic community with high nitrogen to phosphorus ratio (16:1). Neither the waters of Lake Wayne Wallace or Lake Carlton have been tested to document a beneficial use for primary body contact recreation, although both are utilized by swimmers.

Of additional concern is the fact that the equestrian campground, located in proximity to Fourche Maline Creek downstream from Lake Wayne Wallace and upstream from Lake Carlton, may produce additional waste and runoff that further reduces water quality in Lake Carlton.

Regardless of the efforts of campers in the equestrian campground to clean-up after their horses, the storage of horse manure upstream of Lake Carlton will continue to present potential for further degradation of the water quality and increased potential for health concerns.

Disposal of horse manure at that location is unacceptable!

Alternatives

A. Encourage testing of the water quality in Lake Carlton, with the possibility of posting warnings if warranted;
B. Remove the horse manure from the watershed and properly dispose of it elsewhere;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternatives A & B: Encourage testing of the water quality in Lake Carlton, with the possibility of posting warnings if warranted; and remove the horse manure from the watershed and properly dispose of it elsewhere.

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**Issue Statement 4: Aging infrastructure**

As with several other Oklahoma State Parks, Robbers Cave State Park is showing its age. This is particularly of concern related to crucial utilities for operation of the numerous amenities that provide service to the public. The electrical distribution system is outdated and inadequate. Water distribution and water pressure is inadequate. Park personnel indicated there is adequate service available to the park, but the distribution system for electricity and water within the park is inadequate. Park personnel also indicated the lagoons are near capacity for waste management.
Robbers Cave State Park needs a thorough review of its utility infrastructure leading to a workable plan for investment and capital improvement. Such investments should highlight the high traffic areas within the park, bringing those areas into compliance with current safety standards and service levels.

Management at Robbers Cave State Park must work with the regional manager and Oklahoma State Park planners and leadership to put a high priority on updating and upgrading the utility infrastructure. The process is in place for these requests. Priority must be placed on funding for such improvements.

Alternatives

A. Update and upgrade crucial utility infrastructure at Robbers Cave State Park;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: Update and upgrade crucial utility infrastructure at Robbers Cave State Park.

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**Issue Statement 5: Re-design of core campgrounds**

Several of the main campgrounds at Robbers Cave State Park are in need of updating and redesign. These campgrounds include Old Circle and Whispering Pine due to inadequate size of the campsites and limited turning radius on some of the corners within the campgrounds. For differing reasons, Deep Ford, Dogwood, Lake Carlton, and Youngers Bend should receive planning attention. Redbud campground appears to lack specific purpose or rationale for use as a campground. These campgrounds offer sites in proximity to or with views of water and are preferred sites. However, these campgrounds are poorly planned resulting in inefficient use of space and offering less than desired experiences.

In the same manner, Bobcat Crossing and Horseshoe Bend are core campgrounds within Robbers Cave State Park, but show limited consideration for planning in their layout. Lack of defined sites leads to unnecessary environmental impacts on prime locations within the park.

Redesign and development of the campgrounds cannot occur in isolation. As indicated in Issue Statement 4, the infrastructure of the park is integrally related to use patterns within the campgrounds.

Alternatives

A. As financing permits, redesign and redevelop the core campgrounds within Robbers Cave State Park;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: As financing permits, redesign and redevelop the core campgrounds within Robbers Cave State Park.
**Issue Statement 6: Network of roads within Robbers Cave State Park**

Robbers Cave State Park includes an extensive network of roads ranging from a state highway, to county roads, to park roads, and access to oil and gas leases. During discussion with park personnel, it was unclear who had maintenance responsibilities for some of the roads. In addition, there was an expressed preference for limited improvement of roads in some areas of Robbers Cave State Park, particularly around Lake Wayne Wallace.

However, road conditions and the related safety of park visitors is a paramount concern. As a result, clarification of responsibility for road maintenance may be necessary. Once responsibility for specific roads is established it would be wise to properly sign roads that may require 4-wheel drive or enforce closing of gates to several areas within Robbers Cave State Park.

An additional issue related to roads within Robbers Cave State Park is the speed limit along State Highway 2. Through the park, the speed limit is 55 miles per hour, but that may be too high particularly during special events. It may be necessary to discuss reduction of the speed limit or additional signage with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

**Alternatives**

A. Clarify responsibility for road maintenance on each roadway and determine appropriate action, as signage or closure;

B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: Clarify responsibility for road maintenance on each roadway and determine appropriate action, as signage or closure.

**Issue Statement 7: Preservation and interpretation of historic structures**

Robbers Cave State Park has a wonderful story to tell, but only part of that story is presently being told. Much of the story is focused on the Depression Era structures and events that shaped the park and much of Oklahoma. That era is approaching its 100th anniversary and should not be overlooked for its significance in Oklahoma State Parks. Within the park are specific nodes and contributing resources that permitted Robbers Cave State Park to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The history and significance of New Deal-era structures and events have been lost on the present generation. Since education is a part of the purpose for Robbers Cave State Park – and more broadly for the Oklahoma State Park system – it is crucial that the individual state park and the entire system more aggressively interpret this history and significance. While the individual parks (i.e. Roman Nose State Park, Beavers Bend State Park, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Robbers Cave State Park, Okmulgee State Park, Osage Hills State Park, and Quartz Mountain) should interpret their local resources, the state and region would benefit from an organized system-wide interpretive and restorative effort. Robbers Cave State Park is a key in the effort.
The interpretive program at Robbers Cave State Park presents an excellent explanation of the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Oklahoma and in the history of the state parks. These resources from that era are crucial to the story and invaluable to the state.

Alternatives

A. Restore, preserve, and interpret the historic resources within Robbers Cave State Park and within the state park system;
B. Remove deteriorated historic structure as part of a risk management plan;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is which includes restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the historic resources within Robbers Cave State Park and within the state park system.

Issue Statement 8: Impact of large special events

Robbers Cave State Park is the host location for several large special events. These events concentrate human impacts within a short period of time and in specific locations. For example, the Fall Festival attracts thousands of visitors concentrating a range of impacts within a three-day period. These impacts include (1) economic benefit to the park, to Wilburton, and surrounding communities, (2) wear-and-tear on park resources including buildings, infrastructure, and turf, (3) increased load on waste management, (4) environmental impacts such as reduced air quality and vehicles dispersed throughout the park, and (5) stresses placed upon park personnel.

There are positive and negatives components to the impacts of these large special events. Certainly Robbers Cave State Park receives public accolades as the host for these events. Within the mission of OTRD, tourism and economic development are acceptable purposes. However, the cost to the staff, the resources, and the state park should be better understood and documented.

Several assessments of these impacts of large special events should be considered. First, a valid and reliable assessment of economic impacts of hosting such events at Robbers Cave State Park would provide a baseline for establishing the value of such activities. Second, an accounting of the costs for operations would document the actual expense from Robbers Cave State Park that permits the hosting of these large special events. Third, a minimal assessment of environmental impact and remediation efforts would address some of the hidden costs of these events.

It is possible that a policy change may be necessary related to hosting large special events. For example, a fee for use of the park as the host site may offset some of the identifiable costs.

Alternatives

A. Conduct an economic impact assessment of one or more large special event held at Robbers Cave State Park;
B. Conduct an accounting of operational costs for one or more large special event held at Robbers Cave State Park;
C. Conduct an environmental assessment of impact and remediation efforts following one or more large special event held at Robbers Cave State Park;
D. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A, B, and C: Conduct an economic impact assessment, an accounting of operational costs, and an environmental assessment of impact and remediation efforts for one or more large special event held at Robbers Cave State Park. Based upon findings, consider appropriate adjustments in policy.

Issue Statement 9: Interpretive services

Robbers Cave State Park has a story to tell in many locations. That story cannot simply be told from an interpretive heritage and nature center. While it is told at the heritage center and the nature center, it should be told at the stables and along the trails; it should be told in the group camps and in the campgrounds; it should be told in the park and in public schools. The interpretive message of Robbers Cave State Park should be told on property and off, to any interested audience, and to audiences yet uninformed.

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

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

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

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

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Robbers Cave State Park and the state park system more broadly. This would require staff at a time when finances are limited for employing personnel.
Robbers Cave State Park could host one or two collegiate interns continually to create and deliver interpretive messages. This would accomplish several goals for Robbers Cave State Park: (1) it would bring creative and energetic personnel into the park system; (2) it would achieve an educational goal for the park and the park system; (3) it would provide a link between the park system and the formal college and university education system; and (4) it would provide a message that Oklahoma’s state parks serve an educational role as well as a recreational role.

Alternatives

A. When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park, especially if an interpretive heritage and nature center is possible;
B. Encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A and B: When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park, especially if an interpretive heritage and nature center is possible; encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services.

Issue Statement 10: 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 “Friends of Robbers Cave State Park” are permitted to serve as an agent for the collection and sale of recyclable materials. Another challenge to the establishment of a recycling program is the difficulty in finding a consistent market for the various products that might easily be recycled: glass, aluminum, and paper. These challenges do not lessen the desirability of establishing a recycling program in the state park system.

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

Alternatives

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

**Issue Statement 11: Pricing for instate and out-of-state guests**

Presently OTRD operates under a policy of pricing a given good or service similarly for all guests. There is no distinction in pricing of goods and services between in-state residents who visit an Oklahoma State Park and out-of-state residents who visit and enjoy the same facilities and events. There is a distinction in that the in-state residents pay a significant tax burden which then subsidizes OTRD and the state parks. As a result, the in-state residents subsidize the recreation experience of out-of-state guests. It is readily acknowledged that the out-of-state guests benefit the local economy with their expenditures. However, if a guest at a local park resides outside the extent of the local economy, the dollars spent by a resident or an out-of-state guest have equal economic impact in direct measures, indirect measures, and induced measures.

Just as at Beavers Bend State Park and Lake Murray State Park on the southern border, Robbers Cave State Park enjoys visitation by a significant number of guests from other states, as well as those from within Oklahoma. This pattern of visitation is likely to occur at a number of other state parks near the interstate borders and for parks that offer attractions differing from what is available outside of the state of origin for the guests.

Many states have instituted a pricing differential to benefit in-state residents. For example, Texas requires vehicle permits for all vehicles entering its parks. Texas residents pay a lower price for the vehicle permits than do out-of-state residents – including Oklahomans who visit Texas.

Tourism is a business that includes intriguing interactions between the host community and its guests. OTRD must sustain a positive relationship between its parks, the staff in those parks, the surrounding community, in-state taxpayers, and guests – some of whom come from out of state. Pricing of goods and services is a sensitive variable in that relationship.

Alternatives

A. Review the pricing of lodging and camping provided by Oklahoma State Parks with consideration for state of residence as a factor in establishment of those prices;
B. Consider implementing entry fees at premium locations within Robbers Cave State Park for all guests utilizing those locations;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A: Review the pricing of lodging and camping provided by Oklahoma State Parks with consideration for state of residence as a factor in establishment of those prices.
Recommendations beyond the Issues

Recommendation 1: Trails and signage
As shown in figures in the RMP, trail signage within Robbers Cave State Park shows great variability. While the official state park markings are blazes painted on trees, the presence of paper plate signs, cardboard signs, wooden placards, and other materials is a visual detraction from a well-maintained park. Temporary signs may be necessary for special “rides,” but there should be a consistency related to posting such signs. In addition, such signs should be removed following a given ride.

