

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR THE
GREAT EGG HARBOR NATIONAL SCENIC
AND RECREATIONAL RIVER
- Final -



Photograph by Steve Eisenhauer

National Park Service, Philadelphia Support Office
In cooperation with the
Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee
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*Great Egg Harbor River
... a cooperatively
managed unit in the
National Park System*

In the mid 1980's, local landowners, environmental organizations, and public officials in twelve municipalities in four counties in New Jersey focused on the future of the Great Egg Harbor River. They were motivated by development pressure, changed patterns of recreational use, threats to wildlife and historic sites, and the prospect of substantial withdrawals into public water supply systems.

In 1992 Congress passed Public Law 102-536, which designated segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The National Park Service, through the Secretary of the Interior, was given responsibility for "managing the river segments through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass . . . except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands."

As a cooperatively managed unit in the National Park System, the National Park Service has been closely working with twelve municipalities, as well as other appropriate state, federal, and local organizations to assure long-term protection of the designated river corridor.

Over 99 percent of the eligible waterways and adjacent lands are within the boundary of the Pinelands National Reserve, which was established by the United States Congress in 1978. Much of the land within the National Reserve is also within the state designated Pinelands Area and falls under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Uses of these lands and waters within the Pinelands Area are governed by a Comprehensive Management Plan that is administered by the Pinelands Commission. Incorporated by reference is the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan prescribes minimum standards and allowable uses within these areas.

Waterways and adjacent lands outside of the Pinelands Area but within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve are subject to New Jersey's Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA), which must be consistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Remaining acreage outside of the National Reserve but within the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River boundary is predominantly wetlands and is regulated by state and federal agencies. Over one-fourth of the designated river corridor is publicly owned and is administered as either state wildlife management areas or county parks. The approximately 129-mile designated river corridor is already substantially protected for future generations.

Recognizing that the Great Egg Harbor River would be managed cooperatively, Public Law 102-536 also directed the development of Local River Management Plans by each of the twelve municipalities, as well as the joint development of a Comprehensive Management Plan by the National Park Service.





SUMMARY

Through the Local River Management Planning process, each municipality was encouraged to review its existing ordinances, delineate a local boundary for the river, identify compatible uses, and employ Best Management Practices in the river corridor.

The Great Egg Harbor River was designated without Local River Management Plans in place because of the existing protection already provided under the Pinelands National Reserve and CAFRA. Existing zoning was reviewed during the designation process and again during the development of this plan. It was determined each time that local zoning for the twelve municipalities was consistent with the level of protection necessary to preserve resources of the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor. The National Park Service has determined that Local River Management Plans can be accomplished in several different ways: actual development of a plan called a Local River Management Plan; incorporation of protection and planning for the river corridor in a local Master Plan; or protection through the local zoning and ordinance process.

A two-tier approach to the management of the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor acknowledges both the importance of and preference for local leadership, and the additional protection afforded by federal wild and scenic river designation. The first management tier will focus on the support of local municipalities and the base level of protection already available through county and state government organizations. The development of Local River Management Plans by each of the twelve municipalities outlines basic protection at the local level.

The second management tier involves the federal government through the National Park Service. The National Park Service will serve as the key federal representative in the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan. The agency's principal role will be to represent the Secretary of the Interior in reviewing federal projects as required by Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The National Park Service will serve as coordinator and liaison among participants in the Great Egg Harbor River Council, the preferred management approach for the designated river corridor outlined in this plan. The National Park Service was also given the authority to review Local River Management Plans, in consultation with appropriate representatives of local political jurisdictions and the State of New Jersey, to assure their proper implementation. Together, the National Park Service and its partners will assure the values for which the river corridor was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System remain undiminished.

The planning process for the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor has been ongoing for several years. The following guidelines are contained in the 1990 Final Study Report for the Great Egg Harbor River. These guidelines were developed during the study and designation process and reflect the consensus that resulted in local support for designation. They were also taken into consideration throughout the Comprehensive Management Planning process.

- The National Park Service will not acquire land within the Great Egg Harbor River corridor for its direct ownership nor will the National Park Service directly manage the designated river corridor;
- Management of the Great Egg Harbor River will occur cooperatively with base protection at the local level;

“National Park Service and its partners will assure the values for which the river corridor was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System remain undiminished.”

SUMMARY

- Existing local, state and federal statutes and programs to conserve resources will be coordinated;
- Traditional uses will be maintained;
- Landowner rights will be respected; and
- Economic needs will be recognized.

The federal boundary for the Great Egg Harbor River consists of a one-quarter mile strip from the high water line on both sides of the river and its designated tributaries throughout the river corridor. This boundary envelops outstandingly remarkable resources and wetlands and provides enough land area to buffer the waterway from incompatible land uses. The federal boundary cannot exceed more than 320 acres per river mile, on average, as outlined under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The proposed federal boundary for the Great Egg Harbor River has been reviewed and accepted by local municipalities. A final boundary map will comply with Section 3(b) of Public Law 90-542.

Since the federal boundary is limited by law, municipalities were encouraged to develop local river management boundaries that exceed the recommended federal boundary and follow existing wetlands boundaries to assure even more protection. While municipalities were not obligated to develop local river management boundaries that exceeded the federal boundary, most have chosen to pursue a larger protection area as indicated on the maps included in **Appendix 3** of this plan.

This Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) establishes the basic philosophy of resource protection and provides a rationale for making management decisions that affect those resources. Although this Comprehensive Management Plan does not supersede the law, nor transfer or delegate the legal responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior, it does stipulate an agreement between all levels of government for implementing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River legislation. As with any agreement, if local municipalities, counties and state government agencies fulfill their responsibilities as stated in this CMP, the National Park Service will fulfill its responsibilities and take only those actions identified in the plan. Similarly if the municipalities implement their Local River Management Plans, then local interests will be protected and the federal interest will be assured. This CMP recognizes the river corridor's intrinsic importance to its residents, as well as to the nation as a whole. Viewpoints expressed sometimes differed, but the plan is designed to address public concerns and implement policies to ensure effective river management.

The Plan describes 129 miles of the river and its surroundings; identifies river-wide issues along with recommended strategies for resolving them; analyzes the environmental consequences of the plan and presents four management alternatives. Under all management alternatives considered, the National Park Service maintains its role as overall administrator and facilitator assisting local protection efforts.

Public Law 102-536 establishes a \$70,000 appropriation ceiling for planning assistance for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. The only alternative which can be accomplished under this funding limit is Alternative #1, Continue Existing Trends (No Action). All other management alternatives considered exceed the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling which is necessary to establish the Great Egg Harbor River as a unit of the National Park

“This Comprehensive Management Plan recognizes the river corridor’s intrinsic importance to its residents, as well as to the nation as a whole.”



SUMMARY

“. . . this plan seeks to protect water quality, preserve natural features, provide for recreational uses, provide for the continuation of agriculture, conserve river resources . . .”

System and implement this CMP. The range of management options consisted of:

- Continue Existing Trends (Alternative I – No Action) to provide a baseline for comparison of other alternatives;
- Establish an Advisory Council within Atlantic County Government (Alternative II);
- More detailed NPS Management (Alternative III); and
- Development of an independent River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (Alternative IV and Preferred Alternative).

Ten of the twelve municipalities in the designated river corridor wrote letters of support for the concepts contained in the first draft Comprehensive Management Plan and for the creation of a Great Egg Harbor River Council. The National Park Service has determined that all twelve municipalities have met the Local River Management Planning mandate outlined in Public Law 102-536.

Finally, the recommendations in this plan seek to protect water quality, preserve natural features, provide for recreational uses, provide for the continuation of agriculture, conserve river resources, and maintain existing land use patterns. They do not limit the rights of owners to maintain lawfully established uses. They do not limit rights to fish, hunt, trap or harvest eels on any lands or waters (subject to property owner approval), nor do they require a change in the existing laws and programs which regulate these uses. They do not limit the continuation of lawfully existing agricultural or forestry operations, nor do they impose any restrictions, other than the continuation of existing state and local laws, whatsoever, on farming.

This Comprehensive Management Plan focuses on managing the river corridor through educating and informing the public, as well as through the strict enforcement of existing laws and regulations.



A. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

“ . . . 129 miles of the river and its tributaries (have been designated) as a national scenic and recreational river . . . ”

On October 27, 1992, Public Law 102-536 was signed. It amended Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) to designate segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in the State of New Jersey as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was established to protect selected rivers in a free-flowing condition and to recognize their importance to our cultural and natural heritage. To qualify for this protection, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that rivers must not only be free flowing, but also relatively undeveloped and must possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. The term “outstandingly remarkable” is not precisely defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. As directed by 1982 interagency guidelines, the determination of whether or not a river area contains outstandingly remarkable resources is based on the professional judgement of the study team. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires a finding that at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value exists in a river corridor to make it eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The legislation including the Great Egg Harbor River in the national system designated approximately 129 miles of the river and its tributaries as a national scenic and recreational river. This designation included three river segments on the mainstem totaling 39.5 miles and 89.5 miles of tributaries, all of which are encompassed by 85,000 acres of adjacent related lands. Of those 129 miles, 30.6 miles are designated as scenic and 98.4 miles are designated as recreational. Two segments of the Great Egg Harbor River were excluded from the designation due to impoundments: New Brooklyn Lake located in the upper portion of the Great Egg Harbor River between Monroe and Winslow Townships; and the Lake Lenape area located in Hamilton Township. Refer to **Tables 1** and **2** and **Map 3** for classifications of various river segments.

River Tributary Name	Segment Description	Classification & Miles
Lower Great Egg Harbor River	Mouth of Patcong Creek to Mouth of Perch Cove	Scenic 10 miles
Tuckahoe River	Confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Route 50 Bridge	Scenic 9 miles
Middle River	Confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Levee	Scenic 5.6 miles
Cedar Swamp Creek	Confluence with Tuckahoe River to headwaters	Scenic 6 miles
All other eligible Segments	See Maps 1 & 3 and Table 2	Recreational 98.4 miles



OVERVIEW

TABLE 2 ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS AND CLASSIFICATIONS			
RIVER/TRIBUTARY	SEGMENT	MILES	CLASSIFICATION
(Lower) Great Egg Harbor River	Patcong Creek to Perch Cove Run	10.0	Scenic
(Lower) Great Egg Harbor River	Perch Cove Run to Mill Street Bridge	5.5	Recreational
(Middle) Great Egg Harbor River	Lake Lenape to Atlantic City Expressway	21.0	Recreational
(Upper) Great Egg Harbor River	New Freedom Road to Penn RR ROW	3.0	Recreational
Squankum Branch	Confluence to Malaga Road	4.5	Recreational
Big Bridge Branch	Confluence to headwaters	2.2	Recreational
Penny Pot Branch	Confluence to 14 th Street	4.1	Recreational
Deep Run	Confluence to Pancoast Mill Rd	5.4	Recreational
Mare Run	Confluence to Weymouth Ave.	3.0	Recreational
Babcock Creek	Confluence to headwaters	7.5	Recreational
Gravelly Run	Confluence to Penn RR ROW	2.7	Recreational
Miry Run	Confluence to Asbury Road	1.7	Recreational
South River	Confluence to Main Avenue	13.5	Recreational
Stephens Creek	Confluence to NJ Route 50	2.3	Recreational
Gibson Creek	Confluence to 1 st Avenue	5.6	Recreational
English Creek	Confluence to Zion Road (dam)	3.5	Recreational
Lakes Creek	Confluence to dam	2.2	Recreational
Middle River	Confluence to levee	5.6	Scenic
Patcong Creek	Confluence to Garden State Parkway	2.8	Recreational
(Lower) Tuckahoe River	Confluence to Route 50 bridge	9.0	Scenic
(Upper) Tuckahoe River	Route 50 bridge to Route 49 bridge	7.3	Recreational
Cedar Swamp Creek	Confluence to headwaters	6.0	Scenic

OVERVIEW

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides specific limitations on the establishment of the official “federal” (or scenic and recreational) boundary. Basically, the federal government is limited to establishing a “federal” boundary for the river which does not exceed one quarter mile from the mean high water line, or a boundary which does not exceed 320 acres, on average, per river mile. **Map 1** represents the federal boundary which will be submitted to Congress. In addition to the federal boundary, each municipality was asked to establish a Local River Management boundary. The local River Management boundary extends beyond the federal boundary and includes additional lands to be protected by municipalities. The maps in **Appendix 3** indicate the local management boundary for each municipality.

Section 2 of the designation legislation specifically states that the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, “shall manage the river segments designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this Act through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass . . . and in consultation with such jurisdictions, except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands.”

Simply stated, responsibility for long term management and protection of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River is shared among neighboring municipalities, the four counties, the State of New Jersey, the Pinelands Commission, and the National Park Service. Basic protection is the responsibility of the 12 municipalities along the river corridor with the National Park Service providing oversight. For that reason, the designation legislation specifically mentions the need for the development of Local River Management Plans by appropriate local political jurisdictions in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service for the long term protection, preservation, and enhancement of the river corridor. Cooperative Agreements for management of the river segments must be consistent with Local River Management Plans and the overall Comprehensive Management Plan. The National Park Service was given responsibility to review Local River Management Plans to assure protection of the designated corridor.

Section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that “Neither the Secretary of the Interior nor the Secretary of Agriculture may acquire lands by condemnation, for the purpose of including such lands in any national wild, scenic or recreational river area, if such lands are located within any incorporated city, village, or borough which has in force and applicable to such lands a duly adopted, valid zoning ordinance that conforms with the purposes of this Act.” The Great Egg Harbor River amendments to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that acceptable Local River Management Plans shall be deemed to constitute “local zoning ordinances” for purposes of conforming to requirements of the Act.

Local River Management Plans are, therefore, the foundation for long term protection of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries. The National Park Service has determined that Local River Management Plans can take several different forms: actual development of a plan called a Local River Management Plan, incorporation of protection and planning for the river corridor in a Master Plan, or protection through local zoning and ordinances.



OVERVIEW

A synopsis of each municipality's approach to local river management is included in this Comprehensive Management Plan. Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by Atlantic County delineate the Local River Management boundaries and are included in **Appendix 3**.

B. PURPOSE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

“The CMP process helps determine what should be experienced while living with, and visiting, the river corridor and how best to preserve resources.”

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directs the administering agency to prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) in consultation with appropriate representatives of local political jurisdictions and the State of New Jersey to assure that the values for which the river segments were designated are protected.

A Comprehensive Management Plan is a tool that establishes the basic philosophy of resource protection and provides a rationale for making management decisions that affect those resources and the landowners' and visitors' experience of the resource. The CMP process helps determine what should be experienced while living with, and visiting, the river corridor and how best to preserve resources. The CMP will present strategies that address future development, stewardship of natural resources, and educational programs.

This Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River was prepared in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and National Park Service policy requirements. The planning process began with a broad look at why the river was included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and what resource conditions and experiences should exist there and then focused on how those conditions could best be achieved. The Comprehensive Management Plan defines the purpose and significance of the corridor, goals, and management direction, and serves as the foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent management decision making.

C. THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Comprehensive Management Planning process is guided by several federal requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Act requires that a full range of alternatives be considered (including no action or change in existing trends), that public opinion be considered during the process, and that alternatives be analyzed for their impacts. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations also require full consideration of other acts such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 “Floodplain Management”, Executive Order 11990 “Protection of Wetlands,” and Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations.”

This Comprehensive Management Plan was jointly prepared by the National Park Service, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, the Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee (which includes representatives from each of the 12 municipalities, 4 counties, and appropriate state and federal agencies), and reflects comments, concerns, and issues raised through the public involvement process.

OVERVIEW

Planning began at a series of public meetings . . .

D. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Although the Comprehensive Management Planning process “officially” began with the Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on April 10, 1997, the planning committee for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River has been meeting throughout the last few years to address concerns, identify issues, and develop “Guidelines for Local River Management Plans” to assist local municipalities in establishing Local River Management boundaries for long term protection of the river corridor. The Notice of Intent formally announced the Comprehensive Management Planning process, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement as part of that process, and also announced the first public meeting which was scheduled for April 22, 1997. To assure adequate coverage and notification, public meeting notices were printed in several newspapers.

A series of local public information meetings were held during 1997, 1998 and 1999. The initial April 22, 1997 meeting explained the comprehensive management planning process, the importance of developing Local River Management Plans, and the need to develop a collective vision of what the river should look like in the future. Subsequent meetings built upon the work begun at the initial April meeting, resulting in the identification of critical issues, along with recommendations for their resolution, and the development of a series of vision statements and possible management alternatives.

After each meeting, information was promptly summarized in a newsletter/update in an attempt to notify a larger audience about the discussions that took place and to seek additional input. In addition to each Update, letters were sent out prior to each meeting reminding interested individuals about the next meeting date and providing an agenda. On June 2, 1997, a draft paper outlining issues and possible recommendations based on discussions held during several meetings was circulated for input, comments and concurrence. In July and September 1997, details on management alternatives were distributed to Planning Committee members and the public to gain additional input into the management options being considered.

The following list details the public involvement and notification activities for developing this Comprehensive Management Plan:

PUBLIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 25, 1997
April 22, 1997
June 16, 1997
September 23, 1997
October 28, 1997
January 27, 1998
March 31, 1998
May 14, 1998
July 28, 1998
September 22, 1998
November 17, 1998
January 26, 1999
April 22, 1999
June 22, 1999
September 28, 1999

INFORMATION UPDATES DISTRIBUTED

April 2, 1997
May 9, 1997
July 9, 1997
September 30, 1997
November 4, 1997
February 11, 1998
April 12, 1998
May 20, 1998
August 10, 1998
October 1, 1998
December 2, 1998
February 10, 1999
June 4, 1999
August 4, 1999
October 12, 1999



OVERVIEW

A working draft of the CMP was distributed to Planning Committee members on January 27, 1998 and an initial draft of the CMP and Environmental Assessment was made available for public comment from May 3, 1998 through July 3, 1998. Notice of Availability of the second draft of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register and the draft was made available for public comment from June 28, 1999 through October 15, 1999. Public notices were printed in several newspapers announcing the availability of the draft. Comments received are incorporated, where appropriate, in this document.

E. UPDATING THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Comprehensive Management Plan provides a 10-year framework for cooperative protection of the Great Egg Harbor River. However, it is recognized that new issues and opportunities will arise not addressed in this plan that will need attention. The Great Egg Harbor River Council, once established, will assist the National Park Service in preparing a report every two years indicating the status of cooperative protection efforts.

SECTION III

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Mission

The primary mission of the National Park Service and its partners is to preserve the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in free-flowing condition and to assure the protection of outstandingly remarkable resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.



A. PURPOSE

The purposes of establishing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River are as follows:

- to declare the importance and irreplaceable resource values of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries to water quality, human health, traditional economic activities, ecosystem integrity, biotic diversity, fish and wildlife, scenic open space and recreation and protect such values;
- to recognize that the Great Egg Harbor River system will continue to be threatened by major development and that land use regulations of the individual local political jurisdictions through which the river segments pass cannot alone provide for an adequate balance between conservation of the river's resources and commercial and industrial development;
- to educate visitors and residents about the significant resources of the river corridor and the responsibilities associated with them.

B. RIVER SIGNIFICANCE

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVER

The Great Harbor River begins in suburban towns and meanders for 59 miles on its way to the Atlantic Ocean, draining 304 square miles of wetlands in the lower half of the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve. Dissolved iron and tannin, a product of fallen leaves and cedar roots, produce the river's tea colored "cedar water" along much of its length. The freshwater and tidal wetlands serve as resting, feeding, and breeding areas for waterfowl throughout the year amid undisturbed forests and swamp areas. The watershed has been occupied since pre-historic times, lived upon traditionally by the Lenape Indians before occupations by Europeans in the early 1700s. The lands contained all the necessary materials for shipbuilding, and in the Revolutionary War its "bog iron" made cannon balls while its hidden coves sheltered privateers. Blast furnaces, sawmills, glass factories, and brick and tile works followed until the Industrial Revolution drew its people away.

Over 99 percent of the eligible waterways and adjacent lands are within the boundary of the Pinelands National Reserve, which was established by the United States Congress in 1978. Much of the land within the National Reserve is also within the state-designated Pinelands Area and falls under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Uses of the lands and waters within the Pinelands Area are governed by a Comprehensive Management Plan that is administered by the Pinelands Commission. Eligible waterways and adjacent lands outside of the Pinelands Area, but within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve, are subject to New Jersey's Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA), which must be consistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (and is ensured through joint review).



PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Remaining acreage outside of the National Reserve but within the designated river corridor is predominantly wetlands and is either publicly owned or regulated by state and federal agencies.

The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River passes through, or along, twelve communities located in four counties in the State of New Jersey. The following communities are within the 129-mile designated section of the River:

Buena Vista Township
Corbin City
Egg Harbor Township
City of Estell Manor
Borough of Folsom
Hamilton Township
Town of Hammonton
Monroe Township
City of Somers Point
Upper Township
Weymouth Township
Winslow Township

The four counties are: Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden, and Cape May.

2. RESOURCE INFORMATION

The Great Egg Harbor River is home to a wide array of natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. The presence of these resources is what made the Great Egg Harbor River a candidate for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

A number of “outstandingly remarkable” and “priority” resources were identified in the river corridor during the study process. Refer to **Table 9** located in the Environmental Impact Statement (Section VIII) for a more detailed list of outstandingly remarkable resources or refer to **Maps 2 and 9** for critical habitat areas and historic sites. Additional information is also available in the “1988 Determination of Eligibility and Classification Report for the Great Egg Harbor River.”

C. SPECIAL MANDATES

A primary purpose of designating the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River was to protect the wide array of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources for the future and to respond to a local desire to conserve the river values that were important to area residents. The following guidelines were developed during the study (1990 Final Study Report) and designation process and reflect the consensus that resulted in local support for designation. They were also taken into consideration throughout this planning document.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

1. NO FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION WILL TAKE PLACE FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OWNERSHIP NOR WILL THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTLY MANAGE THE RIVER CORRIDOR —

The National Park Service will not directly own land within the Great Egg Harbor River corridor for the purpose of protecting outstandingly remarkable resources. The National Park Service will also not have a visible management presence in the corridor but will work cooperatively through local and state governments to achieve resource protection.

2. LOCAL MANAGEMENT —

Management of the Great Egg Harbor River will be based primarily on the actions of local governments in cooperation with landowners, the business community, individual citizens, and county and state agencies. Local entities will provide the base level of protection and work cooperatively with the National Park Service and the State of New Jersey.

3. RECOGNIZE AND USE EXISTING PROGRAMS —

Protection against over regulation by using only existing local, state and federal laws to preserve the river and its resources.

4. TRADITIONAL USES MAINTAINED —

Traditional uses such as agriculture, fishing, marinas, residential housing, hunting and fur trapping and other recreation activities will continue. The intent of the local conservation strategy is to identify those traditional uses and identify possible future uses that are compatible with the protection of the important resource values.

5. PROTECTION OF LANDOWNER RIGHTS —

Any strategy to conserve the resources of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor should simultaneously ensure that the property rights of landowners are protected.

6. RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC NEEDS —

Federal, local and state agencies and organizations will work together to assure compatible economic development in the river corridor that does not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of the values for which the Great Egg Harbor River was designated.

A. GOALS

Throughout the study and planning processes for the Great Egg Harbor River, partners reached consensus on five important goals as the framework for both Local River Management Plans and the Comprehensive Management Plan. They are:

1. PUBLIC AWARENESS

Work toward public education and awareness of the valuable natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor and watershed.

2. RIVER MANAGEMENT

Streamline existing regulations and coordinate their enforcement to balance the protection of the river and the rights of property owners.

3. LAND USE

Maintain existing land uses and develop future land uses that are compatible with protection and enhancement of the river.

4. RECREATION

Enhance the free-flowing character and conditions for appropriate recreational uses of the river.

5. RESOURCE PROTECTION

Enhance the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the river corridor, and recognize their relationship to a larger ecosystem for today's and future generations.

B. OBJECTIVES

In addition to the above goals, the following objectives or vision statements were generated throughout the planning process and reflect public input.

1. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Future plans for the river corridor must reflect a realistic use of the river given its limitations.
- There are three diverse and unique sections of the river (upper, middle, and lower) tidal and non-tidal areas, which must be considered when planning for the future.
- Protection and preservation of the resource is critical.
- Given the geographic changes to the river corridor that have happened over time, a realistic view of how the river will look in the future needs to be kept in focus.
- Planned growth must be consistent with local ordinances to ensure the essential character of the river corridor.
- Protect and maintain the significant scenic, cultural, historic, and natural qualities of the river corridor, including water quality and outstandingly remarkable resources.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Water quality will be maintained to support wildlife, fisheries and the recreational values associated with the river.
- Insure the preservation of living resources: marine life, bird life, vegetation.
- It is important for “up-river” municipalities along the Great Egg Harbor River to keep “down-river” communities in mind when developing uses along the corridor. Coordination among municipalities on river-wide issues is important.

2. VISITOR MANAGEMENT & EDUCATION

- Use of the river by visitors and riparian landowners must be balanced among competing interests.
- Promote a public appreciation and recognition of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor as a place with its own unique features and a destiny to be shaped by the local municipalities that co-exist along the river.
- Promote ecotourism only within areas with sufficient infrastructure.
- The privacy and property rights of residents will be respected by visitors.

3. RECREATION

- Continued public use and enjoyment of the river will be encouraged in appropriate areas of the river. Provide for only that resource based recreational use that is compatible with protection of the resource.
- Impacts of recreational activities will be at a level that does not adversely affect residents and other recreationists.



OVERVIEW

Over one-fourth (26%) of the designated corridor along the Great Egg Harbor River and its eligible tributaries is publicly owned and is administered as either state wildlife management areas or county parks.

In addition, the Great Egg Harbor River is located within the jurisdictional areas of three state organizations. The New Jersey Pinelands Commission has jurisdiction over those areas within the Pinelands Area which is comprised of the approximately 300,000 acre Preservation Area and the surrounding 640,000 acre Protection Area (the State Pinelands Area boundaries differ somewhat from the federally established Pinelands National Reserve). In areas outside of the Pinelands Area, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) may have jurisdiction under the provisions of the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA), the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Act, the 1970 Wetlands Act (which regulates coastal wetlands) and the Water-front Development Act (which regulates development below the mean high water line). The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, also under the NJDEP, manages five wildlife management areas located in the river corridor.

The following is a brief overview of the areas of responsibility of each organization participating in the management of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

a) National Park Service

The commerce clause of the US Constitution gives the federal government the authority to regulate certain interstate resources, such as water and air. The National Park Service shares jurisdiction with New Jersey for activities in and on the river relating to recreational use. This jurisdiction does not apply to the bottom of the river or land areas in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. The National Park Service has no proprietary jurisdiction over lands and structures since it owns no lands.

Regulations contained in Chapter 1 of 36CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) provide for the proper use, management, and protection of resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. This includes "...Waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (federal government) located within the boundaries of the National Park System, including navigable waters and areas within their ordinary reach...(up to the mean high water line in places subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and up to the ordinary high water mark in other places) and without regard to the ownership of submerged lands, tidelands, or lowlands."

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Public Law 102-536 designating the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River contained specific language that “The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the river segments designated . . . through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass . . . and in consultation with such jurisdictions, except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands.”

Throughout the designation and CMP development process, it became clear that cooperative management of the river corridor could only occur with National Park Service direction and facilitation. It also was made clear by individuals and officials involved in the planning process that responsibility for protecting the resource remains primarily with local municipalities and the State of New Jersey. Based on input gathered throughout the planning process the following roles were defined for the NPS:

- The National Park Service will not have a direct visible management presence within the river corridor, but will serve as the key federal representative in the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan with the Great Egg Harbor River Council. The NPS role will be to represent the Secretary of the Interior in reviewing federal projects as required by Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and to serve as coordinator and liaison among partners. The NPS will review any proposed water resources project that requires federal assistance through permits, licenses, funding, or other action encroaching on or directly affecting any designated segment of the Great Egg Harbor River. During its review, NPS will evaluate each proposed project in terms of its potential impact upon the CMP’s objectives and standards and on the designated area’s outstandingly remarkable values.
- The National Park Service will work with the Great Egg Harbor River Council and other local, state and federal agencies to assure resource protection. National Park Service will coordinate with both the Great Egg Harbor River Council and appropriate individual municipalities in the resolution of issues affecting the river corridor.
- The National Park Service, in consultation with appropriate representatives of local political jurisdictions and the State of New Jersey, will also review Local River Management Plans to assure that their proper implementation will protect the values for which the river segments were designated into the national system. The National Park Service has been charged by Congress to review Local River Management Plans every two years and to determine if any deviation from these plans resulted in the diminution of the values for which the river segment concerned was



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designated. In addition, the NPS will manage the designated river corridor through the use of Cooperative Agreements with local municipalities

(a) Jurisdictional Boundary

The federal boundary for the Great Egg Harbor River consists of a one-quarter mile strip from the high water line throughout the 129-mile corridor. This boundary generally provides enough land area to buffer the waterway from incompatible land uses. The federal boundary equals 320 acres per river mile, the maximum allowed, on average, under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The NPS will review federally sponsored or permitted projects within the established federal boundary and any project requiring a federal water resources permit outside of the federal boundary which may adversely affect the values which were the basis for designation.

Map 1 outlines the proposed federal boundary for the Great Egg Harbor River and its designated tributaries and has been reviewed and accepted by local municipalities.

b. US Army Corps of Engineers

The US Army Corps of Engineers is mandated to regulate certain activities in all waterways and wetlands under the Clean Water Act; Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972; and Section 9 & 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899. In general, the Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over all construction activities in tidal and/or navigable waters, including adjacent wetlands shoreward to the mean high water line. In other areas such as non-tidal waterways, adjacent wetlands, isolated wetlands, forested wetlands, and lakes, the Corps has regulatory authority over the discharge of dredged or fill material. Any individual, company, corporation or government body planning construction or fill activities in waters of the United States, including wetlands, must obtain a permit from the Corps of Engineers.

c. US Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a bureau within the US Department of the Interior with the mission of, “working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American People.” The New Jersey Field Office (NJFO), located in Pleasantville, Atlantic County, implements the USFWS’s Ecological Services (ES) Program throughout New Jersey which includes: protecting endangered species and implementing recovery efforts, reviewing federal projects and activities under federal permit or license, investigating environmental contaminant problems, developing partnerships, and providing public education and outreach. The NJFO’s responsibilities focus on stewardship of federal trust

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resources, which include federally listed threatened and endangered species, migratory fish and birds, certain marine mammals, and federal lands including National Wildlife Refuges (NWR).

The United States Government passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. The Act entrusts the USFWS with the responsibility to protect and restore federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The NJFO is responsible for 20 federally listed species in New Jersey. Section 7 of the ESA states that all federal agencies shall consult with the Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, permitted, or carried out, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. Other activities relating to the ESA in New Jersey include: implementing recovery efforts for listed species; reviewing projects that could adversely affect listed species; monitoring populations of listed and declining species; working with partners to conserve listed species habitats; assessing the status of species considered candidates for listing; and educating the public about threatened and endangered species, why they are important, and what people can do to help.

Under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the NJFO provides technical assistance and project review to other federal agencies. The Service participates in project planning to protect federal trust resources in federally funded or permitted activities such as flood control projects, dredging projects, and proposals involving development in wetlands.

Through the Service's environmental contaminants program, NJFO biologists may get involved in activities such as: conducting scientific investigations to document and remedy contaminant-related problems for fish and wildlife; monitoring long-term contaminant trends; participating in oil and chemical spill clean-ups; consulting with the US Environmental Protection agency to reduce impacts to federal trust resources at Superfund sites; and ensuring that polluters restore and compensate for environmental damage.

Another program that the NJFO administers in New Jersey is the Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*, a program directed at protecting and restoring important fish and wildlife habitats on non-federal lands through voluntary partnerships. The program's main focus is wetland restoration, but the Service also pursues riparian and upland restoration. Individual citizens and groups looking to restore, enhance, or even create wildlife habitats can contact the NJFO for more information.

The Service's NJFO provides educational opportunities for elementary and high school students. The *Earth Stewards*



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program blends the Service's mission with school curricula, helping students understand and appreciate New Jersey's wild living resources while advancing the school's educational efforts. Other outreach efforts include public contact at festivals and shows, producing educational materials, working with Congress, and informing the media to better educate people about fish and wildlife.

The NJFO also works closely with Service counterparts in law enforcement and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), including the Cape May NWR, which manages 8,000 acres in Cape May County, part of which is located within the designated Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

2. STATE OF NEW JERSEY

a. NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The New Jersey DEP is responsible for the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA), the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

CAFRA was enacted by New Jersey in 1978 to implement the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. Specific language exists under the Rules on Coastal Zone Management (NJAC 7:7E) incorporating the goals of the NJ Wild and Scenic River Act and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which recognizes the outstanding scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, floral, historic, cultural and similar values of certain rivers of the State, in addition to the goals of reducing loss of life and property resulting from unwise development of floodplains. Wild and Scenic River corridors (defined under NJAC 7:7E-3:46) include New Jersey rivers designated into the National Wild and Scenic River system. The following policies are relevant to Wild and Scenic River Corridors:

- Development may be permitted in State designated river areas in accordance with NJAC 7:38-1, including special regulations for a particular river, or sections thereof, adopted upon designation to the NJ Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Development which provides general public recreational use of and access to a designated river area, consistent with the classification of the river and flood plain regulations, is encouraged.
- Development must be consistent with all other coastal rules, in particular the performance standards found in the Flood Hazard Areas Rule (NJAC 7:7E - 3:25) and other Special Areas rules.
- Development which would have an adverse effect on the values for which a river is being considered as a potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, including but not limited to the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife attributes of the river corridor, is prohibited.

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- Development shall conform to the standards set forth by the locally adopted River Management Plan in a Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Revisions to CAFRA and the implementing rules require that single family homes, etc. obtain a CAFRA permit if the proposed construction is within 150 feet of the mean high water line, a beach or a dune. The applicant must demonstrate compliance with the Rules on Coastal Zone Management. These rules pertain to CAFRA projects, waterfront development projects and coastal wetlands projects. The areas of the river corridor covered under CAFRA are delineated under each municipal write-up in this section.

Freshwater wetland projects are governed under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules. In 1994 the Department of Environmental Protection also assumed responsibility for Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) which regulates the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States as identified in the Clean Water Act. The NJDEP also administers New Jersey's own individual and general permit program for the discharge of dredged and fill material into state regulated waters within its jurisdiction.

The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, also under the NJDEP, owns and manages for the purposes of wildlife habitat enhancement and low intensity recreation five wildlife management areas: Gibson, Makepeace, Lester G. MacNamara, Peaslee and Winslow Wildlife Management Areas.

The NJ DEP has also embarked on a new watershed management initiative producing a draft "Statewide Watershed Framework Document." The Great Egg Harbor Watershed was identified as Watershed Management Area #15 (WMA #15). The NJ DEP and the National Park Service have been working together to maximize resources to assure protection of the watershed as well as the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor. **See Map 4.** Protection of the watershed will ultimately enhance and protect the resources within the federal boundary of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River.

NJDEP has recognized the importance of both state and nationally designated wild and scenic rivers through its policies and Administrative Codes, specifically Title 7 of the NJ Administrative Code, Chapter 1E (Discharges of Petroleum and other Hazardous Substances) Subchapter 1: General Provisions. This Code specifically mentions areas designated as wild, scenic, recreational or developed recreational rivers, pursuant to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as environmentally sensitive areas when considering the discharge of hazardous substances. In addition, Chapter 7E (Coastal Zone Management, Subchapters 2 and 3 of the same Administrative Code) recognize Special Areas that merit focused attention. Chapter 3 contains specific language regarding the placement of structures within 50 feet of any authorized navigation channel and development which would cause soil and shoreline erosion and siltation.



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b. New Jersey Pinelands Commission

In 1978, the U.S. Congress established the Pinelands National Reserve. The “Pinelands National Reserve” means the approximately one million acre area so designated by Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-625) and generally depicted on the map entitled “Pinelands National Reserve Boundary Map,” numbered NPS/80,011A and dated September 1978.



Under the Pinelands Protection Act, the Pinelands Commission was established by the State of New Jersey and was granted strong land use regulatory powers. **See Map 5.** In 1981, the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan was enacted. Incorporated by reference is the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Under the provisions of the Comprehensive Management Plan, all municipalities adopted conforming Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances which were certified by the Pinelands Commission. Included in the items reviewed for conformance are permitted land uses and intensity of development; water quality standards (including provision for storm water management and standards for septic systems); wetlands and buffering requirements; vegetation requirements, etc.

Chapter 50, Subchapter 6 (Management Programs & Minimum Standards) of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan addresses requirements for scenic corridors of special significance to the Pinelands. Specific in this Subchapter is the requirement that all structures within 1,000 feet of the centerline of the following river segments shall be designed to avoid visual impacts as viewed from the river:

- Great Egg Harbor River – Great Egg Bay (Garden State Parkway) to Route 536
- Tuckahoe River – Great Egg Bay to the Route 552 crossing north of Corbin City
- Middle River – Great Egg Bay to Schoolhouse Lane crossing north of Corbin City

3. LOCAL JURISDICTION AND INVOLVEMENT

The municipalities along the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries are using a variety of mechanisms to protect and monitor the environment in their areas. Ten out of twelve municipalities have environmental and/or historic preservation commissions that assist and advise their planning boards in the interest of resource protection as well as make recommendations for the use of open space. These commissions are authorized and act under the state Municipal Conservation Commission Act.

Over 99 percent of the river management area is within the Pinelands National Reserve and is classified as Forest Management Areas, Agricultural Production Areas and Rural and Regional Growth Areas. The

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Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (incorporated by reference) applies to the State designated Pinelands Area, prescribes minimum standards and allowable uses within these areas, and permits municipalities to adopt more restrictive regulations, provided that such regulations are compatible with the goals and objectives of the Pinelands Management Plan.

A portion of the river management area is also located within the CAFRA zone. This includes areas along the Tuckahoe River, the Great Egg Harbor River and many of the tributaries. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection reviews uses for consistency with the Rules on Coastal Zone Management (CAFRA, Waterfront Development and Coastal Wetlands) and the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules and coordinates with the Pinelands Commission.

Geographic Information System (GIS) maps for wetlands delineation, zoning, land use and local river management boundaries were produced by Atlantic County and distributed to each municipality. Atlantic County will continue to maintain the GIS data base for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. A map delineating local river management boundaries is included for each municipality under **Appendix 3**. Local river management boundaries may exceed the federal boundary and provide additional protection for the river corridor. Channel lengths and water frontage for each municipality, wetlands and flood prone areas, and land use are indicated in **maps 6, 7, and 8**.

During the study process for designation, it was recognized that development existed along the recreational portion of the river and that zoning permitted a continuation of appropriate development consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Under Public Law 102-536 each municipality was directed to prepare a Local River Management Plan for its portion of the designated Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor. The National Park Service determined that Local River Management Plans can be accomplished in several different ways: actual development of a plan called a Local River Management Plan, incorporation of protection and planning for the river corridor in a Master Plan, or protection through local zoning and ordinances. The river corridor in all twelve municipalities is protected by valid zoning and ordinances that conform with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended, as required by Section 6(c).

a. Buena Vista

Buena Vista Township is located in Atlantic County to the west of the Great Egg Harbor River within the upper portion of the watershed. Designated portions of the National Scenic and Recreational River include South River and Deep Run, both of which begin in the area of Buena Vista and which flow into the Great Egg Harbor River. There are 3.5 miles of water frontage along South River and Deep Run. These areas are within the jurisdiction of the NJ Pinelands Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.



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For purposes of developing a Local River Management Plan, Buena Vista incorporated information about their section of the designated river corridor into their Master Plan. A synopsis of this information follows:

i. Planning and Policies for River Management Area –

The Township conducted an Environmental Resources Inventory to gather data and information on the natural resources in the Township. The Environmental Commission used information from the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Final Study Report, specifically the data on outstandingly remarkable resources, to gain a better understanding of the valuable resources in the Township and to assist in establishing planning and land use policies.

The following goals for the Great Egg Harbor River have been stated by Buena Vista Township residents and officials:

- The land around Deep Run has been identified as being important to protect. A recommendation was made that this area be included within the Atlantic County Parks System as a way of providing better protection and security. Access should be allowed for educational trips and nature study.
- The Pancoast Area is a priority for preservation due to its important natural and historic features. This area has been examined in depth by the Township and several reports highlight the environmental features and historic importance of the Pancoast Area.

ii. Protection Provided by Township Plans & Development Regulations –

- Most of the Township falls within the Pinelands Area and is subject to the land development and environmental protection regulations of the Pinelands Commission.
- The Township ordinances require protection of a scenic corridor in the Great Egg Harbor River area.
- Township ordinances include strict environmental standards on floodplains, wetlands, stormwater, water quality, and land uses.
- The Township has Development Regulations (Chapter 49 from the Code of the Township of Buena Vista) which provide much protection to lands worthy of conservation.

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iii. Township Zoning and Development Regulations: Zoning Districts Contained Within The Recommended Scenic and Recreational River Boundary –

The following zoning districts fall within the local river management boundary and are compatible uses consistent with the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River *Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans* (Guidelines) and conform with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

Forest Area (FA-1 and FA-2)
Agricultural Production (AP)
Pinelands Village Residence District (PVR).

iv. Deep Run Area

The zoning for the entire Deep Run tributary and the land surrounding it is FA-1, Forest Area. This district requires a lot area of 30 acres. The uses permitted within the FA-1 zoning district are generally in keeping with the *Guidelines* for the river. The uses permitted within the FA-1 district are:

- Single family dwelling
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- Pinelands-related Industry
- Low Intensity Recreation
- Intensive recreation compatible with Pinelands
- Camping
- Institutional uses
- Housing for Agricultural employees
- Farm Produce Markets

The *Guidelines* suggest that some of the above uses be compatible uses and some be conditional. The Buena Vista ordinance requires that many conditions be met for these uses, making the list of compatible uses consistent with the recommended *Guidelines*. Special requirements for “Forestry” include protection and preservation of a 25-foot buffer along all streams, ponds, and waterbodies.

v. South River Area

Zoning in the area of the South River includes the following districts:

Forest Area (FA-2)
Agricultural Production (AP)
Pinelands Village Residence (PVR).

The FA-2 district contains the same permitted uses and same minimum lot area (30 acres) as the FA-1 district. The AP district permits uses similar to those in the FA districts, but also includes cluster housing. Minimum lot area is 40 acres for this district. The Pinelands Village Residence District



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(PVR) requires a lot area of 2.5 to 5 acres. The minimum lot area recommended by the *Guidelines* is 2.3 acres, making this zoning district compatible in terms of lot sizes.

b. Corbin City

Located in Atlantic County, Corbin City lies within the lower portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed within the jurisdiction of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the Pinelands Commission. Corbin City has access to 19.01 miles of water frontage to the Great Egg Harbor River and two tributaries; namely, the Tuckahoe and the Middle Rivers.

Corbin City has incorporated goals and objectives for their portion of the designated river corridor into their Master Plan, as well as changes to the Developmental Ordinance for the riverfront area. The City's Master Plan and ordinance adequately address resource protection for the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries and conform with the purposes of P.L. 90-542.

i. Protection Provided by Plans and Development Regulations —

The lands contained in the local river management area are all floodprone and wetlands. The controls of the Pinelands Commission affect this area.

The City's Master Plan states the following for the Riverfront Residential Area:

“The purpose of this district is to continue to provide residential opportunities at a density that promotes the water quality of the Tuckahoe River and restricts encroachment into wetlands and floodplains.”

ii. Development Ordinance for the Riverfront Residential District —

The Riverfront Residential Zoning District restricts uses to the following:

(1) Principal Uses and Building

- Single family detached dwellings (2 acres)
- Parks, playgrounds and other publicly operated recreational uses
- Public utility substation subject to specific requirements to minimize impacts
- Publicly operated recreational uses and public utility substations shall be subject to Planning Board review and approval

(2) Accessory Uses and Buildings customarily incident to principal uses

- Private auto garage
- Private swimming pools
- Utility sheds, greenhouses, bathhouses and play houses

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Patcong Lake

Steve Eisenhauer

- Docks as accessory to residential use; no docks shall be rented commercially and no boats moored shall be lived in
- Home occupations

(3) Area and Bulk Requirements

- 2-acre minimum lot size
- Lot coverage – 15% maximum
- Lot width and frontage – 150’ minimum measured at the building setback line
- Front yard setback – 50’ minimum, principal and accessory structures
- Side yard setback – not less than 35 feet in aggregate width and never less than 15 feet
- Rear yard – the rear yard shall be that yard facing the Tuckahoe River and shall be a minimum of 35 feet in depth
- Building Height – 35 feet maximum from grade

(4) Parking requirements

- two off-street spaces per residence

(5) Fences and Walls — permitted with restriction.

(6) Signs — permitted with restrictions

c. Egg Harbor Township

Located in Atlantic County, Egg Harbor Township lies within the lower portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed within the jurisdiction of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the Pinelands Commission. Egg Harbor Township has access to 31.89 miles of water frontage which includes the Great Egg Harbor River and four tributaries; namely, Patcong Creek, Miry Run, English Creek and Lakes Creek.

The Federal and local river management boundaries are made up of wetlands and floodprone areas. The Great Egg Harbor River forms the western boundary of Egg Harbor Township, dividing it from Estell Manor.

Egg Harbor Township’s existing zoning adequately provides protection conforming with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Protection Provided by Plans and Development Regulations —

The Township has appointed an Environmental Commission and has also prepared a Master Plan for Open Space and Recreation. In this plan, the Township adopted a goal of “promoting the conservation of open space and valuable natural resources ...” The Plan mentions the Wild and Scenic River System and states that the Township will “examine its land use policies” as they relate to the *Guidelines*.



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ii. Zoning Districts Contained Within the Recommended Scenic and Recreational River Boundary –

Nearly all of the land area located within the local river management boundary in Egg Harbor Township falls within one zoning district. This is the CRW Conservation-Recreation-Wetland District. Within this area the following uses are permitted:

- farming
- single family detached dwellings
- institutions - churches, schools, museums
- stables and horse farms
- roadside stands
- marinas – subject to CAFRA and other regulations

Minimum lot size is 5 acres. The above uses and minimum lot size are compatible with the recommendations made in the *Guidelines*.

There is some existing development along Route 615 (Somers Point Road) that is zoned R-1 residential, allowing for the same uses as the CRW district on lots of two acres.

d. Estell Manor

Located in Atlantic County, Estell Manor lies within the lower portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed within the jurisdiction of the Pinelands Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Estell Manor has access to 50.81 miles of water frontage and its local river management boundary includes the Great Egg Harbor River, which forms the boundary with Egg Harbor Township, and five tributaries: South River, Stephens Creek, Gibson Creek, Middle River and the Tuckahoe River.

The land lying between Route 50 and the Great Egg Harbor River is all contained within the local river management boundary. This area contains mainly floodprone areas, wetlands, and open water where the river broadens. A portion of the management area extends across Route 50, along Gibson Creek. This area on the west side of Route 50 is all within the Pinelands management boundary. Most of the area within the federal and local management boundaries are already publicly owned land under the management of Atlantic County and the NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

Estell Manor's existing zoning provides adequate protection for the river corridor and conforms with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Zoning within the recommended Local River Management Boundary –

The zoning within the local river management boundary is consistent with the *Guidelines*. These include:

- Conservation Area - This land is not buildable
- R-25 - Limited development on 25 acre lots

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R-10 - Limited development on 10 acre lots

R-5 - Limited development on 5 acre lots

Areas which are developed along Route 50 and towards Mays Landing are zoned for highway commercial and for residential uses on smaller lots, but these are mostly beyond the recommended local river management boundary.

e. Folsom

Located in Atlantic County, the Borough of Folsom lies within the upper portion of the Great Egg Harbor watershed and is under the jurisdiction of the NJ Pinelands Commission. Folsom occupies an eight square mile area of mostly forest and wetlands and has 17.77 miles of water frontage along the Great Egg Harbor River and Penny Pot Stream.

The Borough of Folsom completed a Natural Resources Inventory and has finalized a Local River Management Plan. Existing zoning adequately provides protection for the portion of the designated river corridor and conforms with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Planning and Policies for River Management Area —

The Natural Resources Inventory identifies areas worthy of protection. Folsom's extensive wooded areas with natural vegetation, generally mild climate, swampland, and wetland, as well as its bodies of water, are conducive to a wide variety of resources. The following special resources are listed:

- five rare species of vascular plants: The Pine Barren Boneset; the Virginia False Gormwell, Curly Grass Fern; Lace Lips Ladies Tresses, and Fringed Yellow-Eyed Grass.
- listed as rare species under the NJ Natural Heritage Program, the Northern Pine Snake and the Pine Barrens Tree Frog inhabit the area.



ii. Protection Provided by Township Plans and Development Regulations —

The Folsom Borough Zoning Ordinance contains environmental regulations that will control disturbance and inappropriate development in the Great Egg Harbor River area. These include the following:

- restrictions on development of wetlands and buffers around wetlands
- restrictions on the clearing of vegetation
- restrictions on disturbing fish and wildlife habitat and threatened or endangered species
- forestry regulations
- scenic area designations for the Great Egg Harbor River and areas within 1000 feet of the centerline of the river



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- historic resource preservation requirements

iii. Township Zoning and Development Regulations: Zoning Districts Contained Within The Federal Scenic and Recreational River Boundary —

The environmental regulations and zoning district regulations contained in the Folsom Borough Zoning Ordinance provide a good basis for protection of the river and are compatible with the *Guidelines*. The following zoning districts are contained within the recommended ¼ mile federal boundary:

- F-20 Forest
- F-30 Forest
- Rural Development
- Forest Commercial
- Agriculture
- VR Village Residential

f. Hamilton Township

Located in Atlantic County, Hamilton Township lies within the middle portion of the Great Egg Harbor River within the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Hamilton Township has access to 98.6 miles of water frontage to the Great Egg Harbor River and six tributaries; namely, Deep Run, Mare Run, Babcock Creek, Gravelly Run, Miry Run and South River.

The Master Plan for Hamilton Township was adopted in 1984 in compliance with the requirements of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The Master Plan recognizes the environmental sensitivity of the river corridor area and wetlands throughout the Township as well as the limitations on development resulting from lack of infrastructure.

In addition to the Master Plan, Hamilton Township prepared a Local River Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries. This plan identified environmental and cultural resources, existing planning and zoning, and provided recommendations for future action. The Local River Management Plan adequately addresses protection requirements for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

i. Development/Zoning Factors —

There are several factors that create either constraints or incentives for development in the Great Egg Harbor watershed. These include: environmental characteristics, availability of public infrastructure, development patterns and land ownership characteristics. In addition to permitted land uses and densities, the Township's Development Ordinance also incorporates Pinelands regulations and restrictions for water quality, vegetation, buffers, etc. These regulations include the designation of the Great Egg Harbor River as a Special Scenic Corridor and the requirement that all structures within

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1,000 feet of the centerline be designed to avoid visual impacts as viewed from the corridor.

(1) Environmental Characteristics

Significant sections of the river corridor area are mapped as wetlands. Exceptions to this classification are generally found in the Indian Branch Park/Cherry Lane Estates area, along the northern shore of Deep Run and the tidal areas below Mays Landing. As a result of the wetlands buffer and water quality standards implemented in the Pinelands Area, the opportunity for development of any kind to occur in close proximity to the wetland areas is very limited. There is a greater chance of development near wetlands in the non-Pinelands area where NJDEP requirements are not as stringent.

(2) Availability of Public Infrastructure

Under the regulations of the Pinelands CMP, the provision of public sewer service in Hamilton Township is limited to Regional Growth Areas. Therefore, the permitted intensity of development in the RGA is significantly higher than any other areas of the Township. This restriction results in the greatest development pressures in the areas near Gravelly Run and Babcock Creek.

(3) Development Patterns

Current zoning limits the most intense types of development to a narrow band between Mays Landing and the eastern boundary of the Township in the Regional Growth Area. The encouragement of planned residential developments in this area has resulted in the assemblage of large tracts of land by developers which allows for the protection of wetlands and buffers as an element of development approval.

This consolidation of land by developers has a positive benefit in that it allows the Township to work with the developers to have the land permanently deed restricted and turned over to the control of open space conservancies.

(4) Critical Areas

Critical areas are defined as those areas in Hamilton Township where either substantial threats to important natural resources exist or areas of importance because of their public or natural value. Hamilton Township supports a number of endangered or threatened species of plants and animals, as well as numerous sites of historic or potential archaeological significance.



Tidal basin of Great Egg Harbor River near Mays Landing



RIVER MANAGEMENT



Weymouth Furnace

- The Weymouth Furnace historic site, the Mays Landing Historic District, Walkers Forge and the West Plantation, among others, were identified as areas of importance.
- Included as important cultural resources in the river corridor are elements of Atlantic County Park System (Weymouth Furnace Park, Gaskill Park and Lake Lenape Park) and the Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area. These areas combined encompass in excess of 9,400 acres of land in the township. Although not all land is in the river corridor, much of the area consists of wetlands and other sensitive habitat areas.
- The Gravelly Run wetlands, where habitats of rare and endangered species were identified, is targeted as a priority area for the development of a greenway system, supporting the recommendation of the Greenbelt Plan. Developing a system of trails, interpretive areas and other uses will allow limited use of the wetlands while protecting the most sensitive areas.
- Indian Branch Park, Cherry Lane Estates and Weymouth Furnace Areas were identified as areas where small lot development with on site septic systems in close proximity to the river could potentially result in further degradation of river water quality over time. Several recommendations were made to address this situation.
- Mays Landing Riverfront is an area where a mix of high density development occurs within a core historic area of the Township containing numerous sites of historic importance. Public access to the river, both visual and physical, is primarily provided by the Gaskill Park/Bulkhead area. In addition, this area is subject to frequent traffic congestion. The Township made recommendations on how best to alleviate the impact of congestion on water quality in the form of stormwater runoff and air quality.

g. Hammonton

Hammonton is located in Atlantic County in the upper portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. The Town of Hammonton has 5.07 miles of water frontage along the Penny Pot Stream, a tributary to the Great Egg Harbor River. The area contains mainly wetlands and forest.