It is recommended that the policies and practices related to marking of trails within Robbers Cave State Park be reviewed. Establish a consistent practice appropriate to park management.

Recommendation 2: Clean-up of dump area
As indicated in Issue Statement 3, the dump area for waste from the equestrian campground must be cleaned. Regardless of consideration of practices within the equestrian campground, the waste that has accumulated and been stored in plastic bags must be removed from the watershed above Lake Carlton. A new plan for disposal of waste from the equestrian campground must be developed.

Recommendation 3: Search and Rescue
Park personnel indicated they are “first responders” for search and rescue operations. Such first response places a burden on limited staff, including expense that may be unwarranted in some cases or beyond the responsibility of Oklahoma State Parks. It is recommended that policies related to charging for search and rescue be reviewed at Robbers Cave State Park, and possibly at other properties. Many park systems and governmental agencies are billing the individual parties for such services.

Recommendation 4: Need for 50-amp electrical service
Visitors and park personnel indicated an increasing need for 50-amp electrical service at more locations within the various campgrounds at Robbers Cave State Park. While redesign of several campgrounds was included as an issue, such redevelopment will require considerable financial investment. The aging infrastructure was also discussed and replacement of that infrastructure will also require considerable financial investment. In the meantime, additional 50-amp electrical service at selected sites in selected campgrounds may be possible for lesser investment.
References


Appendix A – New Deal Era (CCC) historic properties

FINAL SURVEY REPORT
INTENSIVE-LEVEL SURVEY OF NEW DEAL-ERA STATE PARKS
IN OKLAHOMA

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Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

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The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap in its federally assisted programs.
ABSTRACT

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office conducted an architectural/historic resource survey of ten state parks in cooperation with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. All ten parks were developed during the New Deal (1933-1942). The survey was designed to assist the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department in understanding which parks contained historically and architecturally significant resources, identifying resources that were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and planning for the preservation of significant resources.

Of the ten parks surveyed, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Osage Hills State Park, and Robbers Cave State Park appear to be eligible in their entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as outstanding examples of park landscapes designed by the national Park Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal agencies. Lake Murray State Park and Robbers Cave State Park merit consideration as National Historic Landmarks, due to the quality of the park designs, the integrity of the historic landscapes, and the histories of the parks, all of which incorporate significant aspects in addition to their primary association with the CCC. In addition, portions of Beavers Bend State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, and Roman Nose State Park appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register as locally outstanding designed landscapes or as historic districts. Neither Clayton Lake State Park nor Lake Okmulgee State Park appear eligible as designed landscapes or districts. The dam at Lake Okmulgee State Park, however, may be eligible for individual listing.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Robbers Cave State Park is located in the forest-covered foothills of the Ouachita Mountains in southeastern Oklahoma, near Wilburton. Among the attractions at this popular park are numerous recreational facilities, including hiking trails, camping sites, water features, and an equestrian campground and trails. The rustic architecture and landscape designed by the National Park Service and built by the CCC contribute greatly to the popularity of the park. Robbers Cave State Park is an outstanding example of a landscape designed by the National Park Service and constructed by the CCC, and it contains excellent examples of CCC-Rustic architecture. Moreover, the park maintains a high degree of historic integrity (refer to Map 24). The park appears to be eligible in its entirety for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, for its association with the New Deal, and under Criterion C, as a designed landscape. Indeed, the quality of the design and its integrity is such that Robbers Cave State Park merits consideration for National Historic Landmark status.

The landscape includes short-leaf pine and smaller trees, including post oak, hickory, and cedar. Dogwood and redbud trees add color to the landscape.

EVALUATION BY NODE

Node 1

Node 1 is mainly a picnic area, located near the low water dam and spillway on the south end of the park (see Maps 24 and 25). The area is primitive and generally undeveloped, although a latrine and various types of picnic tables and stone fire pits are located here. East of this area is Coon Creek Lake and another low water dam.
ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK
Node 2

Node 2 is located on a bluff above the park, with a panoramic view of the surrounding hills (Maps 24 and 25). This node is the location of numerous original CCC-built tourist cabins and newer cabins. Many landscape features built by the CCC are still in use, including the Circle Campground. Also in this node is a store, a recreational vehicle campground, and the camp manager’s residence.

Node 3

Node 3 is located on the east side of Lake Carlton and is the recreational focus of the park (see Maps 24 and 26). The west side of the lake is densely covered with small trees such as post oak and brush. On the east side are larger trees, including pine, white oak, and cypress. Within the node is the magnificent, historic bath house. Also in the area are a rustic boathouse (altered by the addition of a cafe), a naturalist’s shed, a miniature golf course, the swimming pool, an amphitheater, and picnic facilities.

Node 4

The recreational facilities in Node 4 have been developed along the picturesque Fourche Maline stream below the Wayne Wallace Reservoir (refer to Maps 24 and 27). Nearby is a CCC-built picnic shelter. Also in this node is an elaborate equestrian camp, designed to accommodate recreational vehicles. Across the stream are the park’s maintenance facilities.

Node 5

Node 5 encompasses the site of the camp where the CCC members lived, atop which a group camp has been built (see Maps 24 and 28). A few remnants of the old camp
remain, including the meeting shelter, a utility shed, the council ring, and parts of the community building. A number of flagstone walkways associated with the historic CCC camp also remain. The area is shaded by a canopy of pine trees.

**Node 6**

Node 6 is the site of Robbers Cave and a historic Boy Scout camp (consult Maps 24 and 29). A trail built by the CCC leads to the cave. The Boy Scout camp includes numerous rock buildings built with funds from organizations in the area during the 1920s. The camp was then incorporated within the park. The lush landscape includes not only short-leaf pine, post oak, hickory, and cedar, but also maple and sweet gum.
Appendix B – Documents related to the Property

1. Mustang Fuel Corporation right-of-way
2. Enogex pipeline permit
3. 1991 contract for use of land between ODWC and OTRD
4. 1995 perpetual easement
5. Deeds related to Robbers Cave State Park
March 28, 1985

Mr. Joe Stump
Oklahoma Industrial Development
and Park Department
Will Rogers Memorial Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RE: MFC J.O. #2259

Dear Mr. Stump:

Mustang Fuel Corporation is hereby making formal request for Right-of-Way Grant for the purpose of installing a pipeline across Park properties in Robbers Cave State Park. The proposed line is a ten-inch (10") line and will run parallel with our present sixteen-inch (16") line.

I have enclosed Right-of-Way Grant listing conditions acceptable to your department in the past along with an as-built drawing of our present facility. The proposed line will run approximately thirty feet (30') south of the 16" line as indicated on the drawing.

In visiting with Charles Wallace in the Department of Wildlife, he indicated that they would determine the amount of Right-of-Way and Damages due after seeing the line location and appraising loss of timber. You may wish to visit with his department on this matter.

We will coordinate our survey with your Park Superintendent and provide you with a recordable plat that will be made part of the Right-of-Way Grant.

Please advise if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Alan D. Wurtz
Right of Way Representative

ADW/AO
enclosures
RIGHT OF WAY GRANT

The undersigned, as "Grantor," whether one or more, covenants and warrants that he is the owner and in sole possession of the lands hereinafter described and has the right, title and capacity to grant the right of way and easement herein granted, for and in consideration of a sum equal to One Dollar and NO/100--$1.00 per rod of pipeline to be constructed under the terms hereof. Does hereby grant, warrant, bargain, sell, assign and convey to MUSTANG FUEL CORPORA-

TION, an Oklahoma corporation with principal offices in the First National Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as "Grantee," its successors and assigns, the following rights, privileges and authorities:

1. At any time and from time to time, to lay, construct, maintain, operate, inspect, repair, change the size of, replace and remove all or any part of a pipeline or pipelines (together with all drips, valves, fittings, meters, corrosion and protection equipment, including but not limited to its power supply, and all other appurtenances deemed necessary, useful or convenient by Grantee) for the transportation of oil, gas, gaseous or liquid hydrocarbons, petroleum or any of its products or byproducts and any other substances of any nature which can be transported through pipelines, at a location and on a route to be selected by Grantee on, over, through, across and upon the following described land in Latimer COUNTY, OKLAHOMA:

Township 6 North, Range 19 East
Section 7, Northeast Quarter Northeast Quarter (NE/4 NE/4), Northeast Quarter Northwest Quarter Northeast Quarter (NE/4 NW/4 NE/4) North Half Northwest Quarter (N/2 NW/4)

Section 8, Northeast Quarter Northeast Quarter (NE/4 NE/4)

Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof
Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof

Section __________ Township __________ Range __________
Grantee has paid the sum of Three Hundred Forty and NO/100--$340.00 for 340 rods of pipeline upon the execution hereof, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged. Any balance which may be due for the number of rods of pipeline actually laid shall be payable to the Grantors at the same rate per rod after the survey establishing the route of the line has been completed.

2. To use Grantor's roads, lanes, bridges and gates located upon the above described land.

3. Ingress and egress in, on, over, across and through the above described land and adjacent lands of Grantor for any and all purposes necessary or convenient to the exercise by Grantee of the rights, privileges and authorities herein granted.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the rights, privileges and authorities herein granted to Grantee, its successors and assigns forever.

Grantor reserves the right to use fully and enjoy the above-described land, except as hereinafter provided, subject to the rights, privileges and authorities herein granted, except as such use and enjoyment may unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of the rights, privileges and authorities herein granted. Grantor agrees not to build, create or construct, nor permit to be built, created or constructed, any obstruction, building, engineering works, ponds, lakes, or tanks, or other structure over or under said pipe line or lines. Grantee agrees to bury the pipeline or pipelines at the time of construction to a sufficient depth so that the operation and maintenance of said pipelines will not interfere with the method and manner of use of the overlying surface by Grantor at that time.

Grantor acknowledges that he has received payment for all damages which may result from the laying and construction of the pipelines to be laid hereunder. It is hereby understood that the Grantee, its successors and assigns, shall not be obligated to pay Grantor, or any subsequent owner or any subsequent tenant of the hereinabove described premises for any additional damages resulting from the laying and construction of the pipelines laid hereunder, since such damages have been anticipated and paid in advance at the time of execution of this Right of Way Grant.

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, and the rights, privileges and authorities herein granted shall be assignable together or separately and in whole and in part.

Grantee shall have the right, at its discretion, to bury trees and shrubbery in the area cleared for the pipeline and to bury and/or pile trees and shrubbery in the uncleared area adjacent to the area cleared for installation of the pipeline. It is mutually understood and agreed that this grant covers all of the agreements and stipulations between the parties and that no representations or statements, verbal or written, have been made modifying, adding to or changing the terms of this grant.

DATED this the ______ day of ____ May, 1985

Secretary
Abe L. Hesser, Executive Director
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Dept.

J.O. #2259
April 9, 1990

Mr. Bill Runnoe, Programs Administrator
Division of State Parks
500 Will Rogers Building, State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Reference: Pipeline Permit for ARCO-ODWC #2 Well
Located in the SW/4 of Section 7,
Township 6 North, Range 19, East,
Latimer County, Oklahoma, J.O. 6194.

Dear Mr. Runnoe:

Enclosed are four (4) originals of the pipeline permit which
have been executed on behalf of Enogex Inc. We have retained
one (1) fully-executed copy of the permit for our files, to be
filed of record with the County Clerk of Latimer County.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated. Should you
have any questions, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

Jerry P. Bridges
Right-of-Way

JPB/alp
Enclosures (4)

cc: Jim Earls
KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 500 Will Rogers Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma hereinafter referred to as Grantor, in consideration of the sum of Eleven thousand four hundred eighty-three dollars and four cents ($11,483.04) receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does grant permission for ENOGEX, INC., having its principal offices at 600 Central Park Two/S15 Central Park Drive, (P.O. Box 25300), Okla. City, OK 73124, hereinafter referred to as Grantee, and to its successor and assigns, the exclusive right, and privilege to construct, maintain, and operate a pipeline in, over, and upon the following described lands of the Grantor situated in the County of Latimer and State of Oklahoma, and more particularly described as follows:

Right-of-Way easement for ARCO #2 well located in SW/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 19 East, Latimer County, OK J.O. 6194.

To Have and to Hold unto said ENOGEX INC., its successor and assigns, for a term of twenty (20) years from this date, and so long as the pipeline is used for the conveyance of gas and oil hydrocarbon products produced within Robbers Cave State Park, with the right of ingress to and egress from said land for the purpose of constructing, operating, inspecting, repairing, maintaining, replacing or removing the pipeline of the Grantee located thereon, in whole or in part, at the will of the Grantee, it being the intention of the parties hereto that the Grantor reserves the right and privileges to use the above described right-of-way for agriculture, pasturage, recreational activities, and all other purposes; except that Grantor shall not construct or permit to be constructed any improvement upon the right-of-way strip which would interfere with Grantee's use, occupation, exercise of rights or the safe operation of the pipeline.

It is further agreed as follows:

(1) This instrument is for the purpose of constructing one (1) pipeline and meter site as indicated on the plat attached hereto identified as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

(2) The right-of-way shall be twenty-five (25) feet in width except during necessary construction or maintenance work on the pipeline, at which time the right-of-way may temporarily increase to fifty (50) feet, upon notification and written approval of the Grantor.

(3) Grantee shall bury all line pipe to provide a minimum cover of 36 inches except in rock where a minimum cover of 18 inches shall be provided.

(4) Water bars must be installed at the top of down grade to check wash outs.

(5) Grantee will pay for any damages to Grantor's growing crops, grasses, trees, shrubbery, fences, buildings, or livestock caused by the construction, maintenance, or operation of Grantee's facilities.

(6) Trees and/or brush cut from the right-of-way shall be disposed of by depositing in washed or eroded areas adjacent to the right-of-way, or by stacking in piles wherever enhancement of the wildlife habitat can be achieved, or disposal may be by other means recommended by the Park Superintendent, Supervisor, or Manager.

(7) Location of the pipeline shall be as shown on the attached plat. Deviations from the location shall not exceed 150 feet for the purpose of minimizing damage to the land and vegetation.

(8) Grantee shall restore the surface to its original contour as nearly as practicable and will replace or rebuild, to satisfaction of Grantor or his appointed representative, any and all drainage or other areas damaged by the maintenance, construction, or operation of said pipeline. Also that Grantee shall reseed all areas where the grass has been destroyed during construction, repair, or removal of the pipeline. Reseeding shall be done in such a manner as to restore native grass ground cover. All seed shall be approved by the Park Manager prior to sowing.
(9) All considerations due the Grantor as described in this permit must be satisfied prior to the commencement of the construction of the pipeline. Payment should be made to the park in which the pipeline is being constructed.

(10) The Park Manager shall be contacted for an appointment to review the pipeline construction site, tree and brush removal, access roads, environmental protective measures, and all other aspects of proper performance under this permit, prior to the commencement of construction of the pipeline.

This instrument and the covenants and agreements herein contained shall insure to the benefit of and be binding upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the parties hereto for the duration of this permit.

This Permit shall be in effect until April 4, 2010 (20-years) , at which time it may be renegotiated for an additional period of time as approved by the Grantor or his appointed representative.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit "A" (Plat); Special Construction Requirements and Damage Assessment (Attachment "B").

GRANTOR:

[Signature] Glenn Sullivan, Executive Director Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept. 4-4-90

STATE OF OKLAHOMA }
) ss.

COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA }

On this 4th day of April, 1990, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared [Signature] Glenn Sullivan, known to me to be the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept., and acknowledge to me that he executed the foregoing instrument in such capacity on behalf of such entity, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the date last above written.

[Signature] My Commission Expires 4-4-90

Notary Public

GRANTEE:

[Signature] ENOGEX INC. by Alan Stacy, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

STATE OF OKLAHOMA }
) ss.

COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA }

On this 9th day of April, 1990, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared [Signature] Alan Stacy, known to me to be the COO of the ENOGEX INC., and acknowledge to me that he executed the foregoing instrument in such capacity on behalf of such entity, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the date last above written.


Notary Public
CENTERLINE DESCRIPTION
Beginning at a point 1375 feet East and 3956 feet South of the Northwest Corner of Section 7, T6N - R19E, Latimer County, Oklahoma,
THENCE N7°33'33" E 266 feet,
THENCE NO°56' W 3627 feet to and ending at a point 1394 feet East and 77 feet South of the Northwest Corner of said Section 7.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE
I, John F. Keating, Oklahoma Registered Land Surveyor, No. 165 do hereby certify that this plot represents the results of a survey made on the ground and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION
By: John F. Keating
Date: 2-7-95
SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

A strip 50 feet wide during construction, reverting to a 25 foot wide permanent right-of-way easement, across or through the above described lands per the attached plat, subject to the following conditions:

1. Enogex, Inc. will replant pine seedlings in right-of-way according to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation revegetation specifications (spring seed mixture). (See John Barnes)

2. Enogex, Inc. will pile rock and dirt for berms across the right-of-way at the road entrance after construction.

3. Enogex, Inc. will windrow all trees and brush along the right-of-way leaving a gap every 100 yards for animal crossing.

4. Enogex, Inc. will make diversion terraces (water bars) when crossing drainage areas to prevent erosion.

Fees for right-of-way and damages to be paid to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation Division of State Parks:

$4,460.00 Right-of-Way 2.23 acres and $2,000/acre
$6,423.04 Tree Damages
$ 500.00 Permit Fee
$ 100.00 Monitoring Fee

$11,483.04 Total Damages
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

CONTRACT FOR USE OF LAND

This Contract made this 3rd day of April, 1991 between the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation hereinafter referred to as ODWC and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, hereinafter referred to as ODTR.

This contract witnesseth that the ODWC in consideration of the conditions herein set forth and the mutual advantages derived therefrom, does hereby grant to the ODTR for as long as they are in control of the following tract of land from the date hereof, to use and occupy approximately 722.4 acres of land described in Attachment A for the purpose of a State Park. It is mutually agreed that:

1. That the ODTR may construct upon said land subject to approval of ODWC such improvements, facilities, accommodations, fences, signs, access roads, and other structures or developments as may be necessary for the purposes of this contract.

2. That the ODWC may take, trap, remove, stock or otherwise control all forms of fish and wildlife within the said area, and may place therein such additional forms of fish and wildlife as it may desire from time to time, and shall close the area to hunting and trapping.

3. That each Party may make and enforce such rules and regulations as are necessary, and within its legal authority, in exercising the privileges granted in this contract.

4. The granting of easements or right-of-way to other parties shall remain the authority of the ODWC and compensation for such easements shall be compensated only to ODWC.

5. Both Parties to this contract shall protect the premises of each tract of said land against pollution of the land and its water and erosion of the land. Vegetation manipulation practices will be made with concurrence of the respective parties. The forest demonstration areas located in Section 18 will continue to be maintained by ODWC.

6. It is understood and agreed that the covenants and agreements of this contract shall extend to and be binding upon the heirs, assigns, executors and administrators of the Parties to this contract.

7. The ODTR agrees to identify and save harmless the ODWC from any and all claims for damages, suits, judgments, or recoveries for the death or personal injuries sustained by the ODTR, any person authorized access to the premises of the ODWC.

8. The premises are taken by the ODTR in an "as is" condition and no representation of any kind is made by the ODWC regarding the suitability of such premises for the purpose for which they have been contracted.

9. This lease contract will continue for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the date of execution. During the twenty-five (25) year contract period, if the land is no longer used for the express purpose or according to the terms set forth herein, the agreement may be terminated within 90 days of written notice.
In witness whereof, the ODTR and the ODWC have caused this contract to be duly executed.

Witness Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma on this 3rd day of April, 1991, personally appeared J. R. Bennett known to me to be the identical person who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires: 10-18-94

Witness Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in Cleveland County, Oklahoma on this 10th day of April, 1991, personally appeared Steven Alan Lewis known to me to be the identical person who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires: 08-13-92

ODTR-DOC
03-29-91/CC
ATTACHMENT A

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation does hereby grant a contract to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation for the use of the surface in the following described lands:

That part of Sections 18 and 19, T6N R19E Latimer County, Oklahoma, lying west of Coon Creek and Coon Creek Road comprising 482.4 acres more or less and the NE4 and the N2 SE of Section 25 T6N R19E, Latimer County, Oklahoma, comprising 240 acres more or less.
PERPETUAL EASEMENT

The OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, an agency of state government, hereinafter Grantor, with its principal office in Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars ($10.00) and other good, valuable and sufficient consideration paid by the OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, an agency of state government, with its principal office in Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma; the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged has this day granted, bargained, sold and conveyed unto the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, hereinafter Grantee, a perpetual easement across, over and under the following described parcel of land, to wit:

That land located above the elevation of Nine Hundred and Forty Feet (940') and located within the North Half (N/2) of the West Half (W/2) of the West Half (W/2) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Nineteen (S19), Township Six North (T6N), Range Nineteen East (R19E) of the Indian Meridian in Latimer County, State of Oklahoma, containing three (3) acres, more or less.

The consideration herein covers, and this easement constitutes, a release of any and all kinds and character of damages or injury that may be sustained directly or indirectly by reason of the construction, operation and maintenance of a structure or structures or portions thereof that may now or hereafter be, in the discretion of the Grantee, situated on, over, across or along the above-described real estate. This easement is granted for the sole purpose of enabling the Grantee, its officers, agents, contractors and employees to go upon, construct, build and at all times maintain a public structure or structures or a portion thereof, which are to be utilized for recreational support purposes, on the property herein described.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor herein has signed this easement this 28th day of January, 1996.