Hammonton prepared a Local River Management Plan for its segment of Penny Pot Stream. The stated purpose of the management plan is “to protect the stream and ensure that its quality, in all respects, will remain consistent with the requirements of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.” In addition, the Town of Hammonton did background studies in the importance of the Penny

RIVER MANAGEMENT

Pot Stream, under contract with a hydrogeologist. The following results were noted:

i. River Values –

Although the Penny Pot Stream segment is a relatively short segment, it is worthy of protection because it has the following values:

- According to the Dept. of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife, the Penny Pot Stream segment is home to endangered species of wildlife, notably the Pine Barrens tree frog, the Pine Snake, and possibly the northern harrier.
- The Natural Heritage Program has records of threatened or endangered wildlife occurring along the Penny Pot Stream segment.
- According to the NJ Natural Heritage Program, the Penny Pot Stream segment is home to rare plants, such as Pine Barren Boneset, Parker's Pipewort, Barratt's Sedge, Long's Bulrush, Knieskern's Beaked Rush, and Sensitive Joint-Vetch.
- According to the Final Eligibility and Classification Report of the Great Egg Harbor River, the Penny Pot Stream segment has good water quality.
- The Penny Pot Stream segment is a reasonably unspoiled tributary of one of the two major river systems in the Pinelands National Reserve.

Pinelands regulations and local zoning protect the entire local river management boundary. Regulations require a 300-foot buffer from all wetlands boundaries. Because there are extensive wetlands, there is a high degree of protection in the entire Local River Management Boundary, consistent with the *Guidelines*.

ii. Zoning Regulations in Place –

The entire recommended Local River Management Boundary falls within the Pinelands Area. The recommended river management area is zoned AP Agricultural Production, which allows for very limited land uses; agriculture, residences on 3.2 acres, forestry, low-intensity recreation, fish and wildlife management. These uses are consistent with the *Guidelines*.

iii. Recommendations of the Local River Management Plan –

Recommendations for the management of the Penny Pot Stream segment of the Great Egg Harbor River:

- The wetlands boundary serve as the limit of the area designated as the River Conservation District.



Agriculture is an important land use within the Great Egg Harbor River corridor



RIVER MANAGEMENT

- That the NJ Department of Environmental Protection expand its water quality monitoring program to encompass placing a monitoring station on Penny Pot Stream.
- An inventory of the chemicals applied as fertilizers and for pest control to both farmlands and lawns of the drainage basin should be collected from a number of sources.
- The water chemistry of Penny Pot Stream should be determined at several points, once at the beginning of the growing season and once at the end.
- Groundwater chemistry along the boundary between floodplain and the adjacent uplands should be determined at several localities at the same time as the stream water quality samples are collected.
- Stream gage sites should be set up along Penny Pot Stream at several locations. Water levels and stream water discharges at these localities should be measured several times during the year.
- Monthly changes in water level should be measured.
- All dikes that control water levels along Penny Pot Stream should be located and a determination made as to who has the authority to change water levels of these dikes. A program of when, if ever, to change these water levels should be developed to preserve wildlife habitat and assist in flood control.

h. Monroe Township

Monroe Township, Gloucester County, is located in the upper portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. It is within the jurisdiction of the NJ Pinelands Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Monroe Township has 17.58 miles of water frontage on the Great Egg Harbor River and Squankum Branch, a tributary of the Great Egg Harbor River.

The local river management boundary includes lands along the Great Egg Harbor River which form the boundary with Winslow Township, and the Squankum Branch tributary. The local river management boundary falls entirely within the Pinelands area and is mainly woods and wetlands.

i. Planning and Policies for the Recommended Local River Management Boundary –

The Township Environmental Commission produced a Local River Management Plan. Goals for the area are to allow for low intensity seasonal recreational activities such as canoeing but to keep the area undeveloped.

Monroe Township's Environmental Commission has undertaken a water testing program in the Squankum Branch aimed at determining the water quality of surface and groundwater. Ultimately the water testing program will be ongoing

RIVER MANAGEMENT

throughout several areas of the Township and will include monitoring surface water and runoff.

Hydrogeologic studies were also conducted by Monroe Township. The Township Hydrological Program (streamflow gaging at selected sites) was conducted in cooperation with the US Geological Survey (USGS). In addition, water quality data which was collected in Monroe Township by the Gloucester County Health Department, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the USGS.

ii. Zoning in the Recommended Local River Management Boundary –

The primary zoning districts in the recommended local river management boundary are:

AG	Agricultural
FD-10 & FD-40	Rural Development Districts requiring 10-acre and 40-acre lot sizes

Along the Black Horse Pike (Rt. 322) and Route 659 there are other smaller zoning districts that allow for slightly more intense development. These include: Planned Commercial, Planned Office, Planned Residential, and Industrial districts. None of these more intense districts affect the Federal designated management boundary, however, and all are located along highways where development already exists.

i. City of Somers Point

Somers Point is located in Atlantic County at the end of the Great Egg Harbor River where the river broadens into the Great Egg Harbor Bay. The areas encompassed by the Great Egg Harbor River designation include the Patcong Creek, a tributary to the river along the Somers Point/Egg Harbor Township border, and the area of the Great Egg Harbor River above the Route 9 bridge. Somers Point has 3.69 miles of water frontage along Patcong Creek and the Great Egg Harbor River.

Somers Point's riverfront area is under the jurisdiction of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. This area of the designated river corridor is open water and tidal flats or wetlands.

Somers Point adjusted its Master Plan to address resource protection needs for the designated river corridor. Its existing zoning ordinances also provide adequate protection and conform with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Planning and Policies for River Management Area –

Primary goals for the designated river corridor are:

- Preserve the wild character of the river for local residents and for fishing and boating



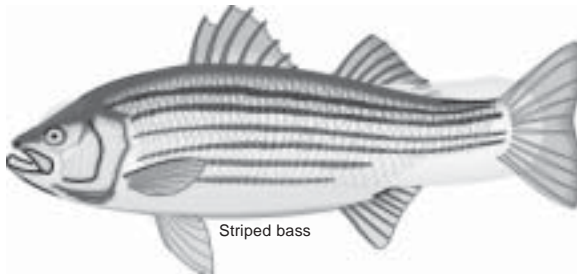
RIVER MANAGEMENT

- Maintain minimum development along the river
- Manage the river to promote wildlife and habitat protection
- Minimize use by nonresidents

Economic development and encouragement of development for ecotourism ranked low and are not goals for Somers Point. Somers Point endorses the *Guidelines*, which deal with the following:

- Public awareness of the valuable natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- River management through regulation and coordination
- Land use regulation for protection and enhancement of the river
- Recreation appropriate for the river
- Protection of natural, cultural and scenic resources

The City's 1996 Natural Resource Inventory for the Great Egg Harbor River and Patcong Creek recognized the importance of both the Great Egg Harbor River within Somers Point and the Patcong Creek as nursery habitat and spawning grounds for anadromous fish, as well as resident estuarine and transient marine fish including alewife herring and striped bass. Lower portions of the Great Egg Harbor River support a commercial oyster harvesting industry, and crabbing is popular in both the river and Patcong Creek areas. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon occur in Somers Point for limited durations.



An extensive network of tidal wetlands encompasses the area between the Garden State Parkway and Patcong Creek. This area of tidal wetlands is classified as Estuarine Intertidal Emergent Wetland.

The City of Somers Point also developed a "Wetlands Protection and Public Access Plan for the Steelmanville Tract," an area which is bordered on the north by the Patcong Creek and which consists of fields in varying stages of succession, tidal wetlands and freshwater wetlands. The conceptual design of the tract suggests a setting for public access to Patcong Creek and low intensity recreational use, as well as educational opportunities within Somers Point. Future plans can include establishing a greenway along Patcong Creek extending into the neighboring municipality of Linwood.

ii. Zoning Districts Contained Within The Recommended River Boundary –

The following zoning districts fall within the boundary:

FD Flood District

R-1 Single Family Residential District

RIVER MANAGEMENT

Somers Point recommended that the following uses be classified as compatible within the riverfront area boundary and that incompatible uses be removed from current zoning districts:

Compatible Uses	Incompatible Uses
Marinas	Offices
Residential	Theaters
Museums	Forestry
Bed and Breakfasts	Schools
Clubs	Place of Worship
Limited Public Utilities	Motels/Hotels
Parks	Agriculture
Boat Sales	Telecommunications Towers
Retail associated with marinas	

Somers Point also has the protection of the New Jersey laws for the coastal area.

j. Upper Township



Photo courtesy of Natural Lands Trust

Looking up the Tuckahoe River at Tuckahoe/Corbin City

Upper Township is located in Cape May County and has 37.27 miles of water frontage on the Great Egg Harbor River, and two tributaries: the Tuckahoe River and Cedar Swamp Creek. The area is mostly wetlands and is therefore protected by the Pinelands Commission or NJ Department of Environmental Protection regulations. The Pinelands area includes the western half of the Township, encompassing a portion of the Tuckahoe River and Cedar Swamp Creek areas.

Upper Township prepared a Local River Management Plan for the Tuckahoe River portion only since the land surrounding Cedar Swamp is owned and operated by the State and federal government as wildlife management areas. The Township's Local River Management Plan adequately addressed protection requirements and its existing zoning conforms with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Planning and Policies for River Management Area –

The Township prepared a river management plan based upon its current zoning ordinance. The area consists of wetlands, water, and floodprone areas.

ii. Zoning Regulations Within The River Management Area–

The local river management boundary, which is the same as the Federal boundary in this area, is controlled by the Township zoning codes. The zoning district is the TR Tuckahoe Riverfront District, which has the following



RIVER MANAGEMENT

purpose: “To permit residential opportunities at a density that promotes the water quality of the Tuckahoe River and restricts encroachment into the wetlands and floodplains.”

- (1) The permitted uses are:
 - Single family dwellings
 - Farms on lots with a minimum of 5 acres
 - Parks and Conservation Areas
 - Churches and cemeteries
 - Utilities
- (2) The following accessory uses are permitted:
 - Residential swimming pools
 - Residential tool sheds, green houses, bath houses and play houses not to exceed 10’ in height
 - Travel trailers and campers parked or stored
 - Off-street parking and private garages
 - Fences and walls
 - Home occupations
 - Docks as accessory to residential use. No boats at a residential property shall be lived in. Piers, catwalks, docks, observation decks, and mooring slips shall meet applicable side yard requirements of 35’.
- (3) The minimum lot area is 2 acres, with a 25-foot buffer requirement, and 30% maximum impervious coverage
- (4) No signs, billboards, advertising, banners or balloons shall be erected which are visible from the river.
- (5) Personal Watercraft: the operation of personal watercraft shall be subject to the requirements of police regulations of the general ordinances of Upper Township.

k. Weymouth Township

Weymouth Township, located in Atlantic County, contains land along the Great Egg Harbor River and South River. There are 10.53 miles of water frontage. The primary lands within the local river management boundary lie between the South River and Great Egg Harbor River. This area falls within the Pinelands Commission’s jurisdiction or within the NJ Department of Environmental Protection CAFRA jurisdiction. It is largely wetlands and floodprone.

Weymouth Township produced a Local River Management Plan that outlines specific goals and protection measures. The Township Planning Board accepted the Local River Management Plan into the Master Plan and the creation of a River Conservation Overlay Zone is forthcoming. In addition, existing zoning adequately provides resource protection and conforms with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Planning and Policies for River Management –

Weymouth Township planning policies are consistent with the *Guidelines*. There is a small developed area already existing in the proposed management area along Route 50

RIVER MANAGEMENT

which the Township has zoned for small lots, consistent with what exists there. The Township has environmental regulations in place in its ordinance.

ii. Zoning Districts Contained within the Recommended River Management Boundary –

The zoning in the recommended river management area includes the following districts:

R-R	Rural Residential - 5 acre lots
R-1	Residential - 1 acre lots
R-2	Residential - 10,000 square foot lots
PFA	Pinelands Forest Area - 25 acre lots
PVC	Pinelands Village Commercial

I. Winslow Township

Winslow Township, located in Camden County, lies within the upper portion of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. Winslow Township has 26.39 miles of water frontage along the Great Egg Harbor River and Big Bridge Branch. The Great Egg Harbor River runs the length of the Township forming the boundary with Monroe Township.

Much of the land within the local river management boundary is within the Pinelands Area and benefits from the protection of the Pinelands Commission. Winslow Township's existing zoning adequately provides resource protection and conforms with the purposes of P.L. 90-542, as amended.

i. Planning and Policies for the Local River Management Area –

Winslow Township has undertaken several actions in support of the Great Egg Harbor Management goals:

- appointment of an Environmental Commission
- revisions to the area of the river management boundary that fall outside the Pinelands line to lower development intensities and delineation of environmentally sensitive areas in an around the river corridor
- conformance with all Pinelands regulations in planning and zoning
- prohibition of new extraction operations and more stringent regulations of existing operations

ii. Zoning Within the Recommended Local River Management Boundary –

Zoning within the recommended management area include the following districts:

- PRC Recreation and Conservation
- PA Agriculture
- Some development districts in areas of existing development
- Environmentally Sensitive Area districts within the Non-Pinelands Area



RIVER MANAGEMENT

4. Counties

a. Atlantic County

Atlantic County has been active in the planning process for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor providing a number of services, one of which is the production of Geographic Information System (GIS) maps for each municipality. Nine of the 12 municipalities are located within Atlantic County. In addition, Atlantic County, which owns and manages over 4,000 acres of public park lands adjacent to the Great Egg, has passed an open space bond issue that could significantly increase its ownership and protection of river related resources.

b. Camden County

Winslow Township is the only municipality located in the designated river corridor located in Camden County. New Brooklyn Park and Berlin Park are located within the river corridor and are managed for recreation.

c. Cape May County

Upper Township is the only municipality in Cape May County located in the designated river corridor.

d. Gloucester County

Monroe Township is the only municipality within the designated corridor located in Gloucester County.

The Gloucester County Planning Department has extensive experience in developing and implementing comprehensive watershed management plans. Projects developed and implemented as part of the County's watershed planning program include:

- (1) Investigations and studies to document and map point and nonpoint sources of pollution in the various watersheds.
- (2) Shoreline stabilization and remediation project at Glen Lake
- (3) Betty Park (Alcyon Lake) Restoration Project
- (4) Rowan University streambank stabilization project utilizing bioengineering techniques
- (5) Surface water monitoring program within the Alcyon Lake and Glen Lake watersheds in cooperation with the Gloucester County Health Department and the NJDEP
- (6) Stream gaging program within two watersheds in cooperation with the US Geological Service. As part of this project, USGS also developed the methodology to calculate sediment and nutrient loadings using water quality information and streamflow measurements.
- (7) Development of a geographical information system and environmental database for watersheds within Gloucester County in cooperation with USGS, NJDEP, and Rowan University.



Camden County Park, Berlin Borough

RIVER MANAGEMENT

- (8) Sponsored workshops in cooperation with NJDEP on freshwater wetlands and the Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Best Management Practices Manual.
- (9) Development and implementation of an environmental education program in cooperation with the National Estuary Program and Gloucester County College consisting of the following components:
 - K through 12 water resources educational curriculum for school districts in the County
 - A Water Resources Video was produced in conjunction with the curriculum
 - Two series of environmental workshops were conducted for County residents on the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, watershed management alternatives and water conservation.
 - A drought resistant garden was constructed at Washington Lake Park in cooperation with the Gloucester County Highway Department, Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Department, Gloucester County Soil Conservation District, Washington Township Public Works Department, and local nurserymen.

The Planning Department also provides technical assistance to Rowan University graduate students. The following projects have been completed:

- Protecting Our Water Resources: A Public Education Program for Municipal Officials. This project focuses on protecting water resources and environmentally sensitive areas within the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System. The project has already been presented to the Gloucester County Planning Board, municipal planning boards, and environmental commissions.
- An Enrichment Unit on Local Water Resources and Water Conservation to Supplement Eighth Grade Earth Science Curriculum.

The Gloucester County Planning Department has also developed Exhibit-Displays for the watershed projects at the Gloucester County Library and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions Congress. In the early 1980's the Gloucester County Planning Department requested the assistance of the US Geological Survey in developing and implementing a program to review and monitor the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System. Since that time, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders have funded the following research projects:



RIVER MANAGEMENT

- Gloucester County Water Table Network: water level measurements have been taken since 1987 from 25 wells (domestic, agriculture, observatio, industry, public) screened in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System as part of a series of cooperative agreements with the USGS. Water level measurements are obtained to evaluate and map the long term effects and trends of groundwater withdrawals on the aquifer system.
- Little Ease Run Near Clayton: The gage was installed in 1988 as part of a series of cooperative agreements with USGS to measure stream discharge (cfs) at this location. The streamflow data is used to evaluate and monitor the impact of ground water supply development in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer system, groundwater levels, and streamflow.

5. GREAT EGG HARBOR WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Established in 1988, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association has been a driving influence in preservation of the river corridor. This non-profit organization has three primary purposes:

- a. to protect and restore the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Great Egg Harbor River watershed
- b. to promote research and action to determine and secure a healthy river system
- c. to expand public awareness, education and appreciation of the watershed's many valuable and unique resources.

6. EXISTING PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS

a. County

i. **Atlantic County** owns and manages over 4,000 acres of public parklands adjacent to the Great Egg. The majority of these lands are maintained in a natural state. Atlantic County continues to identify and acquire parcels along the Great Egg Harbor River for protection.

(1) **Estell Manor Park**

Estell Manor Park's 1,672 acres are located between Stephens Creek on the south, South River to the east and north, and Route 50 on the west. The park trail system (approx. 16 miles) is eligible for the State Trails System because it incorporates representative Pine Barrens native habitats, salt marshes, and historic structures and artifacts. Estell Manor Park is centered around the ruins of the Estellville Glassworks. The glass works was founded in 1825 and manufactured window glass. It continued in operation until 1877.

RIVER MANAGEMENT



An extensive trail network winds through the Pine Barrons.

The trail network is founded on old rail beds and roads developed as a part of the Bethlehem Loading Company, a World War I munitions plant. This is part of the Belcoville Complex, which extended north towards Mays Landing. The complex was spread over six square miles, with houses, a school, stores, town hall, and other structures. The town was abandoned when the war ended in 1918. Trails wind their way through representative Pine Barrens habitats, past the glassworks, and past the remains of munition buildings; a nature trail highlights the wetlands typical of the Great Egg Harbor River system. Some of the trails use the cinder bedding of the abandoned railroad line.

Public access to Stephens Creek, a tributary of the Great Egg Harbor River is available at Estell Manor Park.

(2) Estell Manor House

The Daniel Estell Manor house is located on 42.2 acres of land adjacent to Stephens Creek, a designated tributary of the Great Egg Harbor River. The area surrounding the house is used for recreational purposes.

(3) Gaskill Park

Gaskill County Park's 10.5 acres are located on the tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor River in Mays Landing. The park provides various recreational opportunities and a scenic view of the tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor River.

(4) Green Tree Golf Course

A 242-acre golf course owned, operated, and maintained by Atlantic County is located in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

(5) Lake Lenape Park

This 1,921-acre facility is primarily in a natural state. Tent camping facilities and a boat launching area to Lake Lenape are presently available. Plans exist to upgrade facilities at this site through a NJ Green Acres grant.

(6) Penny Pot Park

The 20 acres of Penny Pot Park are located on the Great Egg Harbor River. This facility provides public access to the water and serves primarily as a canoe drop area.

(7) Powell Creek Natural Area

Located in Egg Harbor Township, this 124-acre facility is maintained as a natural area.



RIVER MANAGEMENT

(8) River Bend Park

The 650.7 acres of River Bend Park are maintained as a natural area and provide access to the Great Egg Harbor River.

(9) Weymouth Furnace Park

This 11.5-acre park sits on the site of the former Weymouth Iron Forge and Paper Mills. Its stone structures offer a rare glimpse of the region's iron-making past, as well as a scenic backdrop for a canoe launch. Public access to the Great Egg Harbor River is available at this site.

ii. Camden County owns and manages two public park and recreation sites within the designated river corridor.

(1) Berlin Park

Located at the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River, the 151.81 acres of Berlin Park are bordered by Cross Keys-Berlin Road and the White Horse Pike. The Park contains active recreation facilities, a nature trail, hiking trail, and an environmental studies center.

(2) New Brooklyn Park

Located in Winslow Township, New Brooklyn Park consists of approximately 750 acres between New Freedom and New Brooklyn Roads. The Great Egg Harbor River meanders through the park and feeds into New Brooklyn Lake which serves as the park's southern boundary. New Brooklyn Park supports a number of active recreation facilities, an outdoor amphitheater and biking and hiking trails. Public access to the Great Egg Harbor River is available at this site.

b. New Jersey Wildlife Management Areas

The Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries flow through five Wildlife Management Areas which are open to the public for hunting, fishing and fur trapping, as well as passive recreational pursuits such as birdwatching, hiking and photography.

(1) Gibson Creek Wildlife Management Area

This newly acquired 736.5-acre tract is bordered by Route 50 and Route 557 in the City of Estell Manor. Bordered by Gibson Landing, this Wildlife Management Area consists primarily of wooded wetlands and wooded uplands and is located entirely in the Pinelands.

(2) Lester G. MacNamara Wildlife Management Area

The Lester G. MacNamara tract is one of the oldest areas owned by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. The initial purchase of 12,377 acres was begun in 1933. Today the area contains 13,337 acres in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. The tract is located east of Tuckahoe on Route 50.



RIVER MANAGEMENT

There are six lakes created by impoundments in addition to managed areas for many game species. Public access to the water is provided.

(3) Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area

Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area is located between the Blackhorse Pike (Rte. 322) and the Whitehorse Pike (Rte. 30) in Hamilton and Mullica Townships, Atlantic County. Access to the area is from Elmwood-Weymouth Road near Egg Harbor City. The property spans 7,458 acres in the heart of the Pinelands. The tract contains a shallow 300-acre lake, uplands and wetlands bordering the lake.

(4) Peaslee Wildlife Management Area

The Peaslee Wildlife Management area is one of the largest in New Jersey comprising more than 17,988 acres of pine-oak woodlands and lowlands bordering the upper reaches of the Tuckahoe River in Cumberland County. This tract is located between Route 522 and 40, about seven miles east of Millville. The eastern boundary is the Tuckahoe River. Acquisition of the area was begun in October 1954.

(5) Winslow Wildlife Management Area

The Winslow Wildlife Management Area contains 6,566 acres, almost exclusively woodland located in Camden and Gloucester Counties. It lies south of County Route 720 and north of Winslow-Williamstown Road. Both the Egg Harbor River and the Atlantic City Expressway bisect it.

c. Cape May National Wildlife Refuge

Located in Cape May County, the Refuge is separated into two divisions: the Delaware Bay Division located in Middle Township which extends along five miles of Delaware Bay; and the Great Cedar Swamp Division which straddles Dennis and Upper Townships.

The Refuge contains over 8,000 acres of land managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US F&WS) with an additional 8,700 acres of privately owned lands approved for future acquisition. Over 75% of the lands managed by the US F&WS are woodlands, while 20% is salt meadow and marsh cut through by meandering tidal creeks. During the spring migration, the Refuge's five-mile stretch of beach on Delaware Bay is a major resting and feeding area for migrating shorebirds and wading birds. During the fall migration, great numbers of raptors and a significant portion of the Atlantic flyway's woodcock population also pass through the area. The Refuge's tidal marshes and creeks also serve as nursery areas, spawning and feeding grounds for many species of finfish and shellfish. The Cape May National Wildlife Refuge is open to the public for various activities.





(Insert Map 1)



(Insert Map 2)



(Insert Map 3)





(Insert Map 4)





(Insert Map 5)





(Insert Map 6)



(Insert Map 7)





(Insert Map 8)



(Insert Map 9)



RIVER MANAGEMENT

SECTION VI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES —

GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

“ . . . establish a Great Egg Harbor River Council . . . ”

A. MANAGING THE CORRIDOR

After a lengthy public process, the preferred long-term management strategy was to establish a Great Egg Harbor River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association with National Park Service assistance. The River Council and the National Park Service would work together to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan and provide overall guidance on issues and actions. The Council would be the coordinating body linking all local partners. **Appendix 4** provides a draft Agreement for the structure of the River Council. Once finalized, this Agreement will be signed by all partners to assure commitment to implementing the River Council approach to cooperative management of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor. Detailed analysis of each management alternative considered is contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (Section VIII).

Each municipality must make an investment of time and be committed to the success of the River Council and the implementation of the goals and prescriptions of this Comprehensive Management Plan and individual Local River Management Plans. A consistent approach to corridor protection is necessary to assure that actions taken upstream do not adversely affect downstream neighbors. As a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park System, coordination and commitment are absolutely critical to protect the resources for which the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River was designated.

Policy statements were generated throughout the study and Comprehensive Management Planning processes and will become the guiding principles for the Great Egg Harbor River Council. Policy statements are generally “issue driven”. The issues identified will undoubtedly change over the years as new threats and opportunities arise.

B. ISSUES & RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

a. Air and Noise Pollution

Policy: Assure that recreation activities on the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries do not adversely affect the resource or local residents.

Recommended Action: Local municipalities should consider developing (if one does not already exist) and enforcing a noise ordinance to respect the rights of riparian landowners.

b. Carrying Capacity

The 1998 Virginia Polytech’s Social Science Study found that the Great Egg Harbor River is a heavily used resource, with summer receiving the majority of use. Interestingly enough, the number of recreators did not create the sense of overcrowding to those surveyed, but behavior of other recreationists contributed to the sense



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

of overcrowding. It was generally felt by boaters and shoreline property owners that increased law enforcement would alleviate the behavior that produced the sense of overcrowding.

Another point of interest from the Social Science Study is that most river users live within 5 to 20 miles with 66% having recreated on the river over 100 times. The conclusion drawn is that the Great Egg Harbor River is a close-to-home resource used primarily by area residents.

Policy: Protect the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries from over use and inappropriate uses.

Recommended Action: According to the NJ State Police Boating Safety booklet, 200 feet from the shore or around docks and bridges is maintained as the “no wake zone.” These areas are used for transport and recreational activities that are not intensive. Narrow waterways are not appropriate for motorized recreational activities that create a wake. Refer to **Map 10** for these specific areas and also refer to Resource Protection Areas at the end of this section. Enforcement of the State Law is mandatory for resource protection.