[Signature]
Greg Duffy, Director
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of Oklahoma )
) ss
County of Oklahoma )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this 30th day of June, 1995 by Greg Duffy as Director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

[Signature]
Notary Public

4/7/96
My Commission Expires
DATE: 9-26-2000

TO: Kris Maerz

FROM: John Barnes

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS DIVISION

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
PO BOX 698
WILBURTON, OK 74578
PHONE: 918-465-3831
FAX: 918-465-5763

ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK
PO BOX 9
WILBURTON, OK 74578
PHONE: 918-465-2565
FAX: 918-465-5763

NOTES: Attached - Robbers Cave Land Decree

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE: 

TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
THE COLCORD BUILDING
15 W. ROBINSON AVE., SUITE 100
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73107-1101
405-521-2413
QUIT CLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION, owner in said real estate and hereinafter called "Grantor" (whether one or more), in consideration of the sum of Ten and No/100 Dollars and other valuable considerations, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby quit claim, bargain, sell and convey unto the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, hereinafter called "Grantee" (whether one or more), the following described real property and premises situated in Latimer County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

N2 SE4 NW4, SE4 NE4 NW4, SW4, S2 SE4, NE4 SE4, NE4 NW4 SE4 of Section 6; and NE4 NE4, SW4 NE4 of Section 8; and E2 NE4 SE4 of Section 18 all in T6N, R19E; Latimer County, Oklahoma comprising 420 acres more or less.

Less and except reserving unto Grantor their heirs, successors and assigns the rights to all oil, gas and other hydrocarbons and all other mineral interests in, to and under the above described lands.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said Grantee, and to its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages, and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature except restrictive covenants, zoning ordinances, building restrictions, oil, gas and minerals and mineral rights, mineral easements of record and utility easements.

QUIT.DEQ
03-29-91/WW2
Dated this 3rd day of April, 1991.

J.E. Bennett

Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

State of Oklahoma
County of Oklahoma

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 3rd day of April, 1991 personally appeared J.E. Bennett known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 10-18-94

Wanda H. Moore
Notary Public

Steven Alan Lewis

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

State of Oklahoma
County of Cleveland

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 10th day of April, 1991 personally appeared Steven Alan Lewis known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 08-13-92

Dawn Tomlin
Notary Public

QUIT.DOC:
03-29-91/WW2
QUIT CLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION, owner of an undivided one-half (1/2) interest in said real estate and hereinafter called "Grantor" (whether one or more), in consideration of the sum of Ten and No/100 Dollars and other valuable considerations, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby quit claim, bargain, sell and convey unto the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, hereinafter called "Grantee" (whether one or more), the following described real property and premises situated in Latimer County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

NE4, W2 NW4, E2 NE4 NW4, NW4 NE4 NW4, S2 SE4 NW4 of Section 6; and N2 NW4, NW4 NE4, SW4, N2 SE4, SW4 SE4, W2 SE4 SE4 of Section 5; and NW4, SW4, SE4, NW4 NE4, SE4 NE4 of Section 8; and NE4, N2 SE4, SW4 SE4, N2 SE4 SE4, SW4 SE4 SE4 of Section 10; and NW4, N2 SE4, W2 SW4 SE4, SE4 SW4 SW4, W2 SE4 SE4, SE4 SE4 SE4 of Section 11; and NW4, SE4 NW4 SW4, S2 SW4, S2 SE4, NE4 SE4, of Section 22 all in T6N, R19E; Latimer County, Oklahoma, comprising 2,250 acres more or less.

Less and except reserving unto Grantor their heirs, successors and assigns the rights to all oil, gas and other hydrocarbons and all other mineral interests in, to and under the above described lands.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said Grantee, and to its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages, and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature except restrictive covenants, zoning ordinances, building restrictions, oil, gas and minerals and mineral rights, mineral easements of record and utility easements.

QUIT DCC
03-29-91/MM2

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
LATIMER COUNTY
RECEIVED AND FILED
91 APR 22 AM IC: 31
BOOK 379 PAGE 6-30-91
WE TIDWELL, CLERK

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
LATIMER COUNTY
RECEIVED AND FILED
91 APR 16 PM 2-47
BOOK 379 PAGE 49-2-42
WE TIDWELL, CLERK

ROBBERS CREEK S.P.
Dated this 3rd day of April, 1991.

[Signature]

Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

State of Oklahoma
County of Oklahoma

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 3rd day of April, 1991 personally appeared [Name] known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 10-18-94

[Signature]

Notary Public

State of Oklahoma
County of Wildlife Conservation

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 10th day of April, 1991 personally appeared [Name] known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 08-13-92

[Signature]

Notary Public

QUIT.DOC
03-29-91/WN2
QUIT CLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, owner in said real estate and hereinafter called "Grantor" (whether one or more), in consideration of the sum of Ten and No/100 Dollars and other valuable considerations, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby quit claim, bargain, sell and convey unto the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION, hereinafter called "Grantee" (whether one or more), the following described real property and premises situated in Latimer County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

SE4 SW4 NE4, N2 NW4 SE4 of Section 7, T6N, R19E, and NW4 SW4, N2 SW4 SW4, SE4 SE4 SW4, S2 SW4 SE4 of Section 12, and all of Sections 13 and 24 in T6N, R18E; all lying in Latimer County, Oklahoma, comprising 1,400 acres more or less.

Less and except reserving unto Grantor their heirs, successors and assigns the rights to all oil, gas and other hydrocarbons and all other mineral interests in, to and under the above described lands.

Grantor, their heirs, successors and assigns also expressly reserves for 99 years from this date the right of ingress and egress at no charge to Grantee for the purpose of access for administrative and public access to adjacent lands owned by the Grantor.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said Grantee, and to its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages, and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature except restrictive covenants, zoning ordinances, building restrictions, oil, gas and minerals and mineral rights, mineral easements of record and utility easements.

QUIT.DOC
03-29-91/WW2

91 JUL 19 AMID

WE, HODDLE CO CL

RECEIVED 3/15/91

506 ROBBERS CAVES, S.P.
Dated this 3rd day of April, 1991.

J. B. Bennett
Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

State of Oklahoma
County of Oklahoma

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 3rd day of April, 1991 personally appeared J. B. Bennett known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 10-18-94

Wanda H. Moore
Notary Public

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

State of Oklahoma
County of Cleveland

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 10th day of April, 1991 personally appeared Steven Alan Lewis known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 08-13-92

Dawn J. Oliver
Notary Public
QUIT CLAIM DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, owner of an undivided one-half (1/2) interest in said real estate and hereinafter called "Grantor" (whether one or more), in consideration of the sum of Ten and No/100 Dollars and other valuable considerations, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby quit claim, bargain, sell and convey unto the OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION, hereinafter called "Grantee" (whether one or more), the following described real property and premises situated in Latimer County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

NE4, NW4, and the SE4 NW4 of Section 12, T6N, R18E; Latimer County, Oklahoma, comprising 280 acres more or less.

Less and except reserving unto Grantor their heirs, successors and assigns the rights to all oil, gas and other hydrocarbons and all other mineral interests in, to and under the above described lands.

Grantor, their heirs, successors and assigns also expressly reserves for 99 years from this date the right of ingress and egress at no charge to Grantor for the purpose of access for administrative and public access to adjacent lands owned by the Grantor.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said Grantee, and to its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages, and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature except restrictive covenants, zoning ordinances, building restrictions, oil, gas and minerals and mineral rights, mineral easements of record and utility easements.

QUIT.DEED
03-29-91/WW2
Dated this 2nd day of April, 1991.

[Signature]

Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

State of Oklahoma
County of Oklahoma

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 2nd day of April, 1991 personally appeared J B Berrath known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 10-18-94

[Signature]

Wanda F. Moore
Notary Public

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

State of Oklahoma
County of Cleveland

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in said County and State on this 10th day of April, 1991 personally appeared Steven Alan Lewis known to me to be the identical person(s) who signed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes set forth.

My Commission Expires: 08-13-92

[Signature]

Dawn Jomina
Notary Public

QUIT: DOC
03-29-91/WW2
August 6, 1982

State of Oklahoma
Park Resources Board
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  73100

Re: Estate of Thelma S. Schwinkendorff

Dear Sirs:

Please be advised that Mrs. Thelma S. Schwinkendorff died testate July 29, 1982, a resident of Montgomery County, Ohio.

Her Last Will and Testament was admitted to probate August 5, 1982 and a copy of same is enclosed for your information.

The Winters National Bank & Trust Company of Dayton, Ohio is the duly appointed, acting and qualified Executor of the estate of Mrs. Schwinkendorff.

Please note Item II of her Last Will and Testament, which said Item leaves 155.58 acres, more or less, to the State of Oklahoma, Park Resources Board, to be used as a game reserve in conjunction with Robbers Cave State Park, which park is adjacent to the 155.58 acres. This land is left to the State of Oklahoma, reserving the mineral rights to Fern Auge, 1706 Northfield Square, Northfield, Illinois 60093, Herbert Greaser, Jr., 434 Fawcett Street, Baltimore, Maryland and Clara Spencer, 3806 Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland. These mineral rights were left outright to her three relatives.

I received a phone call from a Mr. E. A. Caldwell, post office box 116, Wilburton, Oklahoma 74578, indicating that he had been living in the two bedroom frame house and that he had been paying Mrs. Schwinkendorff $50.00 per month for rent by depositing same in a savings account in her name at the Wilburton State Bank in Wilburton,
State of Oklahoma  
August 6, 1982  
Page Two (2)

Oklahoma. He had been taking care of the grass and keeping the place up, he indicated.

Since title to the real estate would technically pass to the State of Oklahoma upon Mrs. Schwinkendorff's death (said real estate not being necessary to pay debts), the State of Oklahoma would have the obligation and right to rent the premises. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Caldwell, as well as to you, with the suggestion that you contact Mr. Caldwell with respect to any arrangement you wish to make for rental of the two bedroom house located on the 155.58 acres.

Would you also put us in touch with someone close by who could erect a permanent marker on the land with the inscription "donated by Thelma Schwinkendorff".

Can you advise the approximate market value of this acreage minus the mineral rights or with the mineral rights, either way, so that same can be properly inventoried, or can you advise someone expert in the vicinity to make such an appraisal, since although the charitable bequest to the State of Oklahoma might not be taxable, the value of the mineral rights would be, as they are bequeathed and devised to heirs who are not a charity.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

William T. Pollak

WTP:grg  
Enclosure  
cc: Mr. E. A. Caldwell  
P.O. Box 116  
Wilburton, Oklahoma 74578  

The Winters National Bank &  
Trust Company of Dayton, Ohio  
Winters Tower  
Dayton, Ohio 45423  
ATTENTION: Mr. John Duffy  
Trust Officer
STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
September 30, 1982

Mr. William T. Pollak  
Jacobson, Durst, Pollak & Jacobson  
1740 First National Bank Building  
130 West Second Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

RE: Estate of Thelma S. Schwinkendorff

Dear Mr. Pollak:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of this date regarding the above captioned matter.

As we discussed, the correct agency name that the property should pass to is "State of Oklahoma ex rel. Department of Tourism and Recreation". As I mentioned, this change is due to Senate Bill #327 (1965) and Senate Bill #478, 740 O.S. 1818 (1972).

I trust I have been of some assistance in this matter and if you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Rollin Nash  
Legal Counsel

cc: Abe L. Hesser  
Clay McDermoit
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE ON PROBATE OF WILL

The undersigned, State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Department of Tourism and Recreation, acknowledges notice of the admission of the Will of Thelma S. Schwinkendorff to probate on August 5, 1982.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, EX REL. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION, FORMERLY THE OKLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PARK DEPARTMENT.

BY:  

Rollin Nash  
General Counsel
Last Will and Testament

- of -

THELMA S. SCHWINKENDORFF

I, THELMA S. SCHWINKENDORFF, of the County of Montgomery and State of Ohio, being of full age and of sound mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all Wills by me heretofore made.

ITEM I - I direct that my just debts and funeral expenses shall be paid by the Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, from the assets of my estate as soon as practicable after the time of my decease, and I further direct my said Executor to cause the date of my death to be inscribed on the headstone of my grave at Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.

ITEM II - I give and devise to the State of Oklahoma, Park Resources Board, all of my right, title and interest in and to the surface land of the following described real estate, to-wit:

Situat[e in La]timere County, State of Oklahoma, and being Lots Numbered Three (3) and Four (4) and the East Half of Southwest Quarter (E1/2 SW1/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township Six (6) North, Range Nineteen (19), East, and containing in all 155.58 acres, more or less, according to the U. S. Government survey thereof.

Said gift is made upon the following conditions and restrictions, to-wit: The said land is to remain in its natural state and used as a game reserve in conjunction with the Robbers Cave State Park which park is adjacent to the above described real estate. No cutting of timber for commercial purposes shall ever be permitted on said land. I direct my Executor to erect a permanent marker on said land to be inscribed "Donated by Thelma Schwinkendorff". I specifically reserve all mineral rights to said land and hereby give, devise and bequeath the said mineral rights, share and share alike, to my niece, Fern Auge, my nephew, Herbert Greaser, Jr. and my sister, Clara Spencer. Said mineral rights to belong to them absolutely, equally and share and share alike.

ITEM III - All the rest and residue of my said estate be the same real, personal or mixed, which I may own and have the right to dispose of at the time of my decease and wheresoever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to my sister, Clara Spencer of 3806 Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland; my nephew, Herbert Greaser, Jr. of 434 Fawcett Street, Baltimore, Maryland; and my niece, Fern Auge of 1706 Northfield Square, Northfield, Illinois 60093, the same to be taken by them equally, share and share alike, and in the event of real estate, in fee simple.

ITEM IV - I make, nominate and appoint The Winters National Bank and Trust Co. of Dayton, Ohio, to be the Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, and I direct that my Executor sell all of my household goods, furniture and personal effects at public sale; I further give and grant unto my Executor the power and authority to sell, either at public or private sale upon such terms as it may deem best, the whole or any part of the balance of my estate, be the same real, personal or mixed, and to execute and deliver deeds and other proper instruments of conveyance thereof.

I request that no bond be required of my said Executor.
QUITCLAIM DEED

Know all men by these Presents:

That the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, an agency of the State of Oklahoma ("Grantor"), in consideration of the sum of ten dollars ($10.00) and other valuable consideration, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby quitclaim, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department ("Grantee"), the following described real property, consisting of approximately 723.85 acres more or less of surface estate only, situated in Latimer County, Oklahoma, more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof, together with all appurtenances and other improvements thereon and thereunto belonging; less and except for, and with Grantor specifically reserving, any and all oil and gas interests, all other hydrocarbons, including coal, metallic ores, and other mineral interests in, on or under said real property. Such property is being conveyed herein "as is, where is", without any representations or warranties from Grantor, and shall be subject to all easements, right of ways, encroachments, restrictions, oil, gas, all hydrocarbons, coal, metallic ores, and other mineral interests and other encumbrances, if any, whether of record or otherwise, including the reservations made herein.

To have and to hold said described premises unto the said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever for use as a state park, which shall be considered a state game refuge pursuant to 74 O.S. § 2227, with Grantor reserving the right to stock said premises with game and fish in the same manner as other state game refuges and Grantee shall cooperate with Grantor in connection with such stocking programs.

Signed and delivered this 6th day of January 2015.

Grantor: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

By: Richard Hatcher, Director

State of Oklahoma ) ss:
County of Oklahoma )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 6th day of Jan., 2015 by Richard Hatcher, as Director and on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the above named Grantor.

Rhonda H. Hurst My Commission # 13677 Expires 9-19-16
Notary Public

(SEAL)
EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

SURFACE ESTATE ONLY

A TRACT OF LAND IN PART SECTION EIGHTEEN (18), AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) SECTION NINETEEN (19), TOWNSHIP SIX (06) NORTH, RANGE NINETEEN (19) EAST OF THE INDIAN BASE AND MERIDIAN, LATIMER COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF; SAID TRACT OF LAND BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF SAID SECTION NINETEEN (19), THENCE NORTH 00°08'30" WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER FOR 2637.00 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION NINETEEN (19); THENCE NORTH 00°12'58" WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SAID SECTION EIGHTEEN (18) FOR 2653.80 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF SAID SECTION EIGHTEEN (18); THENCE NORTH 00°03'34" WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID SECTION EIGHTEEN (18) FOR 2640.65 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4); THENCE SOUTH 89°42'33" EAST ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) FOR 2589.98 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION EIGHTEEN (18); THENCE SOUTH 89°42'27" EAST ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) FOR 2636.80 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4); THENCE SOUTH 01°04'14" EAST ALONG THE EASTERN LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER FOR 1978.75 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF COON CREEK; THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF COON CREEK AS FOLLOWS; SOUTH 72°24'09" WEST FOR 57.99 FEET; SOUTH 84°16'23" WEST FOR 116.78 FEET; NORTH 82°23'45" WEST FOR 125.47 FEET; NORTH 61°54'40" WEST FOR 99.43 FEET; NORTH 72°51'29" WEST FOR 110.26 FEET; NORTH 45°45'03" WEST FOR 116.04 FEET; NORTH 52°34'45" WEST FOR 107.09 FEET; NORTH 80°37'48" WEST FOR 110.85 FEET; NORTH 81°08'00" WEST FOR 92.45 FEET; SOUTH 70°12'53" WEST FOR 122.08 FEET; SOUTH 80°37'25" WEST FOR 152.53 FEET; NORTH 85°48'35" WEST FOR 155.18 FEET; NORTH 76°23'44" WEST FOR 154.39 FEET; SOUTH 89°42'55" WEST FOR 161.60 FEET; NORTH 77°07'02" WEST FOR 81.61 FEET; NORTH 52°29'03" WEST FOR 16.86 FEET; SOUTH 88°44'33" WEST FOR 126.08 FEET; SOUTH 56°45'12" WEST FOR 95.47 FEET; SOUTH 24°31'29" WEST FOR 109.44 FEET; SOUTH 43°31'56" WEST FOR 121.58 FEET; SOUTH 15°57'20" WEST FOR 154.88 FEET; SOUTH 21°13'03" WEST FOR 62.22 FEET; SOUTH 59°23'10" WEST FOR 84.73 FEET; SOUTH 46°37'51" WEST FOR 105.00 FEET; SOUTH 24°21'34" WEST FOR 94.68 FEET; SOUTH 24°59'17" WEST FOR 135.36 FEET; SOUTH 63°15'08" WEST FOR 80.16 FEET; SOUTH 55°09'08" WEST FOR 217.49 FEET; SOUTH 45°57'04" WEST FOR 99.56 FEET; SOUTH 32°03'25" WEST FOR 101.20 FEET; SOUTH 27°48'04" WEST FOR 74.67 FEET; SOUTH 10°16'31" EAST FOR 100.38
FEET; SOUTH 61°24'01" WEST FOR 87.61 FEET; SOUTH 48°34'54" WEST FOR 94.19 FEET; SOUTH 47°24'22" EAST FOR 78.76 FEET; SOUTH 2°20'29" EAST FOR 76.10 FEET; SOUTH 23°41'08" EAST FOR 98.66 FEET; SOUTH 25°08'20" EAST FOR 69.02 FEET; SOUTH 34°58'24" WEST FOR 39.32 FEET; SOUTH 27°10'46" WEST FOR 191.55 FEET; SOUTH 20°01'31" WEST FOR 94.17 FEET; SOUTH 22°28'01" WEST FOR 117.36 FEET; SOUTH 2°55'13" WEST FOR 133.07 FEET; SOUTH 10°08'25" WEST FOR 105.70 FEET; SOUTH 15°37'39" WEST FOR 130.40 FEET; SOUTH 33°10'54" WEST FOR 187.39 FEET; SOUTH 52°53'47" WEST FOR 228.56 FEET; SOUTH 28°09'13" WEST FOR 111.35 FEET; SOUTH 63°29'04" WEST FOR 113.35 FEET; SOUTH 82°32'38" WEST FOR 128.53 FEET; SOUTH 89°55'44" WEST FOR 45.19 FEET; SOUTH 13°38'39" WEST FOR 71.75 FEET; SOUTH 27°22'03" WEST FOR 183.93 FEET; SOUTH 14°29'05" WEST FOR 87.08 FEET; SOUTH 28°29'08" WEST FOR 240.77 FEET; SOUTH 6°20'32" WEST FOR 163.47 FEET TO A POINT ON COMMON SECTION LINE OF SECTION EIGHTEEN (18) AND SECTION NINETEEN (19), POINT BEING NORTH 89°33'46" WEST AND 1397.79 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4); THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 6°20'32" WEST ALONG CENTERLINE OF SAID COON CREEK FOR 98.67 FEET; SOUTH 21°17'44" WEST FOR 95.42 FEET; SOUTH 7°40'39" WEST FOR 202.01 FEET; SOUTH 8°18'03" EAST FOR 129.54 FEET; SOUTH 5°21'13" WEST FOR 116.06 FEET; SOUTH 7°05'43" WEST FOR 117.69 FEET; SOUTH 3°18'00" EAST FOR 83.31 FEET; SOUTH 44°14'01" EAST FOR 23.31 FEET; SOUTH 33°14'07" EAST FOR 95.14 FEET; SOUTH 19°08'45" EAST FOR 85.47 FEET; SOUTH 0°03'56" WEST FOR 220.15 FEET; SOUTH 25°34'35" WEST FOR 84.65 FEET; SOUTH 43°38'55" WEST FOR 69.86 FEET; SOUTH 56°20'43" WEST FOR 35.92 FEET; SOUTH 41°31'40" WEST FOR 139.13 FEET; SOUTH 57°32'55" WEST FOR 114.24 FEET; SOUTH 30°50'33" WEST FOR 94.39 FEET; SOUTH 31°24'13" WEST FOR 74.40 FEET; SOUTH 18°39'36" WEST FOR 97.92 FEET; SOUTH 62°30'38" WEST FOR 20.18 FEET; SOUTH 5°08'52" WEST FOR 114.79 FEET; SOUTH 3°54'38" WEST FOR 144.73 FEET; SOUTH 2°24'21" EAST FOR 120.19 FEET; SOUTH 4°00'51" EAST FOR 159.68 FEET; SOUTH 1°05'10" EAST FOR 130.04 FEET; SOUTH 4°33'13" WEST FOR 115.08 FEET; SOUTH 18°07'56" WEST FOR 61.37 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF SAID SECTION NINETEEN (19); THENCE NORTH 89°31'03" WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) LEAVING THE CENTERLINE OF SAID COON CREEK FOR 974.47 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND CONTAINS 20,995,621.47 OR 481.993 ACRES MORE OR LESS.
A TRACT OF LAND IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) AND THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-FIVE (25), TOWNSHIP SIX (06) NORTH, RANGE EIGHTEEN (18) EAST OF THE INDIAN BASE AND MERIDIAN, LATIMER COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF; SAID TRACT OF LAND BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) OF SAID SECTION TWENTY-FIVE (25), THENCE SOUTH 00°03’55" EAST ALONG THE EASTERLY OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER FOR 2654.92 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 00°01’05" EAST ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE/4) OF SAID SECTION TWENTY-FIVE (25) FOR 1312.10 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE/4); THENCE SOUTH 89°44’42" WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF FOR 2656.53 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTH HALF; THENCE NORTH 00°07’45" WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF FOR 1312.70 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4); THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00°07’45" WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) FOR 2642.52 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION TWENTY-FIVE (25); THENCE NORTH 89°29’29" EAST ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) FOR 2662.08 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE/4) AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND CONTAINS 10,535,089.13 OR 241.852 ACRES MORE OR LESS.
Appendix C – Park information

1. Auto-Walking Tour of Robbers Cave State Park’s Historic Structures
2. Campground and trail information
3. Friends of Robbers Cave State Park
they share a common design
objective: to construct buildings
that use native materials and
that fit into the natural setting.
As the CCC’s built Robbers Cave
State Park, Tom Hale Boy Scout
Camp became a part of this new
state park. (Easy View)

Station No. 12 Engine House
& Low Water Dam
Along the Fourche Maline
Outdoor Classroom Trail you
will discover more secluded
treasures. This CCC engine
house contained a motor
(Hercules Motor Company,
1912-1934) with an electric
generator. The building also provided space to work and
storage for gasoline fuel. The engine house was built at this
location to reduce the interference of engine noise.