Recommended Action: Based on the information provided by the Virginia Polytech Social Science Research Study, additional public access sites should be limited.

c. Cell and Radio Towers

Policy: Prohibit any development that negatively impacts either the scenic or recreational qualities of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor or resources located within the federal and local established boundaries of the river conservation zone.

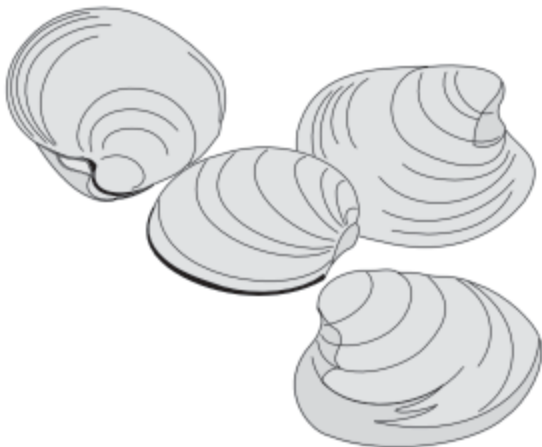
Recommended Action: The River Council and individual municipalities must work with the Pinelands Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection during the planning phase of tower placement.

Recommended Action: Local municipalities should incorporate cell tower placement within the river corridor as an incompatible use in their Local River Management Plans, if it is not already included.

d. Commercial Use of the River Bottom

Policy: Encourage long term preservation and sustainability of aquatic resources in the designated corridor.

Recommended Action: The NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife’s Bureau of Shellfisheries should make strong recommendations for mitigation of any adverse impacts from proposed actions when reviewing and commenting on projects requiring State permits.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

e. Cultural Resources

Policy: Provide for the protection of cultural resources that exist along the river corridor. Cultural resources are defined as sites, structures, landscapes, objects, and ethnographic resources.



Historic structures dot the river corridor

Recommended Action: Provide guidance to local municipalities about sources of information such as report repositories and local experts to guide decision making.

Note: Information is available to agencies for planning purposes on a project by project basis, as is guidance from the Pinelands Commission and the NJ Historic Preservation Office regarding the need for cultural resource surveys under applicable state and federal laws.

Recommended Action: A study should be considered that addresses the identification, documentation and protection of ethnographic resources (which are the natural and cultural resources that continue to have special meaning for traditionally associated communities).

f. Docks, Bulkheads, and Marinas

Policy: Docks, bulkheads, and marinas shall be permitted in areas where outstandingly remarkable resources are not adversely affected and as long as their construction does not negatively impact the scenic, recreational and ecologically significant qualities of the river corridor. Dock, bulkhead, and marina construction shall be consistent with Local River Management Plans and state and federal regulations.

Note: A report prepared by the Atlantic County Office of Geographic Information Systems in October 1998 compared aerial photographs of the tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor River to determine the amount of construction that occurred between 1983 and 1995. Sixty-five docks existed in 1983 and 101 docks were visible in 1995. In addition, a visual survey of the river in November 1998 indicates a significant increase in dock and bulkhead development since 1995. Some of these docks and bulkheads were constructed without permits.

Recommended Action: Based on the findings of the VA Polytech Social Research Study, support exists from both users and waterfront landowners for the National Park Service to continue to limit the size of docks. NPS will continue to review dock designs and their potential impacts on existing resources and work with other organizations to make sure that structures are not out of character with the river.

Recommended Action: The National Park Service will work with the NJDEP and the US Army Corps of Engineers to investigate docks, bulkheads, or other construction in the river corridor undertaken without appropriate permits.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES



Recommended Action: A realistic look needs to be taken at how to best accommodate the increased number of private docks, boaters and demands on the river given its limitations.

Recommended Action: Evaluate the impact that the proliferation of docks may have on the river corridor, including impacts on non-motorized recreationists, water quality, and the scenic and natural qualities of the river. A cumulative impact study should also assess the effects of pilings, treated with preservatives such as creosote and copper-chromated-arsenac (CCA) on aquatic resources. Additionally, studies toward reducing the cumulative impacts of individual dock construction should explore the feasibility of enlarging or clustering existing marinas or constructing additional marinas (sited to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife) and consider appropriate placement of individual dock construction to specific areas.

Recommended Action: The National Park Service should implement the findings of the 1998-1999 Fisheries Study, once completed, to assure protection of scenic and natural resources.

Recommended Action: Evaluate and define the best location for, and number of, public marinas required to relieve the pressure of increased boating demands.

Recommended Action: NJ DEP and the US Army Corps of Engineers need to educate the public on the permitting process for docks and marinas and work to streamline regulations wherever possible.

Recommended Action: Encourage public and private marinas, yacht clubs, fuel docks or boat yards which cater to recreational boating to provide pump-out facilities for boats that have on-board sewerage facilities. Encourage these facilities to apply for a Clean Vessel Program grant (administered by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection) to construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pumpout and dump stations, thus reducing the impact of effluent discharge into aquatic environments.

Recommended Action: Create a No Discharge Zone for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

Recommended Action: Encourage marinas to offer containment areas for boat maintenance activities such as bottom scraping and painting. Containment areas will prevent localized accumulation of paint fragments, containing potentially hazardous materials, from entering the aquatic food chain.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

g. Dredging and Shoaling

Policy: Dredging will be considered on sections of the designated corridor where no adverse effects to natural, cultural, scenic, or recreational resources will occur and when appropriate locations of dredge spoils are identified. Dredging activities must be consistent with Local River Management Plans and be approved by appropriate oversight agencies.

Recommended Action: Any dredge proposal must be mindful of the goals of Local River Management Plans and the Comprehensive Management Plan and make sure that the proposal does not impact any of the identified natural, cultural, scenic, or recreational resource values of the river.

Recommended Action: Identification of non-navigable segments in the tidal portions due to shoaling is, and should continue to be, monitored by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Recommended Action: Prior to any proposed dredging, cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife resources must be identified and dredge spoil disposal sites must be selected that minimize impacts to federal trust resources.

h. Emergency Management Procedures

Policy: Emergency management procedures developed by county or local governments will be adhered to. This includes emergency bridge and road repair work as well as evacuation procedures.

Recommended Action: Develop emergency management procedures for coordinating different entities along the river to promptly provide information and direction. A process for addressing emergencies associated with recreators on the river should also be developed.



i. Forestry Management

Policy: Commercial forestry which maximizes forest land values and provides for the long-term economic and environmental integrity of the Pinelands will be encouraged.

Recommended Action: For the protection of the integrity of Pinelands forests, forest management must be consistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, specifically Part IV, Sections 7:50-6:47.

j. Hunting Wildlife

Policy: Hunting will be conducted in appropriate areas utilizing safe hunting practices.

Recommended Action: Reinforce existing hunting regulations in the river corridor.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

k. Identification of Critical Areas Needing Protection

Policy: Areas with critical resources shall be protected throughout the designated river corridor and local river conservation zones.



Recommended Action: Municipalities need to make sure that all critical areas needing protection are identified in their Local River Management Plans and/or Master Plans.

Recommended Action: Once critical areas are identified, consideration should be given to the purchase of conservation easements wherever possible to maintain undeveloped waterfront property in its existing state. These are usually negotiated between a private conservation or land trust organization and a private landowner. The Great Egg Harbor River Council could provide the initiative and coordination between private conservation and land trust organizations and private landowners to promote conservation easements.

Recommended Action: State agencies need to provide increased resource protection enforcement in the river corridor to protect both users and resources.

Recommended Action: Acquisition of key areas by private conservation groups or appropriate public agencies should be considered as management alternatives for the protection of valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Recommended Action: Use volunteers to promote the history and prehistory of the area and to educate the public about the importance and fragility of its archaeological and historic resources at local events such as festivals and in the schools.

Recommended Action: Consideration should be given to the preparation of applied anthropological studies, especially an Ethnographic Overview & Assessment (EO&A) and a Traditional Use Study to ethnographically inform management decisions on such issues as the assessment of critical areas and the continuation of traditional uses.

Recommended Action: The River Council should identify, and work with, appropriate agencies that have an interest and responsibility in protecting fish and wildlife areas. Encourage them to take a proactive approach to fish and game management.

Recommended Action: Work toward implementing the Milestones identified in New Jersey's 1998 Draft Strategic Plan. The Milestone that by 2005 identification and mapping of the State's critical habitats (for plants and animals) will be completed and available for public use is especially important in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

I. New Stream Crossings

Policy: The integrity of the natural, cultural, scenic or recreational resource values will be maintained throughout the designated river corridor and established river conservation zones.

Recommended Action: All requests to upgrade and/or construct new utility lines/roads should be reviewed to assure protection of the outstandingly remarkable resource values of the river corridor. Using existing rights-of-way wherever possible should be encouraged.

Recommended Action: NPS will review transportation projects under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act consistent with the Guidelines for Water Resources Projects outlined in **Appendix 5**.

m. Recreational Use



Great Egg Harbor River is the longest canoeable river in the Pinelands National Reserve

The Great Egg Harbor River is the longest canoeable river in the Pinelands National Reserve, offering approximately 50 miles of canoeing. Twenty-nine miles of the river are canoeable above Lake Lenape dam at Mays Landing. Groundwater recharge to the river from the Cohansey aquifer maintains adequate base flows and allows for year-round canoeing.

The lower reaches of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries offer an array of very different recreational opportunities. The broad channels and the freshwater and tidal wetlands are popular for fresh and saltwater fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, shellfishing, and other activities.

Policy: Recreational activities must be consistent with resource protection.

Recommended Action: Work with the NJ Marine Police to assure that motorized recreational activities that cause a wake do not occur in waterways less than 200' wide.

Recommended Action: Undertake a study to identify appropriate areas for personal watercraft operation that will not adversely impact personal safety or fish and wildlife resources. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, factors contributing to the need for this study include: (1) destruction of shallow water habitats; (2) adverse impacts and harm to federal trust resources and aquatic organisms; and (3) safety concerns relating to watercraft navigation in a narrow river system as personal watercraft become more popular.

Recommended Action: Municipalities on both sides of the river should adopt compatible rules regarding recreational use to avoid conflicts among users. These rules should be in accord with the goals of Local River Management Plans and the Comprehensive Management Plan.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Recommended Action: Municipalities should develop a licensing process for new and existing liveries on the non-tidal portion of the river to promote safe recreation practices, overcrowding and degradation of resources.

Recommended Action: Municipalities should establish a permit system for the cutting or removal of debris and fallen trees along the non-tidal portion of the river. Removal by local residents and commercial enterprises to improve passage for commercial recreation activities should be prohibited unless authorized by the appropriate authority. The US Fish and Wildlife Service identified the negative, detrimental effects debris and tree removal have on aquatic resources, including wetland vegetation.

n. Resource Extraction

Policy: Resource extraction activities must not conflict with other values of the Pinelands and not adversely affect long-term ecological values in the Pinelands.

Recommended Action: Extraction activities must conform to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, specifically Part VI, 7:50-6.69.

o. Restrictions on Both Fish and Eel Harvesting

Policy: Long term preservation and sustainability of aquatic resources must be considered in the designated corridor.

Recommended Action: Appropriate federal and state government agencies need to promptly develop regulations and policies to assure long term protection.

p. Sand and Gravel Mining

Policy: Sand and gravel mining operations should be considered incompatible uses within the designated corridor and within local River Conservation Zones.

Recommended Action: Regulation of mining activities is within the purview of municipal resource extraction and zoning ordinances. Local River Management Plans should adopt strict guidelines for existing mining operations and consider the prohibition of establishing new ones.

Recommended Action: The Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District (SCD), as well as the Soil Conservation Districts for Camden and Gloucester Counties, should enforce erosion controls on sand and gravel mining operations and run-off controls on construction sites in the Cape-Atlantic District, as do the SCDs for Camden and Gloucester Counties.

Recommended Action: The State should actively investigate reclamation possibilities of abandoned sand and gravel mines adjacent to the river so as to enhance its scenic qualities and restore the area to its natural state.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Recommended Action: Pre-mining hydrological studies should be conducted to determine whether an upland mining operation will impact the hydrology of adjacent wetlands.

Recommended Action: Hydrological studies and modeling should be conducted to evaluate the impact of mining operations on wetlands, groundwater, and stream flow.

q. Streamlining Regulations

Policy: Streamlined regulations will be supported as long as the integrity of the resource is maintained.

Recommended Action: NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service should continue to closely coordinate on permit requests to resolve discrepancies and avoid conflicting guidance. In addition, these agencies should endorse the Comprehensive Management Plan and assure compliance with the CMP and Local River Management Plans when reviewing permits along the National Scenic and Recreational River corridor and within local River Conservation Zones.

Recommended Action: The NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps of Engineers should explore options for one permit in a Wild and Scenic River to streamline regulatory requirements.

r. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection

Policy #1: No development will be carried out unless it is designed to avoid irreversible adverse impacts on habitats that are critical to the survival of any federal or state listed threatened and endangered species.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act states that all federal agencies shall consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, permitted, or carried out, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species.



Bald Eagle Action: In order to avoid adverse effects to the bald eagle, known nesting, perching and loafing trees within the Great Egg Harbor River basin must be identified and protected. The US Fish & Wildlife Service recommends a buffer zone (minimum of 1,320 feet) around these perching and loafing trees, sufficient to prevent line-of-sight disturbance. Clearing should not be permitted within this buffer area. Clearing outside of the 1,320 foot buffer area should be seasonally restricted such that no clearing will be permitted from December 1 through March 31.

A larger buffer zone may be required if eagles have line-of-sight to activities beyond 1,320 feet (US F&WS, 1983). Clearing trees greater than 4 inches in diameter along the upper reaches of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries may increase line-of-sight visibility to human activities occurring in proximity to eagle nesting and perch sites and may increase disturbance to feeding or loafing eagles.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Swamp Pink Action: Any proposed disturbance that alters hydrology or impacts forested or scrub/shrub wetlands will require a survey by a qualified biologist to determine whether swamp pink is present and could be impacted.

Knieskern's beaked-rush Action: Any activities proposed in early successional wetland habitats will require a survey by a qualified biologist to determine whether Knieskern's beaked-rush is present and could be impacted.

Bog Turtle Action: Any proposed activities in such emergent wetland or scrub/shrub cover types will require a survey by a USF&WS-approved biologist to determine whether the bog turtle is present and could be impacted.



Policy #2: Anadromous Fish and Migratory Birds will be protected.

The two-year Fisheries Evaluation being conducted by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore yielded some initial results in the first year (1998). Adult alewife were observed below the Mays Landing dam as well as adult striped bass. Sampling for juvenile anadromous fish was conducted during the summer (1998) with young-of-the-year striped bass and juvenile alewife being observed along with several different communities of fish found in the Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers. The Fisheries Evaluation will be completed by December 2000.

Recommended Action: Conserve and protect aquatic habitats to help maintain healthy, self-sustaining native populations of anadromous fish and migratory birds which are a federal trust resource responsibility. Information provided from the Fisheries Evaluation should provide scientific information to assist in protection efforts.

s. Water Quality

Water quality in the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries ranges from very poor in the headwaters to good in the smaller tributaries. The US Environmental Protection Agency, in its 1998 index of watershed indicators, listed the Great Egg Harbor overall watershed score at 4, with 1 being the best and 6 the worst. This score is the result of combining 15 indicators of watershed condition and vulnerability. Point sources of pollution such as inadequately treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants, and non-point sources such as stormwater run-off, residential waste from pesticides and fertilizers, business wastes, antiquated septic systems, agricultural run-off, and wetland loss are largely responsible for the poor water quality.

Results from the 1998 Social Science Study by Virginia Polytech's Department of Forestry for the Great Egg Harbor River indicated that preserving water quality was the most important management goal to both boaters and shoreline property owners.

The following table is excerpted from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection's draft publication entitled 1998 Identification and Setting of Priorities for Section 303(d) Water Quality Limited Waters in New Jersey.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

TABLE 3: GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER WATERSHED				
Waterbody Name	Reach #/Location	Pollutant/Impact: Water Quality Violation	Pollutant Impact Biological	Use Impairment
Great. Egg Harbor River	Berlin, Camden Co. Park		severely impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-011-030 Sicklerville	Dissolved oxygen, pH, fecal coliform, total inorganic nitrogen, total phosphorus		Primary Contact, Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-011-030 near Blue Anchor	pH, fecal coliform, total phosphorus		Primary Contact, Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-011-30 at Folsom	pH, fecal coliform, total phosphorus		Primary Contact, Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-011	Arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury		Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-010-040/Weymouth	pH, fecal coliform, total phosphorus		Primary Contact, Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	02040302-010	Arsenic, beryllium cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, nickel, zinc		Aquatic Life Support
Lake Lenape	Mays Landing, Atlantic County		Hg in fish tissue	fish consumption
Squankum Branch	Monroe Twp. Malaga Rd.		Moderately Impaired	aquatic life support; possible toxicity
Deep Run	Buena, Rt. 54		Severely Impaired	Aquatic Life Support



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

TABLE 3: GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER WATERSHED (continued)

Waterbody Name	Reach #/Location	Pollutant/Impact: Water Quality Violation	Pollutant Impact Biological	Use Impairment
New Brooklyn Lake	New Brooklyn, Camden County		Hg. In fish tissue	Fish consumption
Great Egg Harbor River	Watsonstown-New Freedom Road		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Four Mile Br.	Malaga Rd., Monroe Township		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River	Williamstown-Winslow Rd., Winslow Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Hospitality Br.	Blue Bell Rd. Monroe Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Hospitality Br.	Rte 538, Monroe Township		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Faraway Br.	Jackson Rd., Monroe Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
White Oak Br.	Jackson Rd., Monroe Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Collings Br.	Unexpected Road; Franklin Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Three Pond Run	Ft. 54, Folsom		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Great Egg Harbor River Trib.	2nd Avenue, Hammonton		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Deep Run	Rt. 559, Hamilton Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Mare Run	Rt. 559, Hamilton Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

TABLE 3: GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER WATERSHED (continued)

Waterbody Name	Reach #/Location	Pollutant/Impact: Water Quality Violation	Pollutant Impact Biological	Use Impairment
Watering Race	Rt. 50, Hamilton Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Babcock Creek	Rt. 322, Hamilton Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Gravelly Run	Rt. 559, Hamilton Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Miry Run	Thelma Ave., Egg Harbor Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Stephens Creek	Rt. 50, Estellville		Severely Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Patcong Creek - Mill Branch	Spruce Ave. Egg Harbor Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Patcong Creek - Maple Run	Mill Road, Northfield		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Tuckahoe River	Cumberland Ave, Estell Manor Twp		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support
Mill Creek	Rte. 557 Upper Twp.		Moderately Impaired	Aquatic Life Support



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are found in almost all natural and synthetic materials and are commonly used in fuels, fuel additives, solvents, perfumes, flavor additives, and deodorants. Potential health hazards and environmental degradation resulting from the widespread use of VOCs has prompted increasing concern among scientists, industry, and the general public.

One of the long term goals of the US Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program is to document the presence and identify possible sources of contaminants in the nation's water resources. The Long Island-New Jersey (LINJ) coastal drainage study is one of 59 planned investigations that constitute the NAWQA program. The Great Egg Harbor River near Sicklerville and at Weymouth, was included in the study area and was sampled in January 1997.

Because Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) was the most frequently detected Volatile Organic Compound, concentration data for this compound were examined further. The highest concentrations of MTBE were measured in the most intensively developed parts of the Long Island study area and the testing area of the Great Egg Harbor River near Sicklerville. Concentrations of all of the VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) detected, however, were below existing water quality criteria.

Policy: Activities which improve the water quality of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries will be encouraged.

Recommended Action: The Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries currently are afforded a classification of FW2 (general surface water/non-Pinelands), NT (non-trout) classification under the NJ Surface Water Quality Standards (N.J.A.C.7:9B). While classification of the streams in the Great Egg Harbor River watershed varies depending on location, consideration should be given to upgrading the river classification to protect "those fresh waters that originate in and wholly within federal or state parks, forests, fish and wildlife lands and other special holdings, that are to be maintained in their natural state of quality (set aside for posterity) and not subjected to any man-made waste discharges," as designated in N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1.15(h).

Recommended Action: Municipalities need to take a greater role in the maintenance and enhancement of water quality in the river, as well as to educate local officials about the effects of their decisions on water quality, e.g., zoning and subdivisions, site development plans, etc.

Recommended Action: Municipalities need to address the existing or potential contamination of groundwater aquifers and ultimately the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.

Recommended Action: The success or failure of water quality programs should be tested for their effectiveness through long term, continuous water quality testing and

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES



monitoring of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries by county health department programs and locally initiated programs (e.g. universities). Consideration should also be given to re-activating the USGS/DEP Tuckahoe River water quality monitoring station.

Recommended Action: Promote the NJ DEP Water Watch Program which encourages local groups in the state to adopt a stream and undertake such activities as monitoring polluters, acting as watchdog groups, picking up litter, etc.

Recommended Action: Identify state programs (e.g., Clean Communities Program) that provide grant money to municipalities to clean up streamside litter and public lands.

Recommended Action: NJ DEP's water quality protection efforts need to focus on nonpoint sources of pollution as a result of human activities which are a major cause of water quality degradation in the State (1994 NJ State Water Quality Inventory Report). Pollutants of concern from these nonpoint sources include nutrients, pathogens, hydrocarbons, and trace metals. Inputs may include residential and industrial runoff, agriculture runoff, faulty septic systems, groundwater inflow, riverine sediments, estuarine bottom sediments, atmospheric deposition, stormwater collection and discharge systems, and other point sources for marinas and boats. Consideration should also be given to undertaking a comprehensive study to identify sources of point and nonpoint discharges that impact water quality and to recommend methods of remediation.

Recommended Action: Develop a watershed management plan for the Great Egg Harbor River consistent with NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Framework with assistance from the Cape Atlantic, Camden, and Gloucester Soil Conservation Districts. See **Map 4** for a listing of NJ Watershed Management Areas. Technical assistance for plan development and implementation is available from County Planning Departments, the US Geological Survey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services and the NJ DEP.

Recommended Action: Work to implement NJ Department of Environmental Protection's milestone goals published in the June 1998 Draft Strategic Plan. The goal that by the year 2005, 50% of assessed non-tidal river miles will support healthy, sustainable biological communities should be supported for the Great Egg Harbor River and there will be no net loss of wetlands.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

t. Water Supply/Withdrawal

Future withdrawal or diversion of the river may have a harmful effect on the natural flow regime. Specifically, a withdrawal of surface water will change the saline balance in the tidal wetlands, affecting fisheries and wildlife habitat. There is a possibility that any future water withdrawal will exacerbate existing water quality problems in the river.

In addition, any future diversion or withdrawal from the Great Egg Harbor River or its tributaries may cause adverse impacts to the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resource values for which the river was designated.

An issue raised in “Water for the 21st Century...” was the need to protect source water supplies from inappropriate land uses in the most sensitive watershed areas and to evaluate NJ DEP’s Surface Water Quality Standards to ensure that they adequately protect water supplies.

Policy: Water uses in the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed will be consistent with overall efforts to assure long term preservation of critical resources.

Recommended Action: A study should be undertaken to determine the cumulative effects of private and public wells on in-stream flows and potential impacts on wetland communities and associated fish and wildlife via lowered water tables and altered salinity in downstream reaches.

Recommended Action: The NJ DEP should be strongly encouraged to continue with the recommendations contained in their publication “Water For The 21st Century: The Vital Resource “ (p.105); such as:

- Preliminary geohydrologic and water quality baseline data has already been collected for a future estuary impact study of the Great Egg Harbor River. NJ DEP should be encouraged to continue with this study effort, with consideration also being given to including the Atlantic Coastal planning area.
- Implement ground water protection initiatives in the Great Egg Harbor River planning area because of the heavy reliance on the shallow aquifers. The Atlantic County Water Supply Implementation Plan (draft) is recommending that a watershed management plan be developed for this area.
- Encourage water conservation which will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the planning area does not experience a water supply deficit in the future.
- NJ DEP should provide loans and identify other stable funding sources to public agencies for the acquisition of critical lands for water supply protection, including lands in water supply watersheds, prime aquifer recharge areas and well head protection areas.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- NJ DEP recommends that an analysis be performed that evaluates surface water quality standards, especially the critical design flows used to establish effluent limitations for water discharges. This includes the need to establish additional parameters in these limitations when they discharge upstream of surface water intakes.

Recommended Action: Estuarine studies should be completed to fully analyze and document the environmental impacts from withdrawals or diversions that may occur on the Great Egg and its tributaries. According to the NJ DEP, Office of Environmental Planning report entitled “Water for the 21st Century: The Vital Resource; New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan (August 1996), “Since substantial depletive water uses can cause stream flow reductions, these uses may have to be limited in the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed. Numerous ground water withdrawals in the headwaters may already be causing some stream depletion.”

Recommended Action: Work with regional groups such as the South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council to develop irrigation water management plans to more efficiently use groundwater for agricultural and residential irrigation.

Recommended Action: Work through Cape Atlantic, Camden, and Gloucester County Soil Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement farmer and home owner self-assessment and groundwater protection activities (Farm-A-Syst and Home-A-Syst, respectively).

Recommended Action: Encourage the recharge of treated wastewater (of acceptable quality) to ground water rather than discharge to surface waters, consistent with the Water Quality Management Plan.

Recommended Action: Standards should be established for the amount of water that must be in the non-tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor River below which commercial recreation traffic is prohibited. During low flow and drought conditions, the disturbances to wetland vegetation and other aquatic resources by commercial recreation activities can be significant causing an adverse impact on vegetation and habitat areas.

Recommended Action: An interim water supply policy should be continued which recommends the use of viable alternate water supply sources until ecological effects of water diversion from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer are adequately determined. *Note:* This action/policy should be applied to proposed water supply projects involving diversion of more than 100,000 gallons per day that are located within the boundaries of the Pinelands and within the adjacent water supply policy areas.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

u. Wildlife Corridor Connections

Policy: Encourage the acquisition by state and local governments, as well as non-profit conservation organizations, of parcels that protect and provide linkages for wildlife habitat areas.

Recommended Action: Potential wildlife corridors need to be identified and established.

Recommended Action: Local River Management Plans need to include important land parcels which are critical in protecting wildlife habitats and which should be purchased (by state, local or non-profit organizations) for their long term preservation. Procuring additional "conservation" parcels could provide wildlife corridors, reduce the potential for habitat fragmentation, and preserve wildlife habitat.

Recommended Action: Local governments and private organizations should work with the NJ Green Acres Program, and any other potential sources of funding, to acquire critical areas identified in Local River Management Plans.

Recommended Action: Develop a conservation easement program with appropriate non-profit organizations.