Also at several locations throughout Robbers Cave State
Park you will discover low water
dams like this one built by the
CCC. These dams ranged in size
from small stone, earth, or brush
“gully stoppers” used to combat
soil erosion, to large earth and
concrete edifices similar to the
dam on Lake Carlton which
involved months of labor. Most
dams, however, were of the small variety. (Short Hike)

Interested in the Restoration and Preservation
of this Park’s Historic Structures?

Contact Oklahoma State Parks at (405) 230-8300
to find out ways that you can help to preserve
these irreplaceable structures.

Auto - Walking Tour of
Robbers Cave State Park’s
Historic Structures

A guide to some of Robbers Cave State Park’s
distinctive and important historic structures.
Introduction

President Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” program in 1933 gave meaningful work to millions of unemployed Americans. Through the New Deal, roads, bridges and dams were built; forests and shelter-belts were planted; and city, state and national park facilities were constructed. The New Deal provided the impetus for the development of Oklahoma’s first state parks. Robbers Cave State Park has the distinction of being one of those parks that was built during the New Deal era of the 1930’s.

One of the most important programs within Roosevelt’s New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps. The chief purposes of the CCC were to conserve the nation’s natural resources and to provide jobs and job training for unemployed youth. Through the combined talents and hard work of National Park Service architects and the Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, and U.S. Army camp supervisors, new parks were built throughout America.

Robbers Cave State Park began as a boy scout camp and state game preserve. Through the efforts of Carlton Weaver, a state political leader, this area was selected to receive a CCC camp. Park development began in 1935. Unlike most CCC camps which consisted of unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25, the majority of the CCC enrollees at Robbers Cave were World War I veterans. While the men of the CCC built the park’s facilities, the dam that forms Lake Carlton was constructed by local men who worked for another New Deal program, the Works Progress Administration - the WPA.

Robbers Cave State Park, as well as other park facilities of this region, were designed by Herbert Maier and his team of architects, engineers and landscape designers. Based on his design work in the 1920’s at Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, Maier was highly acclaimed for his “rustic” park structures. Maier’s buildings were made of native stone and large timbers. They were designed so as to blend into the landscape.

L. to R. Dr. Bumpus, Kenneth Charley and Herbert Maier at Norris Museum Construction within Yellowstone National Park, 1929. Courtesy of the National Parks Service.

In 2002, Robbers Cave State Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its value as an important component of America’s architectural and cultural history.

Description of the Auto and Walking Tour

This tour highlights some of Robbers Cave State Park’s historic CCC and WPA structures.

Those facilities that are easily viewed from a car or that have a hard-surface walkway are listed in this pamphlet as (Easy View).

Before walking up to cabins, picnic pavilion, and group camps, please check with the park office to determine if these facilities are already being used by other park guests. If they are rented, please do not walk near these buildings.
For Your Safety

Please be careful as you stop your vehicle and walk to each viewing station. Park your vehicle off of the park roadway. Always be alert to traffic and never let children walk unattended. Always keep children at your side.

Station No. 1 Park Nature Center

Completed in 1936, this building originally served as a bathhouse for those who swam in Lake Carlton. The sandstone rock and rough-hewn timbers of this impressive building exemplify the architectural style called "National Park Service rustic." Like other CCC-built structures in this park, these buildings blend into the natural setting.

The massive rocks of this building came from a quarry within the park. With great effort, each rock was lifted into place by means of truck-mounted gin poles and winches. Forty years after the project was completed, Gene Hudspeth, the crew foreman for this building, clearly remembered the difficulty of finding stone that suited the Park Service's field inspector. Each stone was carefully placed into position on the building. At that point the inspector made the decision whether it stayed or had to be removed. Many large stones didn't pass this inspector's quality standard. Because of the keen eye, effort and skill of these men, a beautiful building was crafted.

By the 1970's this building had fallen into disrepair. In 1994, park crews, under the direction of John Barnes, skillfully restored this historic building. It now serves as the park nature center. (Easy View)

Station No. 2 Former Boathouse

Underneath the park's community building are the remains of a former CCC-built boathouse. The community building was not built by the CCC. Silt in the lake prevents the boathouse stalls from being used again. (Easy View)
Station No. 3
Lake Carlton Dam
Although the CCC built the first dam at this location, it had to be redesigned and rebuilt by the WPA. (Easy View)

Station No. 4 Park
Manager's Residence
Completed in 1940, this residence has been modernized, but still retains its original CCC character. (Easy View)

Station No. 5 Bathhouse in Old Circle Campground
Completed in 1938, this low, gabled building clearly reflects the design of Herbert Maier and his National Park Service architects. The building appears to have sprouted from the ground. (Easy View)

Station No. 6 Metal Park Signs
Scattered throughout Old Circle Campground and other areas of Robbers Cave State Park are metal signs. These signs were forged out of sheet iron by a CCC blacksmith, Jud Bagwell. Mr. Bagwell also made metal hinges and door handles for all of the park's CCC buildings. (Easy View)

Station No. 7 Culverts
Within Old Circle Campground are several small, native stone culverts. (Easy View) The CCC built many culverts throughout the park. Large culverts underneath the main park road were also built by the CCC.

Station No. 8 Park Cabins
Cabins number 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109 and 110 were all built by the CCC. The original cabin number 106 was lost to fire and was rebuilt in 1970. Although each of these cabins have received some restoration, their original design character has been maintained. (Easy View)

Station No. 9 Shelter
Located at the south end of the Equestrian Campground, this stone building was built in 1935. At that time it served as a pumphouse and water treatment facility for the park. In 1939 it was decided to remove the treatment facility to a more remote area of the park. The building's roof was raised so that it could serve as a picnic shelter. (Easy View)

Station No. 10 Group Camp No. 1
This is the site of the CCC camp No. 1825. The community building served as their mess hall. A pavilion, several storage buildings, the flag pole and the rock council ring were also part of the CCC camp. (Easy View)

Station No. 11 Group Camp No. 2
This group camp is the original Tom Hale Boy Scout Camp. The community building and most of the cabins were built in 1931, four years before the CCC camp began. Carlton Weaver and Tom Hale, a businessman from McAlester, were the principal organizers of this scout camp. Although these buildings were not designed by the National Park Service,
ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK

MODERN SITES, 1-11, 18-20, 23, 25-27, 29
12 FULLY-ACCESSIBLE

OLD CIRCLE CAMPGROUND

WHISPERING PINES CAMPGROUND

BELLE STARR VIEW LODGE

COON CREEK RIDGE TRAIL

LAKE CARLTON TRAIL

DUMP STATION

GATE

STORE

COMFORT STATION
Robbers Cave State Park
Cabin Information and Camping Rate Schedule
918-465-2562       800-654-8240 ext 2

Cabins
101 & 102  1 BR Specialty Queen w/Full Foldout
103-104  1 BR Queen w/Full Foldout    105  1 BR Handicap Full w/Full Foldout
106 & 113  2 BR 2 Queen w/Full Foldout    107-112  1 BR Queen w/Full Foldout
114 & 115  2 BR 2 Queen w/Full Foldout
116-123  1 BR Duplexes Queen w/Full Foldout
124-126  2 BR with Deck 2 Queen w/Full Foldout

 Whispering Pines and Old Circle Campgrounds
All Modern RV Campsites Include Electric/Water/Sewer
All Semi-Modern RV Campsites Include Electric/Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern Site Rates</th>
<th>Site/Utility</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-12*</td>
<td>$12 / $11</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>$12 / $8</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*12 is a fully-accessible padded site</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semi-Modern Sites Rates</th>
<th>Site/Utility</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>$12 / $8</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/22/24/28/30-41</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tent Sites</th>
<th>Site/Utility</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reservation fee of $5 per site is non-refundable
All rates are subject to change and availability

[OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS]
ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK
CAMPING RATE SCHEDULE
918-465-2562 or 1-800-654-8240 ext. #2

89 RV sites. 17-Whispering Pines, 24-Old Circle, 45-Equestrian camp grounds, 2 Deep Ford, & 1 Lake Carlton. Modern campsites are only located at the Whispering Pines and the Old Circle camp grounds and two at the Equestrian Campground. Semi-Modern campsites are located at the Whispering Pines, Old Circle, & the Equestrian campgrounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improved Camping</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Senior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern Camp Sites (electric/water/sewer)</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Modern Camp Sites (electric/water only)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Check in time is 5pm and check out time is 2pm**
*While every effort is made to accommodate guest’s request, requests for specific sites cannot be guaranteed, however requests for specific site types (i.e. modern, semi-modern) will be guaranteed at time of reservation.
**Tent campers are permitted to reserve and occupy improved RV sites upon paying subsequent site fees from the above schedule. This fee structure allows for one “sleeping unit” (RV or tent) to occupy improved sites, only one additional tent may be established as an extension of the original “sleeping unit” provided the occupant of said site pays the additional unimproved camping fee. Fees for the use of utilities for the additional tent will also be in accordance with the utility fee structure for improved sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primitive &amp; Unimproved Camping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Tent Camping Areas - Fee is per tent per night.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Carlton, Deep Ford, Youngers Bend, Dogwood, Redbud, Equestrian Campground Field, Bobcat Crossing, Horseshoe Bend, Lake Wayne Wallace East, Eagles Nest. (*Lake Carlton, Deep Ford, Equestrian Field, & Bobcat Crossing Camp are near facilities).

**Reserveable Tent Camping Areas** for use of large groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Youth Groups...
Eagles Nest, Redbud, Horseshoe Bend and Bobcat Crossing (close to facilities). No facilities at Horseshoe Bend, Eagles Nest or Redbud.

Group primitive camping fees are $3 per person per night. **

***A $8 nonrefundable reservation fee is required at the time the reservations are made.

4 Back-country camping sites

**All backcountry camping requires a permit that can be acquired at the park office.**

- **Coon Creek Camp**
This site is located north of Coon Creek Lake on the east bank of Coon Creek. The GPS coordinates are N 39° 59.002' and W 095° 20.650' at 779 ft. elevation. This campground is located appx ¾ mile east of the park office with a significant elevation change about half way through. The trail head is located at the park office and accessed by following Coon Ridge Trail. A sure highlight to view is an old WPA dam built in the 1930's at the south end of the reservoir that the camp site is located on. Follow the dirt path south along the west bank of Coon Creek to view the dam.

- **The Quarry**
This site is located southwest of Lake Carlton and west of Deep Ford Camp Ground. The GPS coordinates are N 34° 58.366' and W 095° 21.955' at 748 ft. elevation. This campground is approximately 1.12 miles from the trail head of Mountain Trail at Deep Ford Campground (Trail Head across low water dam at Deep Ford Camp Ground). The Old Quarry Trail winds up a ridge about 100 feet but follows and old road so it is wide and easy to see. At least till you get to the campground. The old quarry is a section of the hill that was scraped off in the 1930's by the C.C.C. to access the rocks that make up some of our building structures, sidewalks, dams, and culverts. There is also a spring along the trail that used to be a water source for locals. It takes about an hour to hike there from Deep Ford Campground.

- **Rocky Top**
This site is located on the southwest side of Lake Wayne Wallace. The GPS coordinates are N 35° 00.181' and W 095° 21.931' at 817 ft. elevation. This campground is approximately three miles from the trail head of Mountain Trail at Deep Ford Campground. This section of trail does have significant elevation changes as you climb up to the cliffs above Lake Carlton. The approximate hiking time is three hours. Allow for plenty of time to take scenic photos above Lake Carlton. The campground is less than 100 yards from Lake Wayne Wallace. You can also access this site from Eagles Nest Campground for a shorter hike (aprx ½ mile).

- **Lost Lake**
This site is North West of Robbers Cave. The GPS coordinates are N 35° 00.632' and W 095° 20.445' at 990 ft. elevation. This campground is one and one-quarter miles from the Robbers Cave Parking Lot following the north east passage. And the campground is about one and three-quarters of a mile from the Robbers Cave Parking Lot following the south-west passage via Rough Canyon Trail. This trail is an easy loop trail with only brief elevation changes. From the Robbers Cave Parking Lot allow approximately one hour of travel time. Lost Lake was the water supply for Camp Tom Hale Boy Scout Camp. Today is called Group Camp 2. The concrete dam was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. If overnighting in this area, vehicles will be locked in after dusk.
Robbers Cave State Park
And Wildlife Management Area

Equestrian Trails
State Park trails are open all year. Please read and observe rules posted in the Equestrian Camp.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

1. All riders must remain on marked trails.
2. All trails except Trail #1 are closed October 1st-15th.
3. All trails are closed October 16th through December 31st and during spring turkey hunting season.
4. No alcoholic beverages allowed.
5. No motorized vehicles allowed on trails.
ROBBERS CAVE
HORSE TRAILS
TRAIL #1 ----- 21.0 miles
TRAIL #2 ----- 7.5 miles
TRAIL #3 ----- 3.0 miles
TRAIL #4 ----- 4.75 miles
TRAIL #5 ----- 6.5 miles
TRAIL #6 ----- 4.5 miles

OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS
FRIENDS OF ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK, INC.

About Robbers Cave State Park

Robbers Cave State Park was established in 1935 as one of the original state parks in Oklahoma. It is located in the scenic, hilly woodlands of the San Bois Mountains of southeast Oklahoma north of Wilburton. The 8,246 acre park with 189 combined lake acres of Lake Carlton, Lake Wayne Wallace, and Coon Creek Lake offers excellent fishing for trout, perch, bass and catfish, horseback riding along scenic bluffs, and hiking to the famous outlaw cave hidden in the formation of sandstone hills and cliffs that range from 300 to 1,500 feet in height.

How You Can Help

You are cordially invited to become a member of the Friends group. The Board of Directors currently meets monthly and the entire membership meets semi-annually. Your membership and participation allows you to give something to the park that will last beyond your lifetime – a treasured gift for your children and generations to come. Please accept our invitation to become a part of this group of concerned citizens. Together we will work to: promote and increase public interest in the park, assist and support the implementation of park programs and activities, and help solicit funds for improvements and facilities. The park needs your help.

About Friends of Robbers Cave State Park

With Oklahoma’s current economic climate and budget constraints it has become considerably more challenging to maintain and improve upon the services and programs being provided by the park and its staff. To assist with this and other endeavors, The Friends of Robbers Cave State Park Association, a non-profit support organization of volunteers, was formed in early 2011.

The purposes of the organization include assisting in the planning and implementation of park programs, promoting the park and tourism, and soliciting funds through grants, fundraisers, and donations to support park activities and projects.
FRIENDS OF ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK ASSOCIATION

The organization has been created to assist the park in the planning, implementation, and/or support of naturalist and recreational programs, special events, and projects to benefit the park, park visitors and citizens of local communities as well as enhance tourism. Furthermore, the organization will assist in the promotion of the park, solicitation of donations, and recruitment of volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ___________________________ Date: ____________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: ______________________ State: _____ Zip Code: ____________

Phone(s): ___________________________ Email: ____________________________

Special Interests and/or Skills: ________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

May we contact you about volunteer assistance or projects? ___ Yes

Annual Individual Membership ____($10) or Annual Family Membership ____($15)
Annual Business Membership ____($25) or Donation $$________

Mail this form to Robbers Cave State Park, FRCSPA, P.O. Box 9, Wilburton, OK, 74578.

The organization’s fiscal year is January 1st to December 31st. Members will receive a copy of the constitution and by-laws if requested. The Board of Directors is required to meet at least quarterly and biannual meetings of the membership will be scheduled.

THANK YOU!

If you have a question or comment, feel free to call the Nature Center at 918.465.5154. Also, become a fan of Robbers Cave State Park on the park’s Facebook page.
310 million years ago, during the Pennsylvanian age, an inland sea covered the area and fossils include a variety of plants and animals; coal deposits were formed; the park is in the “Arkoma Basin” and is a gas producing area. Sandstones and shale are the dominant rocks.

6,000 BC – Oldest dated Native American archaeological record in Latimer County; at least 124 known archaeological sites; 53 Archaic (6,000 BC to AD 1).

300 BC – AD 800 has been cited as the period of much of the prehistoric Native American occupation along Fourche Maline Creek which is the main stream that courses through the park.

900-1450 AD the Spiro Native American culture was a cultural gateway of trade as well as information between the bison-hunting Plains Indians and the agriculture-based culture of the Mississippi Valley. The Spiro Archaeological Center, near Spiro, OK is open to the public and is located approximately 50 miles northeast of the park.

Late 1600s and early 1700s French exploration of the region and establishment of trading relations with Native Americans including the Osage and Caddo Tribes. Thus, the names origin of the mountains in the area, San Bois (no wood), and the stream, Fourche Maline (treacherous branches).

1803 is when the United States obtained from Jefferson contributed to increased knowledge of the frontier and encouraged additional exploration.

1817 FL Smith established because of conflicts amongst the more western Tribes and the pending Indian removal policy regarding the “Five Civilized Tribes”.

1819 With a military party out of Ft. Smith, English botanist Thomas Nuttall traveled through southeast Oklahoma and was pleased with his discoveries as reflected in the statement, “Nothing could exceed the beauty of these plains” and in regard to the variety of uncommon flowers, “all the brilliancy of tropical production”.

1820 Scientist/botanist Edwin James traveled with the Major the Canadian River, took him across the north side of the San Smith and reaching their destination of Ft. Guadelupe, and about the “Great American Desert”, the hunter, the bison, the prairie wolf and the marmot.

1835 was the establishment of the Chocotaw Indians in Indian Territory after the federal government forced the removal from their homeland in Mississippi and part of Alabama. The Chocotaw Nation in Oklahoma.

1839 Explorer and trader, Josiah Gregg, blazed a trail from Van Buren, Arkansas across Indian Territory along the Canadian Ten years in the future it would be called the California Road. After touring Indian Territory in 1841, he wrote a book titled “Commercio of the Prairies”.

1846 The establishment of the Texas Road was already in use as a trade and emigrant route to Texas during the Mexican War generally follows US Highway 69 through Oklahoma which includes thoroughfare in nearby city of McAlester.

1848 Randolph B. Marcy was assigned to the Chocotaw Nation, Indian Territory. Part of his long military career was spent in California Road, was laid out based on Gregg's former trek. In Creeks in the vicinity of the park. The trail would later be part of the Butterfield Overland Mail route.

1858 The Butterfield Overland Mail route out of Ft. Smith crossed Indian Territory, first entering the Chickasaw Nation, to the Red River. Part of the took thirty-eight hours to make the 192 mile trip. Near Robbers official stage stations. The stagecoach also carried passengers Indian Territory was interrupted in 1861 due to the Civil War.

1861 The outbreak of the Civil War caused divisions within and among Indians and non-Indians in Indian Territory. The Chocotaw sided with the Confederates. The alliance prompted the Chocotaw to become the first U.S. Indian Tribe to adopt a flag of their own. The flag features a circle surrounding a calumet, and a bow with three arrows. It was during this time, the “home guard” or Chocotaw Light Horsemen was organized. The Oklahoma Historical Society documented a confederate camp site and cemetery not far from Robbers Cave State Park. It is legend that both Union and Confederate deserters sought refuge at Robbers Cave.

1865 During the Civil War, the Texas Road was used by both Union and Confederate Armies as an important route. Post war period use was the driving of cattle from Texas to Kansas. It was one of Oklahoma’s major cattle trails.

1870s Underground mining for coal began in the area. In 1872, James J. McAlester married into the Chocotaw Tribe which allowed for legal access to coal deposits. Due to his initial efforts the coal mining industry had a commercial climb. Can you guess where the city of McAlester got its name?

1873 The Missouri, Kansas, and Texas (MK&T or “Katy”) Railroad was the first to span across Indian Territory from Kansas to Denison, TX. The Katy transported grain, cattle, and coal coming from the mines around McAlester and was a companion of the Texas Road.

1874 Myra Belle Shirley, the notorious female outlaw called the “Bandit Queen”, became Belle Starr after moving to Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory and marrying Cherokee tribal member Sam Starr. She had a residence close to the Canadian River at a place called Youngers Bend near present-day Purum, Oklahoma. The distance from Robbers Cave is about thirty miles. She and her male of questionable character were known for stealing horses and cattle. Stories have survived the years of Belle Starr using Robbers Cave as a hideout as well as Jesse James and other outlaws. Along the Fourche Maline Creek a rugged passage was called “Robbers Trail".
1875 Isaac C. Parker, known as the "hanging judge", became the federal judge based at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He was responsible for enforcing and legal actions in Indian Territory regarding non-Indians charged with a crime. The Choctaw Tribe had a law enforcement unit, called the Light Horsemen. He sentenced 160 people to death of which 79 actually hanged. He was a judge for 21 years.