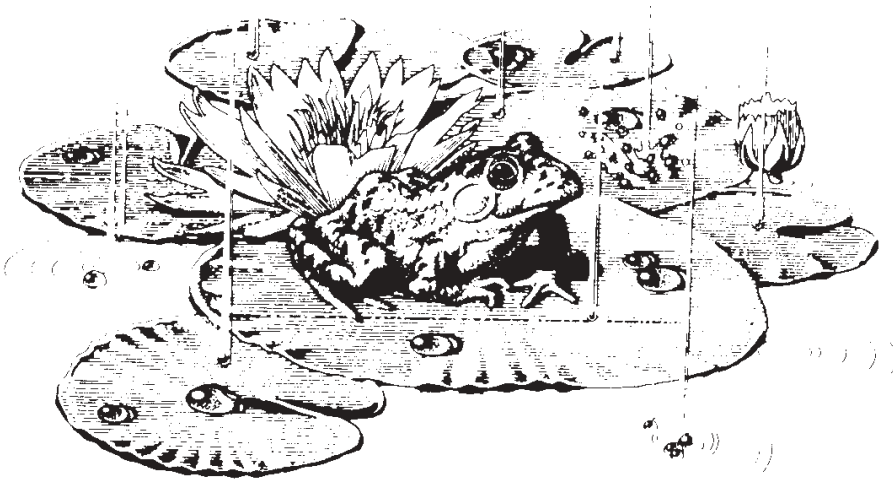


TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
<p>Primary Mission: To preserve the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in free-flowing condition and to assure the protection of outstandingly remarkable resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.</p> <p>Natural/Cultural Resource Goals & Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Foster the protection and enhancement of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the rivers and their adjacent lands for future generations through public education and awareness. ■ Maintain the natural, cultural, scenic and/or recreational resource values throughout the designated corridor. 	Air & Noise Pollution	Local municipalities should consider developing & enforcing a noise ordinance to respect rights of waterfront landowners.	Municipalities
	Carrying Capacity	Motorized recreational activities should be directed to specific areas of the river system where the resource can safely accommodate use. All waterways less than 200" wide maintain a "no wake" zone.	NJ Marine Police Municipalities Coast Guard River Council
	Cell/Radio Towers	Limited additional public access onto the river is recommended	Atlantic County Municipalities NJDEP
	Commercial Use of River Bottom	Any development that negatively impacts either the scenic or recreational qualities of the corridor should be prohibited. Placement of cell/radio towers within the federal boundary or local river management boundaries should be considered an incompatible and prohibited use.	National Park Service (NPS) Municipalities NJ DEP Pinelands Commission River Council
	Cultural Resources	Incorporate cell/radio tower placement as an incompatible use in Local River Management Plans.	Municipalities
		Mitigate impacts that may arise from commercial operations & determine what steps need to be taken to assure long term sustainability of aquatic resources.	NJ Fish & Game USF& WS River Council
		Provide guidance to local municipalities about sources of information such as report repositories and local experts to guide decision making.	Pinelands Com. NJ Hist. Pres. Office
		A study should be considered that addresses the identification, documentation and protection of ethnographic resources.	NPS NJDEP Pinelands Com.

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
	Docks, Bulkheads & Marinas	<p>Based on the findings of the 1998 NPS Social Studies Research project, there is substantial support from visitors & homeowners to limit the size of docks. NPS will continue to review dock designs and evaluate their potential impact on resources.</p> <p>Take enforcement action on docks and bulkheads constructed without appropriate permits.</p> <p>Evaluate the impact that the proliferation of docks may have on water quality, and the scenic and natural qualities of the river. A cumulative impact study should also assess the effects of pilings, treated with preservatives.</p> <p>Implement the findings of the 1998-1999 NPS Fisheries Study to assure protection of the scenic & natural resources in the river corridor.</p> <p>Evaluate and define best location for, and number of, public marinas required to relieve pressure of increased boating demands, if appropriate.</p> <p>Educate the public on the permitting process for docks, bulkheads & marinas and work to streamline regulations.</p> <p>Encourage the development of pumpout facilities under the Clean Vessel Program.</p> <p>Create a No Discharge Zone for the Great Egg Harbor River.</p> <p>Encourage marinas to offer containment areas for boat maintenance activities to prevent pollution.</p>	<p>NPS NJDEP USCOE Pinelands Comm.</p> <p>NJDEP USCOE NPS</p> <p>USCOE NPS NJDEP</p> <p>NPS NJDEP USCOE</p> <p>River Council NJDEP NPS</p> <p>USCOE & nps NJDEP River Council</p> <p>Atlantic County USF&WS River council NJDEP</p> <p>NJDEP Atlantic County River Council NPS</p> <p>Local marinas Atlantic County River Council NPS</p>

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
	Dredging & Shoaling	<p>Activities must be in accord w/Local River Mgt. Plans and the CMP and not impact critical resources.</p> <p>Identification of non-navigable segments in tidal portions due to shoaling is, and should continue to be, monitored by the USCOE.</p> <p>Before any activity, cumulative impacts to fish & wildlife resources must be identified and dredge spoil disposal sites must be selected that minimize impacts to federal trust resources.</p>	<p>Municipalities</p> <p>USCOE River Council</p> <p>USCOE USF&WS NPS River Council</p>
	Emergency Management Procedures	Develop emergency mgt. procedures for coordinating different entities along the river.	Atlantic Council River Council
	Forest Management	Forest management must be consistent with the Pinelands CMP, specifically Part IV, Sections 7:50-6:47.	Pinelands Comm. Municipalities River Council
	Hunting Wildlife	Reinforce existing hunting regulations in river corridor.	NJ Div. of Fish & Game River Council
	Identification of Critical Areas to Remain in Natural State	<p>Assure that all critical areas are identified in Local River Mgt. Plans and/or Master Plans.</p> <p>Purchase conservation easements wherever possible to maintain undeveloped waterfront property.</p> <p>Increased resource protection and enforcement must occur along the river corridor.</p> <p>Acquisition of key areas should be considered as mgt. alternatives for protection of valuable resources.</p> <p>Use volunteers to promote the history and prehistory of the area and to educate the public.</p>	<p>Municipalities</p> <p>NJDEP Conservation Orgs. River Council</p> <p>NJDEP NJ State Police Coast Guard</p> <p>Conservation Orgs. River Council NJDEP</p> <p>NJDEP; NJ Hist. Pres. Office NPS</p>

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Consider the preparation of applied anthropological studies, especially an Ethnographic Overview & Assessment and a Traditional use Study to ethnographically inform mgt. decisions.	NPS; NJDEP State Hist. Pres. Pinelands Comm. NPS River Council
		Identify appropriate agencies that have an interest & responsibility in protecting fish & wildlife areas to encourage proactive approaches to mgt.	NJDEP Pinelands Comm. USF&WS
		Work toward the NJDEP Strategic Plan Milestone that by 2005 identification and mapping of the State's critical habitats (for plants and animals) will be completed and available for public use.	NJDEP Municipalities River council NPS USF&WS
	New Stream Crossings	All requests to upgrade and/or construct new utility lines/roads should be reviewed to assure protection of resources. Use of existing rights-of-way should be encouraged wherever possible.	NJDEP Pinelands Comm. USCOE NPS River Council
		NPS will review transportation projects using the Guidelines in Appendix 5 of this CMP.	NPS River Council
	Recreation Use	Limit motorized recreational activities to areas within the designated corridor that are over 200' wide.	NJ Marine Police Coast Guard Municipalities
		Municipalities on both sides of the river should adopt compatible rules regarding recreational use to avoid conflicts among users. These rules should be in accord with the goals of Local River Management Plans and the CMP.	Municipalities NPS
		Undertake a study to identify appropriate areas for personal watercraft operation that will not adversely impact personal safety or fish and wildlife resources.	NPS USF&WS NJDEP
		Establish licensing procedures for new & existing liveries in the non-tidal portion of the river corridor to promote safe and responsible use of the resource and to avoid overcrowding.	Municipalities NPS

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Municipalities should establish a permit system for the cutting or removal of debris and fallen trees along the non-tidal portion of the river. Removal by local residents and commercial enterprises to improve passage for commercial recreation activities should be prohibited unless authorized by the appropriate authority.	Municipalities NPS River Council
	Resource Extraction	Extraction activities must conform to the Pinelands CMP, specifically Part VI, 7:50-6.69	Pinelands Comm Municipalities
	Restrictions on Fish & Eel Harvesting	Federal & state agencies need to promptly develop regulations and policies to assure long term protection.	USF&WS NJDEP NJ Fish & Game
	Sand & Gravel Mining	Municipalities should consider adopting strict guidelines for existing mining operations & consider prohibiting new ones. Enforce erosion controls on sand and gravel mining operations and run-off controls on construction sites. Investigate reclamation possibilities of abandoned sand and gravel mines adjacent to river.	Municipalities Conservation Districts NJDEP NPS River Council
	Streamline Regulations	Conduct pre-mining hydrological studies to determine whether upland mining operations will impact the hydrology of adjacent wetlands. The NJDEP and USCOE should finalize a one permit option in a W&S corridor. Federal & state agencies should continue to closely coordinate on permit requests. These agencies should endorse the CMP and Local River Mgt. Plans and use them when reviewing permits.	NJDEP River Council USCOE NJDEP NPS River Council NPS USCOE USF&WS NJDEP

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
	<p>Threatened & Endangered Species Protection</p> <p>Water Quality</p>	<p>Identify and protect bald eagle nesting, perching & loafing trees. Establish a buffer zone (min. 1,320 ft.) around these trees. Clearing should not be permitted.</p> <p>A survey will be required to determine if any proposed disturbance that alters hydrology or impacts forested or scrub/shrub wetlands where Swamp Pink is present and could be negatively affected.</p> <p>Any activities proposed in early successional wetland habitats will require a survey to determine impacts to Knieskern's beaked-rush.</p> <p>Any proposed activities in such emergent wetland or scrub/shrub cover types will require a survey to determine whether bog turtles are present & impacts.</p> <p>Conserve & protect aquatic habitats to maintain self-sustaining native populations of anadromous fish & migratory birds.</p> <p>Upgrade the Great Egg Harbor River under FW1 designation to allow for increased measures to improve water quality.</p> <p>Municipalities need to take a greater role in maintenance and enhancement of water quality & to educate local officials about effects of decisions on water quality.</p> <p>Municipalities need to address existing or potential contamination of groundwater aquifers in river corridor.</p> <p>Test the success or failure of water quality programs to determine effectiveness.</p>	<p>USF&WS NPS NJDEP River Council NJ Fish & Game</p> <p>NJDEP USF&WS Municipalities</p> <p>NJDEP USF&WS Municipalities</p> <p>NJDEP USF&WS Municipalities</p> <p>USF&WS NPS NJDEP NJ Fish & Game</p> <p>River Council NJ Fish & Game Pinelands Comm.</p> <p>Municipalities River Council</p> <p>Municipalities USEPA River Council</p> <p>Municipalities NJDEP USGS Pinelands Comm.</p>

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Promote the NJDEP Water Watch Program.	Municipalities NJDEP Pinelands Comm. River Council
		Identify state & federal programs that provide grant money to clean up streamside litter and public lands.	River Council NJDEP Municipalities NPS Pinelands Comm.
		Water quality efforts need to focus on nonpoint sources of pollution as a result of human activities.	NJDEP USEPA River Council Pinelands Comm.
		Develop a watershed management plan consistent with NJDEP's Watershed Management Framework w/assistance from the Soil Conservation Districts.	NJDEP USEPA River Council Municipalities NPS Conservation Districts
		Work to implement NJDEP's goals outlined in the June 1998 Draft Strategic Plan. Specifically, that by the year 2005, 50% of assessed non-tidal river miles will support healthy, sustainable biological communities should be supported for the Great Egg Harbor River.	NJDEP Municipalities NPS River Council
	Water Supply/Withdrawal	Undertake a study to determine the cumulative effects of private & public wells on in-stream flows & potential impacts on wetlands communities.	Municipalities Conservation Districts Atlantic County NJDEP Pinelands Comm.
		Follow-up on recommendations contained in the 1994 NJ State Water Quality Inventory Report re: Great Egg Harbor River.	NJDEP River Council Pinelands Comm. Atlantic County
		Complete estuarine studies to fully analyze and document the environmental impacts from withdrawals or diversions that may occur in the river corridor.	NJDEP River Council Pinelands Comm.

TABLE 4 — NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS & PRESCRIPTIONS

MANAGEMENT MISSION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Develop irrigation water management plans to more efficiently use groundwater for agricultural and residential irrigation.	NJDEP Counties
		Implement farmer and home owner self-assessment and groundwater protection activities (Farm-A-Syst & Home-A-Syst)	NJDEP S.Jersey RC&D NJ Dept. of Agriculture
		Encourage the recharge of treated wastewater (of acceptable quality) to ground water rather than discharge to surface waters, consistent with the State's Water Quality Management Plan.	USDA River Council Conservation Districts
		Set standards for instream flow below which commercial recreation activities should not take place on the non-tidal portion of the river.	Counties NJDEP NPS USF&WS
		An interim water supply policy should be continued which recommends the use of viable alternate water supply sources until ecological effects of water diversion from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer are adequately determined	Pinelands Comm. NJDEP
		Hydrological studies and modeling should be conducted to evaluate the impact of mining operations on wetlands, groundwater, and streamflow.	Counties NJDEP USGS Municipalities
	Wildlife Corridor Connections	Identify & establish potential wildlife corridors.	Pinelands Comm. River Council Municipalities Counties
		Identify for acquisition land parcels critical in protecting wildlife habitats and incorporate into Local River Mgt. Plans.	USF&WS NJDEP Counties Municipalities
		Work with NJ Green Trust Program & other potential funding sources to acquire critical areas identified in Local River Management Plans.	USF&WS NJDEP Counties Municipalities

C. RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS

The two protection areas outlined below follow the scenic and recreational boundaries outlined in the designation legislation and also take into consideration the laws outlined in the NJ State Police Boating Safety booklet regarding “no wake” areas in waterways less than 200’ wide. Refer to Map 10 for a visual delineation.

The Social Science Research Study mentioned previously provided interesting feedback from recreationists and shoreline property owners regarding management of the designated river corridor. The following points emerged:

- Management for water quality had the highest priority among respondents, followed by management for natural and scenic qualities and management for recreation.
- The construction of new docks was supported with dock length limited. Unregulated docks (no permits) were strongly opposed.
- Increased law enforcement presence, enforcement of existing regulations and creation of procedures with stronger penalties for violations were supported.
- Creation of a “No Discharge” zone was favored.
- Restricting use of areas known to have rare or sensitive species was supported.
- Allowing dredging along the river corridor to maintain navigational channels was supported.
- Restriction of personal watercraft received 50% of respondent support from both boaters and homeowners. This was substantially supported for areas where rare or sensitive species existed.
- Both boaters and landowners agree that environmental regulations are necessary for the protection of river resources.

1. RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA #1 – SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Areas of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor designated as “Scenic” will be protected from any development that will cause a negative impact on existing resources and the scenic viewshed. The “scenic” designation was permitted due to the limited amount of development and access present and the fact that the surrounding area is in a primarily natural state. Appropriate recreational activities are acceptable in scenic areas as long as negative impact to existing resources does not occur.

Areas of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor designated as “Recreational” also contain critical habitat areas and endangered vegetation. The recreational designation recognizes a certain level of existing & future development. The scenic and recreational areas shown in **Map 10** that are wider than the 200’ “no wake” zone required by the State of New Jersey can accommodate appropriate





RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

motorized recreational activities as long as existing resources are not adversely affected.

Note that the areas wider than 200' are located below the bulkhead at Mays Landing and are primarily located on the mainstem of the Great Egg Harbor River. Most tributaries are less than the 200' requirement for intensive motorized activities.

2. RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA 2 – SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL AREAS FOR NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ONLY (LESS THAN 200' WIDE)

This area of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor includes both scenic and recreationally designated areas and consists of waterways less than 200' wide. Based on NJ State Boating law, these areas are for transport and not for intensive motorized recreational activities. All areas of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries above Lake Lenape are limited to non-intensive recreational activities. In addition, note that the tributaries below the bulkhead at Mays Landing are also limited in the types of activities they can support.

TABLE 5 — RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS

	Resource Protection Area 1 Recreational & Scenic Areas for both motorized & non-motorized activities (Over 200' wide)	Resource Protection Area 2 Recreational & Scenic Areas for non-intensive recreational use (less than 200' wide)
Desired Future Condition	Natural conditions and processes, ensure resource protection. Scenic areas remain as is, very limited access is available and recommended	Natural conditions and processes, ensure resource protection. Scenic areas remain as is, very limited access is available and recommended
Desired visitor condition	Recreational use in appropriate areas	Limited use as appropriate
Management Actions	Managed for resource protection & visitor safety - provide minimal add'l public access, as appropriate Scenic areas will be intensely managed for resource protection	Managed for resource protection & visitor safety - enforce existing regs. banning intensive motorized recreational activities - Limited additional public access. Scenic areas will be intensely managed for resource protection
Kinds & Levels of visitor use	Visitor use acceptable as long as resource degradation does not occur. - all types of recreational activities	Limit recreational activities based on existing NJ State law and size of waterway, as well as critical resources.
Appropriate kinds & levels of development	Limited. Recreational designation allows for some development. Scenic designation is based on minimal development	None/limited in scenic areas and limited in recreational areas.

(insert Map 10)



A. OVERVIEW

Over ninety-nine percent of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor is located within the Pinelands National Reserve. This interpretive planning section of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan is based on the January 1998 Pinelands Interpretation Plan as well as information gathered during the public planning process for the CMP. Close coordination with the Pinelands Commission and Atlantic County Division of Parks and Recreation will assure maximum benefit of any programs implemented and avoid duplication and conflict with either existing or planned activities for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

*Rich in history, culture
and natural resources . . .*

Interpretive programming on the Great Egg Harbor River corridor must be balanced to assure a quality visitor experience while promoting the preservation of the critical resources for which the river was designated. Rich in history, as well as cultural and natural resources, the Great Egg Harbor River provides a unique opportunity to understand the importance that this waterway played in shaping our present society.

1. BACKGROUND FOR INTERPRETIVE PLANNING & VISITOR MANAGEMENT

a. Purpose & Significance

Established as a unit of the National Park Service on October 27, 1992 under Public Law 102-536, the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River meanders for 59 miles, draining 304 square miles of pristine wetlands in the heart of New Jersey's Pinelands Reserve on its way to the Atlantic Ocean.

Dissolved iron and tannin, a product of fallen leaves and cedar roots, produce the river's tea colored "cedar water" along much of its length. The freshwater and tidal wetlands serve as resting, feeding, and breeding areas for waterfowl throughout the year amid undisturbed forests and swamp areas. The watershed has been occupied since prehistoric times, lived upon traditionally by the Lenape Indians before occupations by Europeans in the early 1700s. The lands contained all the necessary materials for shipbuilding, and in the Revolutionary War its "bog iron" made cannon balls while its hidden coves sheltered privateers. Blast furnaces, sawmills, glass factories, and brick and tile works, followed until the Industrial Revolution drew its people away. Today, the development of the area's prime agricultural land has contributed greatly to the cultural diversity of the area. Just east of Philadelphia and a short drive from New York City, the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River is in a relatively undeveloped area in close proximity to a highly developed metropolitan corridor.



2. THEMES

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable resources for which the Great Egg was designated, the relationship between the natural and cultural history is a strong component of the Pinelands Interpretive Story. The nature of its resources, both environmental and cultural, as well as their inter-relationship, forms the basis for explaining the region. Three guiding themes organize the interpretive messages to be communicated through signage, exhibits, and programs. The themes are as follows:

a. The environment:

The Great Egg Harbor River within the New Jersey Pinelands is a unique natural environment, which is home to significant cultural, natural and recreational resources. The Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries support federally listed and state endangered species and the wetlands are a haven for a variety of wildlife.

b. The people:

People have inhabited New Jersey's Pinelands for centuries and created traditions that continue today. The region's remnant domestic and industrial architecture provides visible links to the past. Its graveyards, churches, villages, and industrial ruins all shed light on lifeways of the past.

Like the American Indians before them, European settlers used the Pinelands resources for sustenance and shelter. They also exploited its natural resources to fuel early industries. Iron-making villages relied upon the supplies of available bog iron formed in the abundant wetlands and stream corridors. The region's water powered lumber, grist and paper mills, and abundant sand provided the necessary ingredients for glass making.

c. The Interaction:

The diversity of the area and man's interaction with this land is continually evolving. What is visible today in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor is the result of centuries of interaction between the environment and man. In some areas, settlement patterns and industrial practices often contributed to the creation of distinct ecosystems. In others, those ecosystems contributed to the success of industries, like glass and iron, able to maximize their use.

3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Providing interpretive opportunities to visitors must be balanced with the protection of significant resources, as well as maintaining the quality of life for local residents. The following objectives were excerpted from the [Pinelands Interpretive Plan](#) because they very eloquently reflect the long term visions and concerns expressed throughout the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River comprehensive management planning process.

- a. Outline a long-term vision which plans for visitation at sites and facilities best able to sustain such use without environmental degradation. The vision must respect private property rights and be financially feasible or self-sustaining whenever possible.

- b. Coordinate with existing organizations currently providing interpretation or education about Pinelands' resources and resources in the area. Many ongoing efforts, such as those provided by Atlantic County Parks and the Pinelands Commission will complement this interpretive proposal.
- c. Adhere to the land use and development standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and Local River Management Plans when sites and/or facilities are involved.
- d. Provide interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors, residents, and those in the surrounding regions that encourage understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources, promote and enhance ongoing efforts, and coordinate sites, facilities, and programs to create a cohesive identity and interpretive experience.

4. VISITOR EXPERIENCE STATEMENT(S)

The following desired experience statements reflect input throughout the planning process.

Interpretive programming for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River should offer visitors:

- a. an opportunity to appreciate and recognize the Great Egg Harbor River corridor as a place with its own unique features and a destiny to be shaped by the local municipalities that co-exist along the river.
- b. effective orientation to the area. Visitors should be fully informed of area programs, facilities, and services as well as safety concerns and environmental sensitivities.
- c. an opportunity to have a safe and enjoyable recreational experience in the appropriate areas of the river without adversely affecting sensitive resources.
- d. a sense of the fragility of river resources. All who come into contact with the river must share the sense of respect that has allowed humans to continue to live from nature without irreparably upsetting its delicate balance.
- e. a chance to experience the river itself, on the water if possible, but from a land overlook if it is not.
- f. a sense of sincere welcome that will lead to respect for local property rights and a willingness to see the river through the eyes of residents. Visitors must understand that they are guests.
- g. an appreciation of the interconnectedness of the river and the "outside" world. Both visitors and residents need to understand that river resources do not exist in isolation. Natural and cultural links to the region and even the hemisphere exist. The goal is to explain the nature of interdependence and use this information in positive ways. A river experience should nurture stewardship.



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- h. a sense of the area's history, of the people who settled here, of the influences that changed landscapes, of the cultural legacies that survive.

5. ISSUES AND INFLUENCES AFFECTING INTERPRETATION

The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River is a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park Service. A number of issues were identified which reflect the concerns of local residents over increased visitation and how being a unit of the National Park System will affect the long term protection of the resource. The following statements reflect these concerns.

Interpretive programming should:

- a. look for ways to minimize overuse.
- b. recognize that there are three diverse and unique sections of the river (upper, middle, and lower) tidal and non-tidal, which must be considered when interpreting and directing use of the resource.
- c. recommend only those recreational activities on the water which are compatible with protection of the resource.
- d. promote visitation only in those areas with a desire to accommodate and with sufficient infrastructure.
- e. address the need for well-designed facilities and programs. Interpretation should direct use. Sensitive areas should be protected and off limits. Use should be diffused where appropriate. New facilities and programs should be developed where impact can be minimized.
- f. create advocates for both resource protection and responsible stewardship. Visitors should leave with a positive impression AND with a resource-sensitive attitude.

6. VISITOR PROFILES

To determine visitor usage in the river corridor, the National Park Service funded a Social Science study which was conducted by Virginia Polytech's Department of Forestry in 1998. Both river visitors and shoreline landowners were part of the study process which used random sampling at 18 locations from Penny Pot Park in Folsom to the southern end of the designation. In addition to the 530 on-site surveys, a questionnaire was also mailed to approximately 600 shoreline homeowners and 350 boaters. Over 360 mailed surveys were returned by recipients. The following facts and conclusions were indicated by the research:

- a. Respondents ranged in age from 15 to 88
- b. Income level was relatively high, with 75% of all respondents having a total annual household income of \$50,000 or more
- c. Boaters & landowners are well educated, with 27% having some college education and nearly 50% holding at least a college degree. Landowners were slightly more educated than boaters.
- d. 28% of boaters live within 5 miles; 63% live within 20 miles; very few traveled more than 100 miles to the river.

- e. Most of the boaters and landowners surveyed are long-time users of the Great Egg Harbor River, with approximately 66% having recreated on the river over 100 times.
- f. Overall, boaters and landowners recreate on or along the Great Egg Harbor River most of the year, although the majority of respondents used it primarily during the summer season (93%).
- g. 50% of landowners recreate on the river during the period between November 1 and March 31 compared to only about 20% of the boaters.
- h. More than 50% of respondents (boaters & landowners) indicated that their recreational pursuits were: boating for pleasure, swimming, observing wildlife, boat fishing, and canoeing. Less than 20% stated hike, jet ski use, bicycle, hunt, tent camp or RV camp.
- i. Most boaters visited for the day, with a very limited percent staying overnight .
- j. Boaters and landowners indicated that conflicts between different types of recreational users, crowding at some areas, and speeding and reckless boating significantly detract from their recreational experience.
- k. Both boaters and landowners indicated that management for recreation, for natural and scenic qualities, and for water quality were important management goals for the river corridor. Management for water quality ranked as being the most important goal, followed by natural and scenic quality management.

Based on the information provided by the research study, it appears that most recreators on the river travel a relatively short distance to get there. Given the river's close proximity to large urban areas and its ability to provide access for recreational boating, the Great Egg Harbor River can draw visitors from Philadelphia, New York, Camden, and Atlantic City.

The Great Egg Harbor River has experienced intensive summer use in the middle portions of the designated corridor above the bulkhead at Mays Landing and the lower portion below Lake Lenape. The intensity of use above Mays Landing bulkhead is concentrated on weekends from approximately May through September. Canoeists, kayakers and tubers use the upper and middle non-tidal portions of the Great Egg Harbor River. The lower tidal portion of the river allows recreationists to travel from the coastal bays to the bulkhead at Mays Landing. In addition, given the increase (and size) of residential dock development over the last ten years, local recreational use of the river has also increased.

. . . there is no information provided to visitors that educates them about the fragility of the resource . . .

7. EXISTING VISITOR/INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

While there are a number of recreation facilities in the river corridor, there are no facilities, signs, or programs for the Great Egg Harbor River which specifically interpret the corridor and its resources as a National Scenic and Recreational River. In addition, there is no information provided to visitors that educates them about the fragility of the resource and that they are recreating through privately owned property in many instances. On the upper/middle stretch of the river there is one area



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(Weymouth Furnace) that has portable restroom facilities and trash receptacles for recreators on the non-tidal portion of the river. The lack of restroom facilities causes obvious problems.