1875-1896 More than 100 Deputy Marshals were killed. Famous lawmen included William "Bill" Tilghman, Jr., Henry "Heck" Thomas, and Chris Madsen and they became known as the "Three Guardsmen". The longest a Deputy Marshall served, from 1875-1907, was an African-American named Bass Reeves.

1876 Jesse James and company supposedly retreated to Robbers Cave on a return robbery trip in Mexico to hide as well as recoup from a March winter storm.

1889 Belle Starr was assassinated. She received two shotgun blasts in her back while riding her horse on her way to her home. No person was ever convicted of the crime.

1889-1890 Choctaw Coal and Railway was established from Wister to McAlester thus crossing through the nearby city of Wilburton.

1890 The word "Oklahoma" was officially approved for the name of Oklahoma territorial lands. Of Choctaw origin (oka-people, humma-red), the word was first introduced in 1839 by Choctaw Chief Allen Wright.

1894 Last execution of a Choctaw under Tribal law. Sigan Lewis was convicted of murder. The Tribal law enforcement unit, the Light Horseman, was in charge of the execution. When shots did not prove to be fatal, Lewis was smothered. Soon after a judge caused for the unit to be disbanded.

The execution took place not far from Wilburton.

1907 November 7th – Oklahoma officially became a state. Indian and Oklahoma Territories dissolved.

1914 Carlton Weaver arrived in Wilburton. He is especially known for his newspaper career, being a legislator, and as the primary founder of Robbers Cave State Park.

1914 McAlester business man and banker, Tom Hale, was appointed to the "Citizens Advisory Committee" regarding the building of the State Capitol. Also, he was effective in the promotion of the Boy Scouts organization. The boy scout camp at the park was named after him.

1926 Carlton Weaver donated approximately 175 acres of land, in what is now the park, for use as a Boy Scout Camp. John Newell, warden at McAlester's State Penitentiary, arranged for the building of what is now group camp 2 by skilled prison laborers. In time, first through a lease arrangement, followed by sale of property by Weaver, the park and wildlife combined areas eventually grew to its current acreage of 8,246.

1931 Carlton Weaver was the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1933 Civilian Conservation Corps, Company 1825 was formed and organized at what was then called the state game preserve. In 1935, under the supervision of the National Park Service, the State Parks Division took over.

Between 1935 and 1941, the CCC Company built cabins, roads, trails, stream dams, group camps, and a shelter. In 1937 the CCC and Works Progress Administration created Carlton Lake named after Carlton Weaver. Along side the lake a bath house structure was built which now houses nature and history exhibits.

1947 Carlton Weaver's request to be buried in the park is honored.

1954 In association with the University of Oklahoma, Muzaffer Sherif, conducted a conflict resolution study with youth at camps in the park. The experiments were a foundation for important discoveries in the science of psychology.


070110ort/nosp
Each shelter, with the exception of the Amphitheater, has picnic tables and grill(s). The number of picnic tables and grills at each shelter will vary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Rate Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Carlton</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Swimming</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Equestrian</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Equestrian</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 Amphitheater</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7 Cabin Office</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Carlton Community Center:

Each room has central heat/air and enough tables and chairs to seat 80 people. No set up comes with these rooms; groups are responsible for the set up and wiping down the tables and carrying out the trash. There is a projection screen, easel, and flipchart available for each room. There is a $15 fee for the flip chart. Each room has its own access from the outside. The community rooms can be rented for $25 per hour, with a two hour minimum, if the reservation is made less than 30 days prior to arrival. Check-in time for the community rooms is 9:00 a.m. Check-out time is 7:00 p.m. on the day of departure.

Roosevelt Room: Price $175 per day.
This room is handicap accessible and has restroom facilities.

CCC Room: Price $175 per day.
There are no restroom facilities, and guests will need to use the facilities at the east end of the Nature Center.

Butterfield Room:

Located at the Belle Starr View Lodge: Price $200 per day

Room will seat up to 95 people and is handicap accessible. 12 round tables, 12 rectangle tables and 95 chairs are available for setup. Setup is included in price. This room has restroom facilities, Wi-Fi, and a prep kitchen. The prep kitchen includes a side by side refrigerator, microwave and dishwasher. There is also a projection screen, easel, podium and flipchart available. There is $15 charge for the flip chart. Maroon and Hunter Green tablecloths are available for all the tables. There is a $5 cleaning fee per tablecloth. The Butterfield Room cannot be reserved more than two months in advance unless a minimum of 10 lodge guest rooms are also blocked or reserved by the same group.
SPOOKTACULAR

HAUNTED HAYRIDE

ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25 & 26
$4.00 PER PERSON

RIDES BEGIN AT THE STABLES AT 7:00 PM - LAST RIDE AT 9:30 PM
RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED - CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

SPONSORED BY ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK, FRIENDS OF ROBBERS CAVE
AND LATIMER COUNTY 4H

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
LATIMER COUNTY OSU EXTENSION SERVICE 918-465-3349
OR ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK 918-465-2562

DARE TO TAKE A RIDE THROUGH THE HAUNTED FOREST!

OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS
Welcome to Robbers Cave State Park

ATTENTION

"TRAIL GUIDE"

Please do not hesitate to contact us as we are happy to be of service.
Robbers Cave State Park
P.O. Box 9
Wilburton, OK 74578-0009

HAPPY AND SAFE TRAILS TO YOU!
"WEATHER WISE"

In Oklahoma the weather can change abruptly. Weather conscious park visitors are less apt to find themselves in an uncomfortable or life threatening situation. It is wise to include weather forecasts in the planning of any outdoor endeavor and especially so for individuals entering the back country. Because we care about your well-being and experience during your stay, we offer the following information:

- **Severe Weather Alerts** are issued by means of a siren. Test of the siren is conducted at 11am on Wednesdays. Park staff may also be deployed to contact park visitors. All park campers are encouraged to go to a comfort station in the event of severe weather and wait until notified by a park employee regarding weather status. Lodge and cabin guests are encouraged to stay inside as far away from windows as possible, preferably in the bathroom.

- **Weather Information** can be obtained at the park/cabin office, nature center, or from park ranger. If you have a laptop computer, wireless internet is available in the parking lot area of Belle Starr View Lodge.

- **Off Road Treks** in any season may be met with challenges caused by weather. Spring season is normally the wettest. Heavy rains can quickly increase the size and flow of creeks as well as make rocks, logs, and even leaves slippery. Fording streams can be dangerous and when swollen should be avoided. If in doubt, do not cross. If you cross a stream and carrying a pack with waist band, unbleck it and keep your boots on. Creeks may downsize in a short time after a brief rainy period as opposed to a day or more of steady rain. Although thunderstorms are more common in spring, conditions may arise during any season and visitors should be watchful of lightning and take precautions immediately.

- **Summer** brings its share of lightning storms. Avoid being caught on exposed ridges and get to a lower elevation. Spread your group out and keep track of each other. If time does not allow you to get to a lower elevation, squat down to reduce your height and minimize contact with the earth. If your pack has a metal frame, remove the pack. If you have a foam pad, put it under you. High temperature and humidity pose potential threats of heat exhaustion or stroke. Pace yourself, rest often, and drink plenty of water.

- **Fall and Winter** presents increased possibility of hypothermia which can be deadly. The best advice is to stay dry and stay warm which also reduces chance of frost bite. If you find yourself perspiring, slow down, you do not want under garments to get wet. Carefully travel in icy conditions to avoid slips and falls.

- **First Aid** knowledge should include emergency treatments of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, hypothermia, and frost bite.

- If in doubt about the weather, turn back or postpone your trek.

**Be Prepared For Every Season**

Wildlife you may see on the trail!

- Deer
- Rabitt
- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Oppossum
- Grey Squirrel
The combined acreage of Robbers Cave State Park and the adjunct Wildlife Management Areas is more than 8,000 and is crossed by many miles of trails and roads. This creates a wonderful opportunity for trail users when planning, preparation, and precautions are applied sensibly and safely. Each year we respond to situations of lost and/or injured trail users. Your safety and well-being is of utmost concern.

Coon Ridge Trail Red Blaze
Canyon Trail Single Blue Dot
Multi-Use Trail Multi-Colored
Cattail Pond Loop Blue Double Dot
Mountain Trail Blue Blaze.
**“TIPS AND REGULATIONS FOR TRAIL USERS”**

- Acquire current trail map(s) and related information at nature center or park/cabin office.
- It is very important to tell at least one person where you are going and how long you plan to be gone and communicate with them on a timely basis.
- Use of alcoholic beverage(s) before or during trail use is not recommended.
- Permit is required from park office if interested in backcountry camping and low impact camping must be practiced.
- Check local weather forecast and be prepared for every season.
- Consider the terrain and know your physical limitations.
- Wear sturdy shoes and proper attire (carry extra clothes in cold weather).
- Use of the “buddy system” is recommended.
- Take with you a first-aid kit, personal survival kit, water, needed medication, compass and map, whistle, charged cell phone, snacks/food, and flashlight or headlamp especially on extended journeys.
- If you have a GPS, why not take it with you.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times.
- Park is home for poisonous snakes. Visit nature center to learn more.
- Use a repellant to ward off ticks and mosquitoes.
- Be aware of safe practices when in bear country.
- Remain on designated trails and make note of landmarks.
- Trails are color coded with use of dots or blazes.
- Taking unnecessary risks may prove injurious or deadly.
- Abide by trail restrictions and regulations that may be posted.
- Hikers are encouraged to not use trails intended for horseback riding.
- Proof of negative coggins test is required for every horse in park.
- If you believe you are lost, you probably are; in most cases, you should not venture further; do not panic; if with others, stay together if possible.
- Please pack out all trash.
- Report lost person(s) or emergency to park/cabin office 918.465.2562 or nature center 918.465.5154 or call 911.

**“BEAR SENSE”**

The Black Bear population in Oklahoma has continued to increase particularly in the southeast portion of the state.

In 2009, Oklahoma’s first bear hunting season commenced. There were two bears harvested in Latimer County.

Although bear sightings are uncommon, park visitors, especially back country users, should be alert and take precautions.

**Keep A Clean Camp**
Food and drinks, scented items (such as tooth paste and clothes with food smells), ice chests, and trash should not be left out in camp or stored in a tent. In the backcountry, the above mentioned items need to be contained and suspended high on a small tree limb away from primary camp area. Be advised that a permit is required for backcountry/non-designated campsites. If a humming bird feeder is placed at camp site, it should be removed before dusk. Maintaining a clean camp will also discourage other potential wild visitors such as raccoons and opossums.

**Bear Encounter**
Immediately upon spotting a bear do not approach it, but create and maintain as much distance as possible and make noise while retreating. Especially if you surprise a bear in close proximity, do not run; slowly back away; make noise; and stomp your feet. Make yourself look as big as possible. If bear continues to approach or is seemingly stalking you throw objects at it as well (non-food items). A bear may stand up, but that does not necessarily signal that the bear will attack as it may just be sniffing the air. Bears have a keen sense of smell.

**Stewardship**
Oklahoma State Parks and you share a stewardship responsibility in regard to wildlife. We can share special places and use “Bear Sense” to help ensure a safe and friendly coexistence.

**Please Report Bear Sighting**
To report a bear sighting, visit the park office or the nature center. By telephone, call or leave message at 918.465.2562 or 918.465.5154. To inquire about backcountry campsite permit, contact the park office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.