There are, however, a number of areas that provide a glimpse of the region's history. Atlantic County Division of Parks maintains an environmental center at Estell Manor Park and visitors can get an idea of the region's iron-making past at Weymouth County Park.

B. DESCRIPTION OF INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING

Since the Great Egg Harbor River is a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park Service, providing interpretive services to visitors must be a shared responsibility among the state, counties, and local municipalities. It is important to note that the National Park Service can only provide assistance to local municipalities in managing the river corridor through the use of cooperative agreements. The designation legislation for the Great Egg Harbor River specifies this limitation.

The proposed interpretive elements offer a range of experiences designed to enhance public awareness of the area, to provide information about Pinelands' resources, specifically the Great Egg Harbor River, to support interpretive programming and facilities, where possible, and promote the safe use of the resource. Compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is required, not discretionary, and is best and most cost effectively achieved as new programming is planned.

The information provided from the 1998 Social Science Study indicates that there appears to be more than enough users and access points for recreators on the river. However, increasing visual access to the river from the land without sacrificing the special qualities that the river possesses is also an important consideration. Many of the interpretive proposals that follow attempt to address this issue. Concern over the fragility of river resources and the potential for both overuse and misuse, should be incorporated into all interpretive programming.

No single level of use and regulation should be imposed upon the entire river system because of the diverse nature of the river corridor itself.

PROPOSALS

1. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS SHOULD BE LIMITED DUE TO OVERCROWDING ON THE RIVER DURING SUMMER MONTHS.

- a. Public access to the water is available at the following locations:
 - Estell Manor Park, Atlantic County
 - Weymouth Furnace Park, Atlantic County
 - Lake Lenape Park, Atlantic County
 - Penny Pot Park, Atlantic County
 - Kennedy Park, owned by Somers Point
 - McNamara Wildlife Refuge in Cape May County owned and operated by the NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife

- Tuckahoe Beach owned by Upper Township (an informal access for canoes and kayaks)
- New Brooklyn Park, Camden County Park Department

b. In addition to the public access areas, there were several private marinas and canoe liveries that exist in the river corridor. The following is not a comprehensive list:

- Great Egg Bay Sailing Marina - Somers Point
- Merit Marine South - Egg Harbor Township
- Misty Morning Marina - Egg Harbor Township
- Palace Pizza & Brew - Weymouth Section of Hamilton Township
- Shady River Marina - Egg Harbor Township
- Mays Landing Marina - Mays Landing
- Steve's Deepwater Marina - Egg Harbor Township
- Somerset Cove Marina - Egg Harbor Township
- Thompson Marina - Egg Harbor Township
- Winding River Canoe & Camping Area - Hamilton Township

2. PROMOTE AND SUPPORT EXISTING HIKING TRAILS, WHICH MAY PROVIDE AN INTERPRETIVE LINK TO THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER.

- a. The Estell Manor Park trail system (approx. 16 miles) is eligible for the State Trails System because it incorporates representative Pine Barrens native habitats, salt marshes, and historic structures and artifacts. The nature trail highlights the wetlands typical of the Great Egg Harbor River system. Some of the trails use the cinder bedding of the abandoned railroad line.
- b. There are five State Wildlife Management Areas: Gibson Creek, Lester G. MacNamara, Makepeace, Peaslee, and Winslow which are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and other recreation pursuits.
- c. The need for trails along the river for hiking may be addressed by the Local River Management Plans. Atlantic County has in the past announced plans for several parks which may in the future form a linear river park system. River Bend Park is one such project and the Lake Lenape tract includes land extending up to Weymouth Furnace Park.
- d. The 1996 NJ Trails Plan recognizes the benefits and quality of the Estell Manor Park Trail System and recommended its inclusion into the State Trails System. Pursue the recommendation that a foot-bridge be constructed along the nature trail and that an elevated observation deck be constructed overlooking the salt marshes along the route of the nature trail.
- e. Follow-up on the 1996 NJ Trails Plan which specifically lists sections of the Great Egg Harbor River for State Trails System eligibility which includes waterways as trails.





3. USE EXISTING RESOURCES TO TELL THE "STORY" OF THE GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER CORRIDOR.

- a. Weymouth County Park sits on the site of the former Weymouth Iron Forge and paper mills. Its stone structures offer a rare glimpse of the region's iron-making past.
- b. Estell Manor County Park is centered around the ruins of Estellville Glassworks. The glass works was founded in 1825 and manufactured window glass. It continued in operation until 1877. The trail network is founded on old rail beds and roads developed as part of the Bethlehem Loading Company, a World War I munitions plant.
- c. The Estell Manor Mansion in Estell Manor County Park was built around 1850 and is currently owned by Atlantic County and unoccupied. Due to its prime location, this building would provide an excellent location for visitor information services for interpreting the Great Egg Harbor River corridor, the Pinelands, and the County Park system.
- d. NJ Wildlife Management Areas can be ideal locations for interpreting the Great Egg Harbor River.
- e. The Somers Point Historic District and Mays Landing Historic District offer glimpses into the past and help tell the story of the corridor.
- f. New Brooklyn Park and Nature Center, a 600 acre area in Camden County is an existing resource that can help interpretation efforts.

4. DEVELOP AUDIO VISUAL AND ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING.

A well produced video or sound/slide presentation can show even the most fragile aspects of the resource. Reinforced by music, it can capture each of the river's seasons and moods. AV programs are portable and can be used in a variety of settings, in home or school. They can encourage a sense of local pride. Finally, AV can provide effective orientation when staffing is limited.

While there are advantages to AV programming, it can be quite expensive to produce and equipment troublesome to maintain. Given the high cost of AV production, efforts should concentrate on:

- a. Developing a 20-30 minute video specifically on the river. It should accomplish the following objectives:
 - Capture the river's special characteristics and moods.
 - Portray the river's rich natural and cultural history.
 - Help viewers experience the river in appropriate and non-destructive ways.
 - Build advocacy for river preservation and protection.
 - Recognize the appropriateness of all recreation activities, including hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Production strategies could include:

- Soliciting corporate or government funds.
 - Approach NJ Network.
 - Recouping production investment via sales.
 - Approaching a local college with a video studio and communications department.
- b. Developing educational materials that will complement this river video. The grade level(s) of these materials would be planned via involvement of local teachers.
- c. Incorporating closed captioning in the video's production costs.
- d. Investigating orientation software and developing programming that could be installed in any existing welcome facility that is willing to participate (for example: Atlantic County Parks, State Wildlife Mgt. Areas)

5. DEVELOP PUBLICATIONS

Before the development of any publications takes place, a realistic assessment of the audience and possible sales potential needs to occur first. How best to market the publication also needs to be addressed.

Types of publications to be considered:

- a. **Picture Books.** The goal here is to capture the visual essence of the watershed. Although local stakeholders should decide which river stories to stress, a book that combines both natural and historical themes might have the broadest appeal and highest sales potential.

There are several ways to produce this publication:

- A river stakeholder, or coalition of groups, could sponsor a photo contest and then publish the most notable entries.
 - A college or local high school could produce the book as a spin-off of curricular offerings.
 - Corporate sponsors could underwrite production costs.
 - A private publisher could be encouraged to undertake production given stakeholder support with photos and text.
 - Commercial establishments could be encouraged to advertise in any appropriate publications.
- b. There are other less expensive types of **publications** that will achieve some, although not all, of the same objectives of a picture book. They might be considered as alternatives to a picture book or as additional projects.
- A National Park Service Unigrid brochure will provide information to visitors and how best to direct them in the corridor. This brochure could be placed at launching, observation and fishing sites and parking areas for easy visitor access and contain information about the need to respect private property and the fragility of the resource.



- Develop an educational **newsletter** for the general public (published 3-4 times a year) and a video as good awareness tools. The newsletter could be sent to riverfront landowners, as well as the general public informing them of any updated information on the river, upcoming events, etc. Making the newsletter available at marinas, campgrounds, parks and commercial establishments could also increase public awareness.
- A **calendar** would feature 12+ photos of the Great Egg Harbor watershed. Each would be accompanied by interpretive text. This calendar might be sponsored and distributed by local corporations and/or sold as a fundraiser.
- A commercial company might be convinced to produce and sell high-quality picture **postcards**.
- Develop a detailed visitor services **guide** which describes ecotourism opportunities and provides a guide registry for a variety of activities.
- A local historical society or college might produce a **history** of the watershed based on oral histories and the photographic record. Or existing publications might be adapted for sale.

c. Boat traffic on the river increases in the summer months. Responsible use of river resources should be a prime goal. A user-friendly **brochure** with tips on preserving river resources should be developed for distribution at river marinas. Initially, the brochure could be produced in limited quantities using desktop publishing. If successful, a sponsor or sponsors could be recruited based on demonstrated successes.

An alternative that can be selected is to research the use of an item like a trash bag with a pre-printed message. The carry in/carry out concept is widely used by land-based parks and could be expanded to water use. Bags would be distributed to river users free of charge before leaving land.

6. DEVELOP INFORMATION/WELCOME CENTERS

There are two types of facilities to consider to address visitor service needs: Information centers which would provide general information about the river corridor and its resources; and a Welcome Center, which is larger in size and provides a variety of visitor services.

In order to avoid expensive construction and/or rehabilitation costs, as well as long term operation and maintenance expenses, existing facilities can serve as information centers for the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. Existing facilities with specific stories (Estell Manor Park, Weymouth County Park, NJ State Wildlife Management Areas, and New Brooklyn Park) already exist in the area and function as gateways to river resources. These existing facilities could provide information that would influence where visitors go and what they do.

The feasibility of using the Estell Mansion along the Great Egg Harbor River as a Welcome Center needs to be pursued. This welcome center could:

- a. provide visitor information
- b. function as a rest stop for visitors
- c. provide interpretive programming (AV, exhibits, and sales) that introduces river themes
- d. serve as an office location for a River Advocate
- e. provide meeting space for River Council activities

7. ESTABLISH A RIVER ADVOCATE POSITION FOR THE GREAT EGG HARBOR RIVER

Proposed outreach activities for this position could include, but are not limited to:

- a. Create a physical presence on the river via boat or canoe;
- b. Undertake recommendations contained in this section for public education.
- c. Establish a Great Egg Harbor River hotline for the public to call to identify water quality problems along the river and to provide general information.
- d. Create a link with boaters and fishermen using the river regarding water quality issues.
- e. Openly communicate issues along the corridor.

8. PROMOTE SAFE & APPROPRIATE USE OF THE RESOURCE

Watercraft licensing procedures need to include training on the safe and courteous use of watercraft.

The NJ Marine Police should develop and implement an effective enforcement policy to control watercraft uses to minimize excessive noise and speed, to eliminate potential collisions between river users, to discourage intimidation of non-power watercraft users and to consider establishing designated areas for personal watercraft. Enforcement of the “no wake” zone within 100’ of the riverbank should be strictly enforced.

(Note: The National Park Service has issued a draft regulation prohibiting the use of personal watercraft in all National Wild and Scenic Rivers that are units of the National Park System. While this rule, if implemented, will have universal applicability, a strong case can and will be made for an independent determination as to the appropriateness of this rule in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. As a cooperatively managed river, the National Park Service will work with the River Council to make an appropriate determination regarding implementation of this rule.)

NJ Marine Police should work in partnership with personal watercraft retailers and manufacturers to encourage safe and courteous use of personal watercraft.

Work with private/public marinas and canoe liveries to educate the public on proper use and behavior on the river to promote safety and appreciation of the resource.



Work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and municipal law enforcement in enforcing existing regulations in the river corridor.

The navigational channel needs to be clearly marked for safe usage of the river.

Educate users of the river of the problems created by litter and encourage them to carry their own litter out and deposit it in appropriate receptacles.

Organize volunteer clean-up groups and activities along the river until a more formal arrangement can be made.

Work with Atlantic County to provide restroom facilities and trash receptacles along the upper/middle stretch of the Great Egg Harbor River.

9. USE THE INTERNET

Visitors and residents gather more and more information from the Internet. While the Great Egg Harbor River is on the National Park Service webpage, there must be a strategy to keep information up-to-date and useful.

10. SIGNAGE AND WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

Signage should be developed in very close coordination with the Pinelands Commission's Signage Plan once it is finalized. At present, no signs exist informing the visitor that they are in the Great Egg Harbor River National Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

Once visitors arrive, there should be interpretive programming that explains the river's significance and themes. A river-wide plan that shows the best locations for waysides addressing both natural and cultural topics should be developed.

A policy should be developed about commercial billboards to preserve the river's scenic qualities.

11. DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS AND SCHOOL GROUPS THAT ENCOURAGE STEWARDSHIP

School children are among the river's most important audiences. Materials must be developed to integrate the river into their lives and help them to appreciate the contribution that it can make to their future. Existing efforts can be enhanced by:

- a. Organizing a teacher advisory group to help plan school programming.
- b. Locating and reviewing existing educational materials related to river stories, water quality, etc. and adapting any that are relevant. Use information from the Pinelands Commission.
- c. Using teacher advisors to recommend and oversee development of new, site specific programs. Local sponsors might fund new materials written and field tested by college students.

“ . . . no signs exist informing the visitor that they are in the Great Egg Harbor River National Scenic and Recreational River corridor.”

- d. Employing the “Adopt-a-Resource” or “Adopt-A-River” program whereby a local school class could adopt a local population of critical plants or animals, thereby learning about the species and conservation issues simultaneously.
- e. Visiting other similar areas to develop educational exhibit ideas. For example, the Philadelphia Seaport Museum’s “River Soundings” multi-media interpretation of the Delaware River.
- f. Educating local officials and residents about the important resources in their “backyards” is also an important task. Presentations to elected officials, environmental commissions and the development of a newsletter about the Great Egg that has a wide local distribution will heighten awareness of the resources and hopefully promote stewardship.
- g. To reach waterfront landowners, establish a “Registry Program” similar to one used by the Nature Conservancy. In this type of program, each landowner is sent a personal letter informing them of any outstandingly remarkable resources on or near their property and the voluntary need to protect them. In addition, listing Best Management Practices private landowners can employ would also be included.
- h. Expand and update NJ DEP Programs emphasizing public education and incentives for conservation, focusing on water awareness in the school curriculum and promoting conservation landscaping among adults.
- i. Promotion of the river at public functions, festivals, and through the media is another way of bringing attention to the river. In addition, the development of a Speakers Bureau (people knowledgeable about the river and watershed) could be established and individuals made available to speak at educational facilities, clubs and civic organizations.

C. COORDINATION

As a cooperatively managed river, recommendations outlined above can only be achieved with coordination among all partners. Municipalities with an interest in increased visitors to their communities need to make both financial and time commitments to implement appropriate recommendations. The Great Egg Harbor River Council and the National Park Service would provide overall coordination and involve all appropriate partners when rendering decisions about visitor services.

TABLE 6 — VISITOR MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES

VISITOR MANAGEMENT/SERVICES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	VISITOR SERVICES TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
<p>Primary Mission: To preserve the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in free-flowing condition and to assure the protection of outstandingly remarkable resources for the benefit & enjoyment of present & future generations.</p> <p>Visitor Service Goals & Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide interpretive and educational opportunities that encourage understanding & appreciation of natural, cultural and recreational resources, promote and enhance ongoing efforts, and coordinate sites, facilities and programs to create a cohesive identity and interpretive experience. • Outline a long-term vision that plans for visitation at sites and facilities best able to sustain such use without environmental degradation. • Respect private property rights. • Coordinate with existing organizations currently providing interpretation or education services in the river corridor. • Adhere to the land use and development standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan when sites and/or facilities are involved. 	<p>Public Access</p> <p>Promote and support hiking trails which may provide an interpretive link to the history of the Great Egg Harbor River</p> <p>Tell the “story” of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor</p>	<p>Additional public access areas should be limited due to overcrowding on the river.</p> <p>Incorporate the Estell Manor Park Trail system into the State Trails System as recommended in the NJ Trails Plan.</p> <p>Market the availability of public hiking trails, fishing, etc. in the 5 State Wildlife Management Areas in brochures about the river corridor.</p> <p>Continue with plans for several parks which may form a linear river park system. Address the need for trails in Local River Management Plans, if appropriate.</p> <p>Pursue the recommendation that a footbridge and an elevated observation deck be constructed in Estell Manor Park overlooking the salt marshes along the nature trail.</p> <p>Follow-up on the 1996 NJ Trails Plan which specifically lists sections of the Great Egg Harbor River for State Trails System eligibility which includes waterways as trails.</p> <p>Use existing resources to tell the “story”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weymouth County Park - Estell Manor Park - Estell Manor Mansion - NJ Wildlife Management Areas - Somers Point & Mays Landing Historic District - New Brooklyn Park & Nature Center 	<p>Atlantic County Municipalities River Council NPS NJDEP</p> <p>Atlantic County NJDEP</p> <p>NJ Parks & Forestry NPS Atlantic County</p> <p>Atlantic County Municipalities</p> <p>Atlantic County NJDEP</p> <p>Atlantic County NJDEP</p> <p>Atlantic County NPS NJ Parks & Forests Camden County River Council</p>
	<p>Develop audio visual and electronic programming</p>	<p>Consider development of a well-produced video or sound/slide presentation that shows the fragile aspects of the resource.</p> <p>Develop a 20-30 minute video specifically on the river.</p>	<p>River Council NPS Pinelands Comm.</p> <p>River Council NPS</p>

TABLE 6 — VISITOR MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES

VISITOR MANAGEMENT/SERVICES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	VISITOR SERVICES TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
	Develop Publications	Develop educational materials that will complement a river video. The grade level(s) of these materials would be planned via involvement of local teachers.	River Council NPS NJDEP Pinelands Comm.
		Investigate orientation software and develop programming that could be installed in any welcome facility that is willing to participate.	River Council NPS Atlantic County NJ Parks & Forests
		Assess the audience and possible sales potential of any publications being considered prior to initiation. Some publications considered may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picture Books - National Park Service Unigrid Brochure - Education Newsletter for the general public published 3-4 times/year - Calendar featuring resources of the corridor - Picture Postcards - Detailed visitor services guide - Book on history of the watershed 	River Council NPS Pinelands Comm. Chambers of Commerce * NJDEP Non-profit orgs.
		Develop a user-friendly brochure with tips on preserving river resources, respect for private property, etc. for distribution at public access points and marinas.	NPS Atlantic County Marinas & boating community
	Develop information or welcome centers	Use existing facilities to provide information services, at locations such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estell Manor Mansion in Estell Manor Park - Weymouth Furnace County Park - New Brooklyn Park - State Wildlife Management Areas 	Counties NPS River Council Municipalities NJ Parks & Forests
	Establish a River Advocate for the Great Egg Harbor River	Formally establish a "River Advocate" for the Great Egg Harbor River who would be responsible for a variety of activities in the river corridor.	River Council NPS NJDEP
	Promote Safe & Appropriate Use of Resources	Watercraft licensing procedures need to include training on the safe and courteous use of watercraft.	NJ Marine Police Coast Guard

TABLE 6 — VISITOR MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES

VISITOR MANAGEMENT/SERVICES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	VISITOR SERVICES TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Law enforcement on the river must be visible to minimize problems among users and to enforce the “no wake” zone within 100' of the riverbank.	NJ Marine Police Municipalities Coast Guard or Auxiliary
		NJ Marine Police should consider working in partnership with personal watercraft retailers and manufacturers to encourage safe and courteous use of personal watercraft.	NJ Marine Police Watercraft Retailers
		Clearly mark the navigational channel.	NJ Marine Police US Coast Guard
		Organize volunteer clean-up groups and activities in the corridor until a more formal arrangement can be made.	Municipalities GEHWA NPS
		Work with Atlantic County to provide restroom facilities and trash receptacles along the river corridor.	Atlantic County River Council NPS
	Use the Internet	Provide information about the river corridor on a webpage. The NPS webpage can be accessed but needs to be expanded upon.	NPS River Council
	Signage & Wayside Exhibits	Develop signage in coordination with the Pinelands Commission based on sound planning that indicates the best locations for waysides and interpretive facilities.	NPS River Council Pinelands Comm.
		Develop a policy regarding commercial billboards to preserve the river's scenic qualities.	Pinelands Comm. River Council
	Develop educational programs for residents and school groups that encourage stewardship	Organize a teacher advisory group to help plan school programming.	River Council Local school districts
		Locate and review existing educational materials related to river stories, water quality, etc. and adapt any that are relevant.	River Council NPS

TABLE 6 — VISITOR MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES

VISITOR MANAGEMENT/SERVICES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	VISITOR SERVICES TOPICS/ISSUES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	POTENTIAL PARTNER(S)
		Use teacher advisory group to recommend and oversee development of new, site specific programs.	River Council NPS Local school districts
		Employ “Adopt-a-Resource” or “Adopt-a-River” programs at local schools	River Council Local Schools
		Develop a Speakers Bureau and make presentations to elected officials reminding them of the significant resources in the area.	River Council Pinelands Pres. Alliance NPS
		Establish a “Registry Program” for landowners informing them of significant resources on their property and best management practices.	Nature Conservancy NPS Natural Lands Trust, Inc.
		Expand and update NJDEP programs emphasizing public education and incentives for conservation, focusing on water awareness and promoting conservation landscaping.	River Council NJDEP NPS
		Promote the river at public functions, festivals and through the media to bring attention to the river’s significant resources.	River Council NPS NJDEP Pinelands Comm. Municipalities GEHWA & other Non-profit orgs.

SECTION VIII ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

STATEMENT

A. COVER SHEET

LIST OF RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

<u>Municipalities</u>	
Buena Vista Township	Atlantic County
Corbin City	Gloucester County
Egg Harbor Township	Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assoc.
City of Estell Manor	National Park Service, Lead Agency
Borough of Folsom	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Hamilton Township	NJ Pinelands Commission
Town of Hammonton	County Conservation Districts
Monroe Township	US Army Corps of Engineers
City of Somers Point	US Department of Agriculture
Upper Township	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Weymouth Township	
Winslow Township	

Title and Location of Proposed Action: Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River; 129 river miles through Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Gloucester Counties in New Jersey

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ABSTRACT

This Environmental Impact Statement was prepared as part of the Comprehensive Management Planning (CMP) process for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. The CMP establishes the basic philosophy of resource protection and provides a rationale for management decisions. The recommendations contained in this report will have positive, beneficial effects on the resources that exist within the 129-mile river corridor. Alternatives were considered for long-term management, with the development of a local River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association as the preferred option. Approximately 99% of the designated river corridor is located within the Pinelands National Reserve which was established by the United States Congress in 1978. Much of the land within the National Reserve is also within the state-designated Pinelands Area and falls under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Uses of the lands and waters within the Pinelands Area are governed by a Comprehensive Management Plan (incorporated by reference) that is administered by the Pinelands Commission.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

B. SUMMARY

The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River became a unit of the National Park System when it was included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1992. The Great Egg Harbor River corridor is cooperatively managed by the National Park Service and the twelve municipalities through which it passes, the State of New Jersey in wildlife management areas, and Atlantic County in areas within their jurisdiction. The National Park Service's role is to work with its partners in managing the Great Egg Harbor River through the use of cooperative agreements. One of the guidelines followed throughout the designation and follow up planning processes was that the National Park Service would not identify and acquire land for its direct ownership, nor would the National Park Service have a visible presence in the river corridor.

Over 99 percent of the Great Egg Harbor River waterways and adjacent lands are within the boundary of the Pinelands National Reserve. The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior applies to the state designated Pinelands Area only. The remaining acreage, located outside of the boundary of the Pinelands Area, is predominantly wetlands and is either publicly owned or regulated by state and federal agencies. The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement are incorporated into this plan by reference.

The Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River establishes the basic philosophy of resource protection and provides a rationale for making management decisions that affect those resources and the visitors experience of the resources.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Planning Committee, worked together to identify issues and possible solutions for cooperatively managing the river corridor. As part of that process, the need to create a management structure which included all partners in the long-term preservation of the Great Egg Harbor River was identified.

A number of management alternatives were identified and discussed. The \$70,000 appropriation ceiling specified in the designation legislation limits National Park Service involvement in the river corridor, with the No Action Alternative being the only management framework within financial limits. The preferred management alternative, the creation of a River Council within the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, was selected by participants in the planning process with the intention of legislatively removing the \$70,000 appropriation limit. The River Council would be responsible for assisting the National Park Service in implementing the recommendations of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan and serve as the local coordinating body joining municipalities together so that long term preservation of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor can be assured.

The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan is a resource protection document which includes analyses of potential long-term management structures. The recommendations will have positive effects on the resources in the river corridor. Based on the





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

fact that this Comprehensive Management Plan provides a management framework for resource protection, no negative environmental concerns are anticipated as a result of this plan.

C. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement is to provide a basis for the National Park Service and its partners to determine the environmental impact of various long term management approaches examined in the Comprehensive Management Plan. This EIS assisted the National Park Service in choosing the best long term management strategy to implement the findings of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River in order to provide adequate long term protection for the 129-mile river corridor.

Five important goals form the framework for the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), as well as the Local River Management Plans prepared by each municipality. They are: public awareness; river management; land use; recreation; and resource protection.

Through Public Law 102-536, passed on October 27, 1992, Congress amended Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) for the purpose of designating 129 miles of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This designation included three river segments on the mainstem totaling 39.5 miles and 89.5 miles of tributaries, all of which are encompassed by 85,000 acres of adjacent related lands. Of those 129 miles, 24.6 miles are designated as scenic and 104.4 miles are designated as recreational. Two segments of the Great Egg Harbor River were excluded from the designation due to impoundments: one area (New Brooklyn Lake) located in the upper portion of the Great Egg between Monroe and Winslow Townships, and the Lake Lenape area located in Hamilton Township. Refer to **Map 1** and the **Table 1** for classification of various river segments.

Section 2 of the designation legislation specifically states that the Secretary of the Interior shall manage the river segments designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this Act through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass . . . and in consultation with such jurisdictions, except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands.

Simply stated, responsibility for long term management and protection of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River is shared among 12 neighboring municipalities, four Counties, the State of New Jersey, and the National Park Service.

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT AND DESIGNATION LEGISLATION

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed in 1968, (Public Law 90-542, as amended) establishes a framework whereby the nation's outstanding rivers and streams may be permanently protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Congress declared that "the established national policy of dam and other construction . . . needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers, or sections thereof, in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. These selected rivers collectively form the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

3. NEED

Public Law 102-536 (designation legislation) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Great Egg Harbor River. However, it is also quite clear in the designation legislation that the 129-mile river corridor is to be cooperatively managed by the twelve municipalities through which the river flows, as well as the State of New Jersey in areas under its jurisdiction and Atlantic County and Camden County in areas where land is owned. National Park Service involvement is limited by legislation to working with partners through cooperative agreements and providing technical assistance, where appropriate.

Each municipality entered into a Cooperative Agreement in 1995 with the National Park Service to produce a Local River Management Plan for its portion of the designated river corridor. The purpose of Local River Management Plans is to delineate a local boundary; identify compatible uses, and establish local management practices to protect and enhance the values that made the river eligible for designation. Local River Management Plans are individualized for each municipality. Guidelines were produced by the Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee to assist municipalities in accomplishing this task.

The Comprehensive Management Plan takes a broad look at why the river was included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, what resource conditions and experiences should exist there, and then focuses on how those conditions could best be achieved riverwide. The Comprehensive Management Plan defines the purpose of the corridor, identifies goals, provides a management framework, and serves as the foundation to guide and coordinate subsequent management decision making. The CMP crosses political boundaries and creates a partnership with municipalities, the State of New Jersey, the National Park Service and other federal, state and local organizations to provide collective oversight for river-wide issues and management needs.



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D. PROPOSED ACTION & ALTERNATIVES

The National Park Service and its partners explored and selected the best, and most appropriate, management structure that would provide long-term protection for the Great Egg Harbor River. The management framework selected will be responsible for implementing the recommendations in the Comprehensive Management Plan and coordinating among competing interests, always keeping in mind resource protection.

“Alternatives considered during the process directed the focus away from extensive federal involvement and toward maintaining protection of resources by local and state governments.”

Several alternatives for a management framework were discussed in a series of public meetings and summarized in four published Newsletters/ Updates. The alternatives considered include continuing existing trends (No Action); creation of an Advisory Council within the Atlantic County’s Park Advisory Board; Increased NPS Management; and Creation of a local River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Alternatives considered during the process directed the focus away from extensive federal involvement and toward maintaining protection of resources by local and state governments.

Public Law 102-536 (c)(2) states that for purposes of planning assistance authorized and reviews required, annual appropriations cannot exceed \$70,000. This financial limit was initially interpreted as applicable to new planning initiatives only and that National Park Service operating funds would be available to fulfill the mandate to operate the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River as a unit of the National Park System. Subsequent interpretations of the \$70,000 ceiling indicate that this appropriation is meant to cover all aspects of managing the Great Egg Harbor River designated corridor.

Each management alternative was examined in light of the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling. The only management framework that can work within the \$70,000 financial constraint is the Continue Existing Trends (No Action) alternative which would provide funding to cover minimal involvement of the National Park Service. The remaining alternatives took into account the financial requirements that would be necessary to undertake additional resource studies, assist in implementing recommendations, address issues, concerns, and legislative mandates and lead to the desired future conditions identified throughout the NEPA and the CMP process.

1. FEATURES COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The following regulatory authorities were a common thread considered in each management alternative.

a. Water Resource Authorities

Because the river was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System, federal funding and permits cannot be issued for dams or diversions within the federal boundary. This authority also applies to actions above and below the designated segments of the river and on tributaries if the action would have an adverse effect on the designated segment of the river.

Under all management alternatives, the National Park Service would continue to review US Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) permits

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for water resource projects affecting the scenic and recreational river. In general, the US Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over all construction activities in tidal and/or navigable waters, including adjacent wetlands shoreward to the mean high water line. In other areas such as non-tidal waterways, adjacent wetlands, isolated wetlands, forested wetlands and lakes, the USCOE has regulatory authority over the discharge of dredged or fill material. Permits are required for activities such as: bulkheads, piers, boat-houses, pilings, excavation and dredging, filling and depositing dredged materials in waters and wetlands, and overhead and under-water transmission lines, cables and pipes. The Corps of Engineers issues permits to individuals and government agencies for construction projects.

In addition, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection under the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (N.J.S.A. 13:13-1 to 13:19-21 et seq.) and the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act of 1987 (N.J.S.A. 13:9B-1 to 13:9B-23 et seq) has authority to review requests for permits in coastal areas and beyond tidal waters.

Under each Management Alternative, the National Park Service would continue to be involved in these review processes as they relate to the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River.

b. Local Zoning Authority

In the fall of 1996 “Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans” were published and distributed to all municipalities in the designated corridor. The purpose of the Guidelines was to provide a framework for the development of individual Local River Management Plans which would establish local river management boundaries, appropriate zoning, implement best management practices, and identify critical areas to be protected, to assure the long term preservation of the river corridor. The National Park Service has no legal authority to regulate zoning along the Great Egg Harbor River. Preservation is dependent upon the enforcement of local zoning and Local River Management Plans.

All of the following alternatives recognize that primary river corridor protection rests with municipal zoning and compliance with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, as well as Coastal Areas Facilities Review Act requirements.

c. Threatened and Endangered Species

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) oversees protection of plant and animal species federally listed as threatened or endangered. Several species are found in the designated area.

The USF&WS reviews actions by federal agencies, including the National Park Service, for compliance with the law, and the USF&WS continues to have monitoring and enforcement authority.



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The National Park Service gives equivalent consideration to state listed protected species.

d. State of New Jersey

i. Pinelands Commission

A basic level of protection is already in existence for the river corridor since 99 percent of it is located within the Pinelands National Reserve, which encompasses the 938,000-acre, state-designated Pinelands Area. The Pinelands Commission has jurisdiction over municipalities located within the Pinelands Area. The master plans and ordinances of these municipalities must be consistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan that establishes specific parameters for development. The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement are incorporated into this Plan by reference.

ii. NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

The NJ DEP is responsible for the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) and the Freshwater Wetlands

Protection Act. Since the remaining acreage outside the Pinelands Reserve are predominantly wetlands and are either publicly owned or regulated by state and federal agencies, the NJDEP plays a significant role in any management alternative listed below.

The NJ DEP has also embarked on a new watershed management initiative producing a draft "Statewide Watershed Management Framework Document." The Great Egg Harbor Watershed was identified as Watershed Management Area #15 (WMA #15). The NJDEP and the National Park Service have been working together to maximize resources to assure protection of the watershed, as well as the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor. Protection of the watershed complements river corridor protection and is absolutely necessary to assure long-term protection of the river and its resources.

2. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

During the environmental review and planning process, four management alternatives were considered. They were:

- Continue Existing Trends (No Action)
- Establish an Advisory Council Within Atlantic County Government
- More direct NPS Management
- Establish a River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association With Increased NPS Involvement

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The Analysis section after each alternative is based on the comments received throughout the public involvement process.

a. Alternative 1: Continue Existing Trends (No Action)

The National Environmental Policy Act requires consideration of no action along with action alternatives. No action is analyzed and used as a baseline for comparison with the effects of the action alternatives. Under Alternative I it is assumed that local, state, and federal government authorities would continue to function in the same manner as currently exists. The No Action alternative provides management within the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling established under the designation legislation.

In the *No Action Alternative*, the river area would continue to evolve without a coordinated effort by one organization at the local level with the interest and authority to make recommendations/decisions that affect the complete ecological unit of both the river and its surrounding land. The National Park Service would continue to coordinate among the individual municipalities, counties and the State of New Jersey. The river would retain its status as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as long as the qualities for which it was designated remain. The No Action Alternative would be as follows:

- i. The **Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee** would continue to exist until the Comprehensive Management Planning process is completed. The Planning Committee is composed of all previously identified partners. Management by local, county, and state governments would continue independently with no one organization at the municipal level providing overall leadership to assist the National Park Service in implementing recommendations in the Comprehensive Management Plan.
- ii. The **NPS** principal role will be to represent the Secretary of the Interior in reviewing federal projects as required by Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. NPS will review any proposed water resources project which requires federal assistance through permits, licenses, funding, or other action encroaching on or directly affecting any designated segment of the Great Egg Harbor River. During its review, NPS will evaluate each proposed project in terms of its potential impact upon the management plan's objectives and standards and on the designated area's outstandingly remarkable resource values.

NPS would also biennially review Local River Management Plans to assure resource protection. Minimal financial assistance would be available to municipalities through Cooperative Agreements due to the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling. NPS would prepare the biennial report to Congress on activities within the designated river corridor and would continue to coordinate among individual municipalities, counties and the State of New Jersey.



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iii. **Local municipalities** and local interests would be responsible for individually providing visitor information, law enforcement, visitor facilities, and resource education. At present, there are very limited visitor services or education programs being provided by municipalities.

(1) **Staffing/Funding**

- **Staffing Needs.** NPS would review government actions for the designated river corridor, attend municipal planning/zoning meetings (as appropriate), biennially review Local River Management Plans and prepare the biennial report to Congress. When funding is available, NPS will work with municipalities through Cooperative Agreements.

- **Costs:** Annual operating cost for the Great Egg under Alternative #I would be as follows:

NPS Operating Budget for Alternative I

Salary, benefits & travel for a part - time NPS Planner	\$50,000
Meet ongoing federal obligations through Cooperative Agreements	<u>\$20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$70,000

(2) **Resource Management**

General land management would continue with local and state government agencies. Protection of the landscape and natural features would depend on the landowner and programs developed under Local River Management Plans and in cooperation with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

(3) **Visitor Information and Interpretation**

Visitor information and direction is not presently available for the river corridor. Providing this service would be the responsibility of individual local municipalities. No partnering organization would exist to coordinate efforts.

(4) **Law Enforcement and Emergency Services**

There is not a consistent law enforcement presence on the river corridor. State and individual local governments would have the responsibility for law enforcement.

(5) **Visitor Use and Management**

Recreational uses would continue with no coordinating local organization available to address issues. Public access areas would continue to be provided at existing publicly owned sites and at commercial sites.

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(6) Maintenance

At present, trash pickup and clearing of fallen debris is accomplished by volunteers on certain stretches of the river.

Analysis:

Through public meetings and follow-up correspondence, comments received on this Alternative centered on the fact that this management alternative would provide minimal protection of the river corridor. The No Action alternative would not provide the overall organizational strength that participants felt was required at the local level to coordinate among competing interests and maintain the integrity of the resource in the long term. Concern was expressed that possible overuse, degradation of water quality, and other issues that affect the resource identified throughout the public involvement process would continue.

The authority of the Pinelands Commission, which is executed through State regulations, is basically a land use act with significant impacts and select controls on water, water quality, water habitats, etc. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection also has authority over land & the State of New Jersey has jurisdiction over the river bottom. In addition to this, federal agencies have jurisdiction over wetlands, surface water, and threatened and endangered species. Existing trends with each regulatory agency moving in its own direction would continue.

National Park Service involvement would be minimal with long term preservation dependent on independent Local River Management Plans and mutual coordination among municipalities, which up to now has not occurred.

b. Alternative II - Establish an Advisory Council within Atlantic County Government

This management option would employ the use of an Advisory Council utilizing one of Atlantic County's existing Planning or Park and Environment Advisory Boards. Both Advisory Boards are knowledgeable about Atlantic County's resources and charged with addressing planning and environmental issues. Since nine of the 12 municipalities are located within Atlantic County, their interests would already be represented. The National Park Service would be a participant in the Advisory Council and could provide both technical and financial assistance through the use of Cooperative Agreements to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan.

To implement this alternative would require additional funds beyond the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling.



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(1) Staffing/Funding

The National Park Service would be a participant in the Atlantic County Advisory Council and retain the role as lead federal agency. Priority setting for funding needs would be a Council responsibility. The Council could fund some activities through cost-share or agreements with local and state governments or with private entities. Operational costs would be limited to part-time NPS staff and Cooperative Agreements to undertake specific actions identified in the Comprehensive Management Plan.

- **Staffing Needs:** One NPS employee would participate in the Advisory Council, provide technical assistance and develop Cooperative Agreements, where appropriate. NPS would also review Local River Management Plans biennially and prepare a report to Congress.
- **Costs:** Annual operating cost for the Great Egg under Alternative II would be as follows:

NPS Operating Budget for Alternative II	
Salary, benefits & travel for part time	
NPS Planner	\$40,000
Meet ongoing federal obligations through	
Cooperative Agreements	100,000
Implement Interpretive Concepts	20,000
Develop Informational materials	<u>15,000</u>
TOTAL	\$175,000

(2) Resource Management

General land management would continue with local and state government agencies. The Advisory Council would provide the cohesive link binding all partners together to address issues that cross political boundaries and implement the CMP. The NPS would not own land or have authority over land management practices, except as they relate to Section 7(a) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

(3) Visitor Information and Interpretation

The Advisory Council would decide on what information should be developed and disseminated. The Council would identify areas where visitor services would be most appropriate and work with local municipalities to provide that service.

(4) Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

The Advisory Council would work with appropriate state and local law enforcement entities (on and off the river) to provide consistent application of regulations and procedures.

(5) Visitor Use and Management

In coordination with cooperating agencies, the Council would monitor recreational river use and consider actions and policies to define capacity and resource impacts. The Council

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would work with local municipalities to identify and develop appropriate public access sites.

(6) Maintenance

Access sites would be maintained by existing agencies. Council would work with municipalities and volunteers to develop a consistent maintenance program.

Analysis

Since the Great Egg Harbor River corridor covers 12 municipalities in four different counties, and federal and state participation would also be involved, this management alternative was rejected as being too narrowly based. A more inclusive organizational structure was preferred.

c. Alternative III - NPS Management

This management option suggests a more active role by the National Park Service using the Great Egg Harbor Planning Committee, Local River Management Plans (LRMP), and the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for guidance. Services would be consistent with LRMP and CMP recommendations and cooperative agreements would be used to accomplish most objectives. The National Park Service would be a very visible partner, becoming more of a driving force for coordination behind initiatives and decision-making. The Planning Committee would continue to exist, providing recommendations to the NPS. NPS would become the primary coordinating agency among partners. NPS would link organizations together and have a much more visible presence in communities. NPS involvement would be consistent with the designation legislation of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River.

Implementing this alternative would require additional funds beyond the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling.

(1) Staffing/Funding

The National Park Service would be a significant force in promoting preservation of the river corridor, assessing and providing visitor services and information dissemination and becoming a more active partner in decisions that affect local municipalities. Priority setting would be made by the planning committee with the NPS having a significant impact on decisions. Operational costs would fund NPS staff and activities. Cooperative Agreements would also be a vehicle to implement the CMP recommendations. The National Park Service would review Local River Management Plans and prepare a biennial report to Congress.



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- **Staffing Needs:** Depending on the level of NPS involvement, there could be a number of employees required to implement the CMP recommendations and provide more active NPS participation.
- **Costs:** Annual operating cost for the Great Egg Harbor River under Alternative III would be as follows:

NPS Operating Budget for Alternative III

Salary, benefits & travel for NPS	
Planners & Support staff	\$150,000
Meet ongoing federal obligations	
through Cooperative Agreements	\$100,000
Implement Interpretive Concepts	\$20,000
Information & Education brochures	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$285,000

(2) **Resource Management**

General land management would continue with local and state government agencies with more active NPS involvement. NPS would provide the cohesive link binding all partners together to address issues that cross political boundaries and implement the CMP. The NPS would not own land nor would it have authority to directly regulate land management practices, except in reviewing Section 7(a) water resource permits.

(3) **Visitor Information and Interpretation**

NPS, with Planning Committee assistance, would be a major partner in providing visitor information, interpretive media, and assessing and implementing the long-term visitor service needs for the corridor.

(4) **Law Enforcement and Emergency Services**

NPS would work with appropriate state and local law enforcement entities (on and off the river) to provide consistent application of regulations and procedures.

(5) **Visitor Use and Management**

NPS would monitor recreational river use and recommend actions and policies to local and state governmental entities to promote resource protection. Public access would remain a local responsibility.

(6) **Maintenance**

Access sites would be maintained by existing agencies. NPS would work with municipalities and volunteers to develop a maintenance program.

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Analysis

There was concern expressed over what resources (financial, administrative, & staffing) the NPS could provide long term. By Congressional direction, the Great Egg Harbor River is, and will remain, a cooperatively managed river. While NPS involvement was viewed as critical to long term preservation, a Great Egg Harbor River Council consisting primarily of local municipalities was viewed as a more acceptable approach to cooperative management of the resource.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

d. Alternative IV – Establish a Great Egg Harbor River Council under the organizational structure of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) With Increased NPS Involvement

This management alternative creates the Great Egg Harbor River Council (hereinafter referred to as “River Council”) under an already existing organization, namely the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA). Using GEHWA as the host organization with an independent River Council would eliminate the need to formally establish a separate non-profit organization.

It was recognized that using the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) as the mechanism for establishing an independent Great Egg Harbor River Council was not only acceptable, but a preferred option given their history of involvement and existing non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, a determination was made that there is a definite need for a visible presence of the National Park Service to ensure the long-term survival of the Council and to provide the technical and financial assistance required to assist municipalities in long term protection of the river corridor.

Local River Management Plans and the Comprehensive Management Plan will be the basis for decision-making. NPS would have a strong partnership with the Council and assist in implementing visitor service initiatives, education and oversight as recommended by the Council. Much of NPS involvement would be through the use of cooperative agreements. NPS involvement would be consistent over time. Bylaws and procedures in conformance with state and federal laws would be developed. The Council would enter into an agreement with the National Park Service and would refine needs and seek partnerships with landowners, businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan. The Council could also hire a staff. Funding partnerships with other state, local and non-profit organizations would be established to accomplish special initiatives.

Success of the Great Egg Harbor River Council is dependent upon the direct participation of local elected officials, the National Park Service and other partners. Functions of the Council could include, but not be limited to:



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- Coordinate management of the river and river corridor with responsible agencies
- Assist local municipalities in implementing zoning and other land protection methods
- Review actions among municipalities for consistency along the river
- Provide a forum or mediating body for issues/conflicts
- Work with landowners and provide education and technical assistance to promote Best Management Practices
- Coordinate law enforcement, public access sites, visitor use levels and other operational functions
- Provide guidance/recommendations to the National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection on permit requests and issues affecting river resources
- Design educational programs for the public about the resource

The National Park Service's role under this Management Alternative would include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Technical review of Section 7(a) permits
- Provide financial & technical assistance to support the Great Egg Harbor River Council
- Answer public inquiries
- Develop appropriate resource mgt. plans with other state, federal organizations (as appropriate) to protect and preserve resources and address visitor/interpretation needs
- Provide technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, through the use of cooperative agreements
- Assist in educating the public
- Develop informational and promotional brochures about the Great Egg Harbor River and watershed
- Work with other land conservation organizations to assist the Council as appropriate. Implementing this alternative would require additional funds beyond the \$70,000 appropriation ceiling.
- Review Local River Management Plans and prepare a report to Congress every two years.

(1) **Staffing/Funding**

Organizing and formally establishing the Great Egg Harbor River Council will initially require extensive National Park Service involvement. The National Park Service will continue to be the lead federal advisory agency to the Council and will provide technical and financial support to implement Comprehensive Management Plan recommendations, as appropriate. Cooperative agreements would be used as a vehicle to implement long term protection and education initiatives and assist the Council in its operation. The

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National Park Service will provide technical assistance and financial support in establishing and maintaining the River Council and will assist the River Council in establishing other funding partnerships.

Each year's funding needs would be discussed among Council members and priorities set with National Park Service input. Funding is contingent upon congressional appropriations. The Council could fund some activities through cost-share grants or agreements with local and state governments or with private entities. Operational costs include both annual NPS and council costs, as well as additional funds to enter into Cooperative Agreements to undertake specific actions identified in the Comprehensive Management Plan and Local River Management Plans.

- **Staffing Needs:**

One NPS employee would assist in establishing and participating on the River Council, provide technical assistance, develop and monitor cooperative agreements, maintain a long term relationship with all partners and prepare necessary reports. Additional staff may be added over time, as appropriate.

- **Costs:**

An initial \$255,000 annual operating cost for the Great Egg Harbor River under Alternative IV was estimated with that figure reducing over time as the River Council gets established and issues are addressed.

NPS Operating Budget for Alternative IV

Salary, benefits & travel for NPS Planner	\$ 80,000
Meet ongoing federal obligations through Cooperative Agreements	100,000
Implement Interpretive Concepts	20,000
Develop Information & Educational brochures	15,000
River Council costs:	
■ Hire 1 part-time person to help establish & work for Council	
Salary & Benefits	25,000
■ Space rental, equipment supplies, travel, etc.	<u>15,000</u>
TOTAL	\$255,000

(2) **Resource Management**

General land management would continue with local and state government agencies. The Great Egg Harbor River Council would provide the cohesive link at the local level, binding all partners together to address issues that cross political boundaries and assure compliance with Local River Management Plans. The River Council will assist the National Park Service in implementing the recommendations contained in this plan.

The National Park Service would not own land, nor have the authority to regulate land practices, except as related to Section 7(a) review of proposed federal actions within the federal boundary under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



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(3) Visitor Information and Interpretation

The Great Egg Harbor River Council and the National Park Service would jointly decide information needs and how best to educate visitors. The Council would identify areas where visitor services should exist and work with the National Park Service and local municipalities to provide that service.

(4) Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

The Great Egg Harbor River Council and the NPS would work with appropriate state and local law enforcement entities (on and off the river) to provide consistent application of regulations and procedures.

(5) Visitor Use and Management

In coordination with cooperating agencies/organizations, the Council (with NPS assistance) would monitor recreational river use and consider actions and policies to define capacity and resource impacts. The council would work with local municipalities to identify and develop additional public access points, if appropriate.

(6) Maintenance

Access sites will be maintained by existing agencies. Council would work with municipalities and volunteers to develop a maintenance program.

Analysis

As a unit of the National Park System, participants in the planning process recognized the need for a number of services which would be best served by more active NPS involvement. NPS leadership and guidance was viewed as necessary to sustain the local Great Egg Harbor River Council and its initiatives, especially in the initial years. This management alternative continues to recognize the Great Egg Harbor River as a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park System.

The National Park Service will have no authority to regulate zoning, nor will it acquire property. The partnership created by this management alternative establishes the National Park Service's long term role as a partner with the Great Egg Harbor River Council and as a technical and financial resource. If for some reason, the umbrella organization of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association is unable to support the River Council or ceases to exist, then the River Council will seek separate non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service as an independent organization. If for some reason the River Council fails in its duties to provide a local forum for decision-making or ceases to exist, then the National Park Service will assume a more prominent role at the local level providing the coordination necessary among the twelve municipalities, four counties and the State of New Jersey.

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Funding Plan

The National Park Service will seek \$255,000 through its budgetary process to finance the implementation of the preferred alternative. In addition to NPS funds, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Watershed Management Program's continued financial and technical involvement in the long-term preservation of the Great Egg Harbor River and watershed provides a realistic alternative funding source to ensure the implementation of Alternative IV. To date, the NJDEP has provided funds to hire a Watershed Coordinator for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association to sustain the organization and initiate special projects in the watershed and river corridor. Additional funding partnerships will be pursued to address special initiatives and to support implementation of this plan. The continued assistance of a variety of non-profit land preservation organizations will also contribute to the success of long-term preservation efforts.

Periodic Reporting Requirements

The National Park Service is required by the designation legislation to produce a biennial report to Congress on the status of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. As part of this report, the NPS will include information about the efforts of the local River Council and the Council's effectiveness in assisting the National Park Service in providing long-term management assistance for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. In addition, information on Comprehensive Management Plan implementation initiatives and analysis of the effectiveness of local river management plans and ordinances in long-term protection of outstandingly remarkable resources will also be addressed. Costs associated with monitoring the effectiveness of protection strategies in the river corridor will be the responsibility of the National Park Service.

Information for the biennial report will be gathered through:

- National Park Service's continued monitoring of local planning and zoning boards to assure compliance with local river management plans
- Information provided through meetings of the River Council and projects undertaken
- Bi-monthly public meetings of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association and the Gloucester County Federation of Watersheds
- Participation at other non-profit organizations and information received from interested local residents.



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E. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

1. REGIONAL SETTING

The Great Egg Harbor River flows within and is representative of rivers in the Pinelands ecosystem and the Embayed Coastal Plain physiographic province of New Jersey. The Pinelands National Reserve, which encompasses a major part of the river area, is recognized as a nationally significant resource because of its vast pine-oak forest, extensive surface and groundwater resources of high quality, and a wide diversity of rare plant and animal species. The Pinelands National Reserve is also internationally recognized as a unit of the South Atlantic Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations Man and the Biosphere Program.

2. RESOURCE INFORMATION

The Great Egg Harbor River is home to a wide array of natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. The presence of these resources is what made the Great Egg Harbor River a candidate for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System.

A number of “outstandingly remarkable” and “priority” resources were identified in the river corridor during the study process. Refer to **Table 9** for a complete list of outstandingly remarkable resources.

a. Outstandingly Remarkable Resources

i. Cultural Resources

The adjacent lands along the lower Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries contain a number of historically significant sites that were important in the early maritime industry in southern New Jersey. Sites that were crucial to the development of the bog iron industry also exist on the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries. A number of these sites are on, or are eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places and are recognized by the Office of Historic Preservation and the Pinelands Commission. In addition, significant American Indian and archeological sites exist along the river corridor. American Indian sites have been documented.

The Pinelands Commission, the NJ Historic Preservation Office and the State Museum possess information regarding known archaeological and historic site and historic district locations. In addition, the Bibliography in this Section lists a number of publications prepared on cultural and historic resources in the designated river corridor.

ii. Fauna

The lower Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries provide breeding habitat for the peregrine falcon. Hardwood swamps and wetlands adjacent to the lower, middle and upper Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries provide habitat for rare and endangered species such as the northern harrier and Pine Barrens tree frog. All of these areas are documented by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program.



Estellville Glassworks in Atlantic County manufacturer window glass from 1825 to 1877.

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As a National Scenic and Recreational River, the Great Egg Harbor River provides a means of preserving wildlife habitat, protecting water quality and supply, managing land use, and affording the public with recreational opportunities to observe fish and wildlife resources within a densely populated area.

The Great Egg Harbor River complex provides aquatic and wetlands habitats for numerous wildlife species currently listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) and the Pinelands Commission. Wildlife habitats contained within the Great Egg River corridor are characterized as “exceptional” by the NJ DEP. Wetland cover types within and adjacent to the Great Egg Harbor River, such as riverine, tidal and non-tidal emergent wetlands, provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and passerine birds.

Threatened and endangered flora and fauna are known to occur in and adjacent to areas within the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries. The following federally and state listed threatened and endangered species have been identified in the subject area.

Bald Eagle

The Great Egg Harbor River/Tuckahoe River complex is an important nesting and wintering area for the federally listed (threatened) bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Due to the expansive development along the Eastern seaboard, few undisturbed areas remain where habitat and food supplies are adequate to maintain wintering concentrations of bald eagles. Proper management of known nesting and wintering sites is essential for protecting and enhancing bald eagle populations. Wintering bald eagles have been documented to utilize trees along the Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers as diurnal perches for feeding and loafing.

Bog Turtle

Historic occurrences of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) are found within the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. Bog turtles inhabit open wet meadows and bogs with standing or slow-moving shallow water over a mucky substrate (Bourg, 1992). Bog turtles also occur in emergent wetlands and spring-fed fens.

Peregrine Falcon

The lower Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries provide breeding habitat for the peregrine falcon. The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently began the process of removing the Peregrine Falcon from the endangered species list.





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Great Egg Harbor River corridor provides habitat for endangered tree frogs

Pine Barrens Tree Frog and Northern Harrier

Hardwood swamps and wetlands adjacent to the lower, middle and upper Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries provide habitat for rare and state-listed endangered species such as the northern harrier and Pine Barrens tree frog. This has been documented by the NJ Natural Heritage Program

iii. Fisheries

The US Fish and Wildlife Service views the Great Egg Harbor River, its tributaries and associated wetland systems, as having high value to fish and wildlife resources. Estuaries and wetlands associated with the Great Egg Harbor River produce food and provide spawning and nursery habitats for anadromous fish, including: alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), and American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). Migratory birds and anadromous fish are a federal trust resource responsibility.

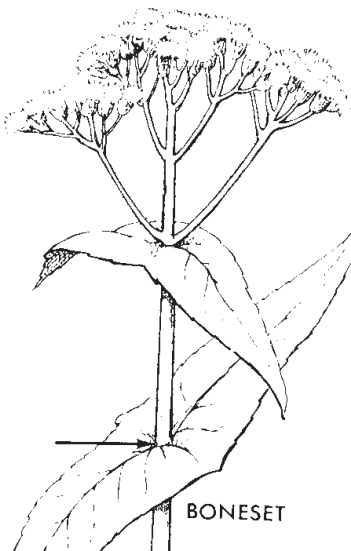
The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated over 8,000 acres encompassing the upper reaches of Cedar Swamp Creek (a tributary to the Tuckahoe and Great Egg Harbor Rivers) as a unit of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. The State of New Jersey owns in excess of 30,000 acres of land in five state Wildlife Management Areas that adjoin both the tidal and freshwater reaches of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.

The lower tidal portions of the Great Egg Harbor River (below Mays Landing) and its tributaries serve as critical nursery habitat and spawning grounds for anadromous, resident estuarine and transient marine fish, including alewife herring and striped bass. The lower Great Egg Harbor River is also one of only four areas in the State of New Jersey where commercially important quantities of seed oyster still exist.

iv. Flora

The lower Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries contain large expanses of ecologically significant tidal marshland and hardwood swamp. The middle and upper segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries contain significant areas of hardwood swamp. Both areas have sites with rare plants or plant communities recognized by federal and state agencies and the Pinelands Commission. These rare plants and plant communities include Pine Barrens Boneset, Parker's Pipewort, Barratt's Sedge, and others. These areas are documented by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program.

The following two species have been recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as federally listed threatened plants:



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Swamp Pink

Numerous known occurrences of swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) exist within the Great Egg Harbor River watershed. Swamp pink is an obligate wetland species that occurs in a variety of palustrine forested wetlands in NJ, including forested wetlands bordering meandering streams, headwater wetlands, Atlantic white-cedar (*chamaecyparis thyoides*) swamps, and spring seepage areas. Swamp pink typically occurs in forested wetlands, although occurrence in scrub/shrub wetlands is known.

Knieskern's beaked-rush

Numerous known occurrences of knieskern's beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora Knieskernii*) have been documented within the Great Egg Harbor River drainage basin. Knieskern's beaked-rush typically occurs in early successional wetland habitats, often on bog-iron substrate or mud deposits adjacent to slow-moving streams in southern New Jersey. This species is also found in man-disturbed wet areas including abandoned borrow pits, clay pits, ditches, rights-of-way, and unimproved roads.

v. Recreation

The Great Egg Harbor River is the longest navigable river in the New Jersey Pinelands. Its upper and middle reaches are toured by canoeists, while the lower tidal reaches provide sailors and power boaters with access to the intracoastal waterway and the ocean. The river and its tributaries, together with related adjacent lands, provide excellent recreational opportunities in close proximity to the major urban centers of Philadelphia, Trenton, Camden, and Wilmington.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated over 8,000 acres encompassing the upper reaches of Cedar Swamp Creek (a tributary to the Tuckahoe and Great Egg Harbor Rivers) as a unit of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. The State of New Jersey owns in excess of 30,000 acres of land in five state Wildlife Management Areas that adjoin both the tidal and freshwater reaches of the Great Egg and its tributaries.

vi. Physiographic/Geologic Setting

The Cohansey formation, underlying the Pinelands and the Great Egg Harbor River, is the largest freshwater aquifer in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. The water in this shallow aquifer frequently lies near the surface, producing bogs, marshes and swamps.





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

vii. Scenic Resources

The US Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the Pinelands Commission and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, published a report in 1980 entitled the Pinelands Scenic Study to define and assess the relative value of the scenic resources of the Pinelands. As part of the study, residents and users of the Pinelands were surveyed to evaluate scenic preferences. The most preferred scenic landscape in the Pinelands was surface water in lakes and streams. The next most preferred landscape was undisturbed forest, including cedar and hardwood swamp areas. The Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries contain an abundance of both of these scenic landscapes.

The Comprehensive Management Plan for the Pinelands National Reserve and the Pinelands Area designates the lower and middle reaches of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries as scenic corridors of special significance to the Pinelands. The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River designation legislation also classifies 24.6 miles of the lower reaches of the river system as scenic.

viii. Surface Hydrology

The Great Egg Harbor River is one of two major river systems in the Pinelands National Reserve and drains about 20 percent of the area's 1.1 million acres. All waters in the Pinelands, including the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries, have been designated by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency as Outstanding National Resource Waters that are to be protected from any change in water quality.

Streams of the Pinelands and the coast are typically slow moving and shallow due to the flat topography. About 45% of the flow results from the outcropping of the Cohansey Aquifer.

Twenty-five major impounded lakes are located in the Great Egg Harbor River basin. Impoundments on the mainstem of the Great Egg Harbor River are located at Mays Landing (forming Lake Lenape) in Atlantic County and at New Brooklyn in Camden County (forming New Brooklyn Lake). A series of breached small dams exist on the Tuckahoe River above Head of River which are maintained by the NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife as wildlife impoundments. Hospitality Branch and its tributaries, Little Mill Creek, Big Ditch, Watering Race Branch, and Dry Run all exhibit alterations due to dams or impoundments. These alterations have significantly affected the free-flowing riverine characteristics of these tributaries.

The mainstem of the lower Great Egg Harbor River is tidally influenced up to Mays Landing while the lower Tuckahoe River is tidal up to Head of River. The streamflow data for the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries is contained in **Table 7**.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

b. Priority Resources

In addition to the Outstandingly Remarkable Resources identified above, the following river-related resources of state and local significance were also identified in the protection strategies for the Great Egg Harbor River.

(1) Wetlands

Soils associated with wetlands adjacent to the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries and classified as having severe limitations for development purposes were recommended for protection. These areas are considered important in light of strong state legislation protecting freshwater wetlands.

(2) Flood Hazard Areas

Flood Insurance Rate Maps for each community in the watershed were used to map the 100-year flood hazard areas. These areas surrounding the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries are important since the State Flood Hazard Area Control Act currently authorizes municipalities to regulate stream encroachment activities in the flood hazard areas and to develop conservation oriented land use ordinances.

(3) Areas of Archeological Significance and Sensitivity

These areas are corridors along intermittent, permanent, and navigable streams where known American Indian sites have been documented and/or the probability of finding new sites is very high. These areas have been identified as corridors directly adjacent to wetlands, both tidal and freshwater, in the Great Egg Harbor River watershed.





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Table 7: Streamflow Data - Great Egg Harbor River

USGS Gauging Station	Drainage Area (Sq. mi.)	Average Discharge (cfs)	7-day, 10-year Low Flow (cfs)
Great Egg Harbor River at Berlin	1.9	0.9	0.0
Great Egg Harbor River at Sicklerville	15.1	17.0	2.3
Great Egg Harbor River near Blue Anchor	37.3		13.3
Great Egg Harbor River at Folsom	57.1	86.2	22.0
Tuckahoe River at Head of River	30.8	44.3	11.0
Penny Pot Stream near Folsom	5.3	5.3	0.4
Babcock Creek at Mays Landing	20.0	23.0	2.8
Fourmile Branch near Williamstown	5.3	5.5	1.0
Fourmile Branch at Winslow Crossing	6.2	8.1	1.6
Fourmile Branch at New Brooklyn	7.7	11.0	3.0
Deep Run at Weymouth	20.0	36.0	7.3
Hospitality Branch at Berryland	20.0	38.0	6.3

Source: USGS, Low-Flow Characteristics and Flow Duration of New Jersey Streams, January, 1982, and USGS, Unpublished Data, September, 1984.

C. PINELANDS CRITICAL AREAS

The NJ Pinelands Critical Areas Study defines critical areas as geographic areas which contain one or more significant natural or cultural resources that could be degraded or lost as a result of uncontrolled or incompatible development and as natural hazard areas in which incompatible development may result in the loss of life or property. The Study delineated the following three classes of critical areas:

Ecological Critical Areas

- Perceptual and Cultural Areas
- Scenic Areas
- Recreation Areas
- Archaeological/Historic/Architectural Areas
- Cultural Areas

Resource Production Critical Areas

- Agricultural Lands
- Timber Production Areas
- Mineral Extraction Areas

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Natural Hazard Critical Areas

Fire Hazard Areas

Flood Prone Areas

Critical Air Areas

Among the three classes, ecological critical areas were emphasized in the Pinelands Study because both the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978 and the NJ Pinelands Protection Act emphasize the importance of existing natural resources in the Pinelands. The Pinelands Protection Act stresses the necessity of “maintaining the overall ecological values (PPA, sec. 7a) of the Pinelands.” It notes that development poses an immediate threat to the ecological resources of the Pinelands, “especially to the survival of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and the habitats thereof, (and) to maintenance of the existing high quality of surface and ground waters” (PPA, sec. 2). Refer to the Ecological Critical Area Data Sheets from the NJ Pinelands Critical Areas Study in **Appendix 9** that pertain specifically to areas within the Great Egg Harbor River designated corridor.

F. IMPACTS

The major action of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River is the selection of the most appropriate management structure that will assure long term preservation of the designated corridor. It is anticipated that the recommendations contained in the CMP, if implemented, will have positive effects on the resources within the designated river corridor. The Great Egg Harbor River is a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park System, and as such, the twelve municipalities located within the corridor have basic responsibility for its protection. It is not anticipated that any aspect of the environment will be negatively affected or impacted by the adoption of the Comprehensive Management Plan. This CMP complements the requirements of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and provides additional protection strategies and recommendations that exceed their minimum requirements.

The alternatives considered as part of the Comprehensive Management Plan are for long term management purposes that would prevent negative impacts on the river corridor. The alternatives considered are conceptual in nature. No physical construction projects or improvements which may impact the environment are being considered as part of this planning process.

Creation of a River Council within the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association was the preferred alternative identified during the public process. Once created, the River Council and the National Park Service would work together to implement the recommendations of the Comprehensive Management Plan. Issues associated with resource protection and strategies for resolving them were identified throughout the planning process and are outlined in Section VI of this plan. The primary goal of the identified strategies is resource protection. Creation of a River Council and adoption of the Comprehensive Management Plan will result in no negative impacts to the environment. In fact, implementing the recommendations of the Comprehensive Management Plan will contribute to the long-term preservation of the resources that were the basis for designation in 1992.

TABLE 8 — SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES				
	Alternative I: Continue Existing Trends (No Action)	Alternative II: Establish an Advisory Council Within Atlantic County Government	Alternative III: Increased NPS Management	Alternative IV: Establish a River Council under GEHWA w/Increased NPS Involvement
Management Concept	Continue management by different independent state and local govts. and private owners; no direct NPS action	Establish an Advisory Council under Atlantic County's Planning or Park & Environment Advisory Boards. 9 of 12 municipalities are w/in County	Create a more visible NPS role using the Planning Committee, Local River Mgt. Plans, & CMP for guidance. NPS would be coordinating agency linking organizations together	Establish independent River Council under GEHWA, an active watershed based organization. NPS would be an advisor and active supporter of River Council. River Council will link partners together to address issues that cross political boundaries
Staffing/Funding	Minimal NPS staff and budget. Local/State agencies provide services independently	NPS is a participant in Council, providing technical and financial assistance to support CMP recommendations. Funding priorities set by Council	NPS would: promote river; address visitor needs as appropriate; develop information; and become an active partner in decision making. Cooperative Agreements would implement CMP.	NPS would provide funding to establish & maintain Council. NPS would also provide technical help and use Cooperative Agreements to accomplish appropriate objectives. Funding priorities set by Council w/NPS input
Resource Management	Local River Mgt. Plans, CMP & other state/local protection mechanisms. No NPS acquisition or authority to regulate practices off the river, except Section 7(a) reviews.	Local River Mgt. Plans, CMP & other state/local protection mechanisms. No NPS acquisition or authority to regulate practices off the river, except Section 7(a) reviews.	Land mgt. would continue w/local and state govts. NPS would provide the link to address issues that cross political boundaries. No NPS acquisition or authority to regulate land practices off the river, except Section 7(a) reviews.	Land mgt. would continue w/local & state govts. Council would link orgs. To address issues crossing political lines. No NPS acquisition or authority to regulate practices off the river, except Section 7(a) reviews.
Visitor Information & Interpretation	Public information and visitor needs are the responsibility of local municipalities	Council decides information needs & identifies areas where visitor services should exist. Works with municipalities	NPS, with Planning Committee, would assess and provide visitor information/service needs, interpretive media consistent w/Local Plans and CMP	Council decides information needs & identifies areas where visitor services should exist. Works w/municipal-ities and other partners
Law Enforcement & Emergency Services	No consistent law enforcement on river. Responsibility remains w/ state & local govts	Council would work w/state & local law enforcement to provide consistent application of regulations & procedures	NPS would work w/state and local law enforcement to provide consistent application of regulations & procedures	Council would work w/state & local law enforcement to provide consistent application of regulations & procedures

TABLE 8 — SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES																																												
	Alternative I: Continue Existing Trends (No Action)	Alternative II: Establish an Advisory Council Within Atlantic County Government	Alternative III: Increased NPS Management	Alternative IV: Establish a River Council under GEHWA w/Increased NPS Involvement																																								
Visitor Use and Management	Continue unregulated and not coordinated	Council would monitor use & consider actions & policies to address resource impacts & work to identify & develop appropriate access sites	NPS would monitor use & recommend actions to state & local govts. to promote protection. Public access would remain a local responsibility	Council would monitor use & consider actions & policies to address impacts & work to identify & develop appropriate access sites																																								
Maintenance	Presently undertaken by volunteers on certain stretches of river	Access sites maintained by existing agencies. Council would work w/municipalities & volunteers to develop a consistent maintenance program.	Access sites maintained by existing agencies. NPS would work w/ municipalities & volunteers to develop a consistent maintenance program	Access maintained by existing agencies. Council would work w/ municipalities & volunteers to develop a consistent maintenance program																																								
NPS Role	NPS would review permit applications w/in federal boundary, provide limited technical assistance, and attend Planning Committee Meetings	NPS would participate in Advisory Council; provide financial & technical assistance to implement CMP thru Cooperative Agreements; review permit applications	NPS would undertake resource studies; work w/municipalities to implement Local Plans; provide technical & financial support thru Cooperative Agreements; review permit applications	NPS would serve in an advisory capacity; provide technical and financial assistance; review permit applications; develop public information; undertake resource studies under Council guidance																																								
Initial NPS Base Operating Costs	<table border="0"> <tr><td>NPS p/t Planner</td><td>\$50,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Meet ongoing fed. Obligations</td><td>\$20,000</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$70,000</td></tr> </table>	NPS p/t Planner	\$50,000	Meet ongoing fed. Obligations	\$20,000	TOTAL	\$70,000	<table border="0"> <tr><td>NPS p/t Planner</td><td>\$ 40,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Meet ongoing fed. Obligations</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Imp. Interp Concepts</td><td>\$ 20,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Dev. Info materials</td><td>\$ 15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$175,000</td></tr> </table>	NPS p/t Planner	\$ 40,000	Meet ongoing fed. Obligations	\$100,000	Imp. Interp Concepts	\$ 20,000	Dev. Info materials	\$ 15,000	TOTAL	\$175,000	<table border="0"> <tr><td>NPS Planners & Support Staff</td><td>\$150,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Meet ongoing fed. obligations</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Imp. Interp. Concepts</td><td>\$ 20,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Dev. Info materials</td><td>\$ 15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$285,000</td></tr> </table>	NPS Planners & Support Staff	\$150,000	Meet ongoing fed. obligations	\$100,000	Imp. Interp. Concepts	\$ 20,000	Dev. Info materials	\$ 15,000	TOTAL	\$285,000	<table border="0"> <tr><td>NPS Planner & Support Staff</td><td>\$ 80,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Meet Ongoing fed. Obligations</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Imp. Interp. Concepts</td><td>\$ 20,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Dev. Info materials</td><td>\$ 15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Council Costs - hire 1 p/t person</td><td>\$ 25,000</td></tr> <tr><td>- space rental, equipment, supplies</td><td>\$ 15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$255,000</td></tr> </table>	NPS Planner & Support Staff	\$ 80,000	Meet Ongoing fed. Obligations	\$100,000	Imp. Interp. Concepts	\$ 20,000	Dev. Info materials	\$ 15,000	Council Costs - hire 1 p/t person	\$ 25,000	- space rental, equipment, supplies	\$ 15,000	TOTAL	\$255,000
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Analysis	Does not provide overall organizational strength required to address issues or coordinate among competing interests	Concern expressed over the use of a County organization that does not represent all partners. Alternative rejected due to the preference for a more inclusive membership option outside of a political setting	Concern expressed over what NPS could realistically provide. Responsibility should be w/municipalities, not NPS, since river is cooperatively managed. Planning Committee not effective in making decisions; Council approach was preferred	Preferred Alternative River Council approach housed within an existing, established organization was preferred. Maintains cooperative mgt. w/long term NPS support																																								

TABLE 9 — OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE RESOURCES

Segment	Vegetation	Wildlife	Fisheries	Recreational Resources	Scenic Resources	Cultural Resources
Miry Run	Rare Communities		Anadromous Fish Habitat			
South River	Rare Plants	State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat			Remains of Iron Industry
Stephens Creek			Possible Habitat Anadromous Fish			Remains of Shipyard
Gibson Creek		Historic Bald Eagle Habitat	Anadromous Fish Habitat			Remains of Shipping Industry
English Creek		State Endangered Species				Remains of Shipping Industry
Lakes Creek		Black Duck Habitat				
Middle River		State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat		Identified by NPS	
Patcong Creek			Anadromous Fish Habitat			
Lower Tuckahoe River	Rare Communities Rare Plants	Federal Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat	Boating, Fishing and Hunting	Identified by NPS	
Upper Tuckahoe	Rare Plants Rare Communities		Anadromous Fish Habitat			Graveyard at Head of River, a National Register Site
Cedar Swamp Creek	Rare Plants	State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat		Identified by NPS	Remains of Shipyard
Lower Great Egg Harbor River #1	Rare Plants Rare Communities	Federal Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat	Boating, Fishing and Hunting	Identified by NPS	Estellville Glass Works Site
Lower Great Egg Harbor River #2	Rare Plants Rare Communities	State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat	Boating, Fishing and Hunting		Remains of the schooner <u>Weymouth</u> near Fitches Point on National Register

TABLE 9 — OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE RESOURCES

Segment	Vegetation	Wildlife	Fisheries	Recreational Resources	Scenic Resources	Cultural Resources
Middle Great Egg Harbor River	Rare Plants	State Endangered Species		Canoeing	Identified by NPS	Remains of Iron Industry
Upper Great Egg Harbor River		State Endangered Species				
Squankum Branch		State Endangered Species				
Big Bridge Branch	Rare Plants					
Penny Pot Stream	Rare Plants	State Endangered Species				
Deep Run	Rare Plants					Remains of Iron Industry
Mare Run		State Endangered Species				
Babcock Creek	Rare Plants	State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat			
Gravelly Run		State Endangered Species	Anadromous Fish Habitat			

TABLE 9

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G. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

1. HISTORY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The environmental review process and the development of the Comprehensive Management Plan officially began with the Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on April 10, 1997. However, planning for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River has been an ongoing process since the initial study phase of this river corridor. The Planning Committee, in a public forum, has met throughout the last few years to address concerns, identify issues, and develop “Guidelines for Local River Management Plans” to assist local municipalities in establishing local river management boundaries for long term protection of the river corridor.

The Notice of Intent formally announced the Comprehensive Management Planning process, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement as part of that process, and also announced the first public meeting which was scheduled for April 22, 1997. To assure adequate coverage and notification, public meeting notices were printed in several newspapers.

A series of local public information meetings were held during 1997 and 1998. The initial April 22, 1997 scoping meeting explained the planning process, the importance of developing Local River Management Plans, and the need to develop a collective vision of what the river should look like in the future. Subsequent meetings built upon the work begun at the initial April meeting, resulting in the identification of critical issues, along with recommendations for their resolution, and the development of a series of vision statements and possible management alternatives.

After each meeting, information was promptly summarized in a Newsletter/Update in an attempt to notify a larger audience about the discussions that took place and to seek additional input. In addition to each Update, letters were also sent out prior to meetings reminding interested individuals about the next meeting date and providing an agenda.

On June 2, 1997, a draft paper outlining issues and possible recommendations based on discussions held during several meetings was circulated for input, comments and concurrence. A Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the second draft of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The public comment period was from June 28 through October 15, 1999. The following lists the details of the public involvement and notification activities for developing the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River.

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PUBLIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS/INFORMATION UPDATES DISTRIBUTED

March 25, 1997	April 2, 1997
April 22, 1997	May 9, 1997
June 16, 1997	July 9, 1997
September 23, 1997	September 30, 1997
October 28, 1997	November 4, 1997
January 27, 1998	February 8, 1998
March 31, 1998	April 12, 1998
May 14, 1998	May 20, 1998
July 28, 1998	August 10, 1998
September 22, 1998	October 1, 1998
November 17, 1998	December 2, 1998
January 26, 1999	February 10, 1999
April 27, 1999	June 4, 1999
June 22, 1999	August 4, 1999
September 28, 1999	October 12, 1999

2. LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals provided significant input into the preparation of the Comprehensive Management Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement:

National Park Service

Mary Vavra, Program Manager for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River

Steve Smith, Planner

Atlantic County Office of Geographic Information Systems

Mike Cicali, Director

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

Julie Akers, President

Consultants

Lynn Froehlich

3. LIST OF RECIPIENTS

A number of agencies (federal, state, local and non-profit), as well as individuals, participated in this planning process. Development of the Comprehensive Management Plan was a collaborative effort.

In addition to the individuals listed above, the following individuals, organizations, and/or agencies either provided input into this planning document and/or were given the opportunity to review and comment on a draft of the Comprehensive Management Plan that included an Environmental Assessment and a second draft of the CMP which included an Environmental Impact Statement.



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a. Planning Committee Representatives

Local Municipalities

Buena Vista Township

Honorable Chuck Chiarello, Mayor
Julie Akers, Environmental Commission

Corbin City

Honorable Robert Manzi, Mayor
Ed Kenney, Councilman

Egg Harbor Township

Honorable James McCullough, Mayor
Sandra Bierbrauer, Environmental Commission
Tom Tuohy, Chairperson, Environmental Commission

City of Estell Manor

Honorable Michael Bille, Mayor
Creed Pogue, Council President

Folsom Borough

Honorable Burwell Porter, Mayor
Greg Conway, Environmental Commission
Greg Humphries, Environmental Commission

Hamilton Township

Honorable John Sacchinelli, Mayor
Evelyn Braeunig, Chair, Environmental Commission
Bill Christman, Environmental Commission

Town of Hammonton

Honorable Ralph Morano, Mayor
Michael Hozik, Environmental Commission
Charles Craig, Environmental Commission

Monroe Township

Honorable John Luby, Mayor
Ruth Jurnigan, Mayor's Office
Edward Knorr, Environmental Commission

City of Somers Point

Honorable Tony Martin, Mayor
Kathleen Arleth, Environmental Commission
Thomas Celandine, Environmental Commission
Bill Reinert, Environmental Commission

Upper Township

Honorable Andrew McCrosson, Mayor
Keith Mahler, Environmental Commission

Weymouth Township

Honorable Roland Marsh, Mayor
Bill Egan, Environmental Commission

Winslow Township

Honorable Sue Ann Metzner, Mayor
Eric Fooder, Chairperson of Environmental Commission

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County Representatives

Atlantic County

John Brennan, Planning & Development
George Flicker, Superintendent of County Parks
Harry Tillett, Division Director, County Parks

Gloucester County

Rick Westergaard, Planning Department

Federal Agencies on the Planning Committee

National Park Service

Steve Smith, Conservation Assistance
Mary Vavra, Conservation Assistance

US Department of Agriculture

Garry Lee, District Conservationist
Janice Reid, District Conservationist
Greg Westfall, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Conservation Districts

Dominick Cassetta, Jr., Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District
Victor DeVasto, Gloucester County Soil Conservation District
Robert Dobbs, Jr., Camden County Soil Conservation District
Stephen Quesenberry, RCD Coordinator, South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council

State Agencies on the Planning Committee

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Millie DeFeo, Land and Water Planning
Joseph Kocy, Office of Environmental Planning
Dave McPartland, Office of Environmental Planning
Barry Miller, Office of Environmental Planning
Steve Whiting, Coastal Land Planning

NJ Pinelands Commission

Larry Ligget

Nonprofit Organizations

Julie Akers, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Dick Colby, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association & NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club

b. Additional Consultations

In addition to the Planning Committee, the following individuals and organizations received a copy of the first draft Comprehensive Management Plan for review and comment.



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County Agencies/Organizations

Director of Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Director of Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Mike Cicali, Atlantic County Geographic Information Systems.
Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Atlantic County Planning
Richard Squires, Atlantic County Executive
Terry Straub, Gloucester County Parks
William Sturm, Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Federal Agencies

US Army Corps of Engineers

Sam Reynolds, Regulatory Branch

US Environmental Protection Agency

Kathy Callahan, Director, Water Div. - Region III
Bob Dieterich, Place-Based Detection Branch - Region III

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Eric Schrading, Pleasantville, NJ Field Office
Paul Steblein, New Jersey Coastal Refuges

Congressional Offices

Senator Robert Torricelli
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Congressman Robert Andrews
Congressman Frank LoBiondo

Non-Profit organizations

Richard Bizub, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Joel Fogel, Water Watch International
Theresa Lettman, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Martha Maxwell, Clean Ocean Action
National Parks and Conservation Association
Suzanne McCarthy, Federation of Gloucester County
Watersheds
Trust for Public Lands, NJ Field Office

State Agencies

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Ruth Ehinger, Manager, Bureau of Coastal Regulations
Dorina Frizzera, Office of Environmental Planning
Dorothy Guzzi, NJ State Historic Preservation Officer
Michael Hochman, Bureau of Coastal Regulations
Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist, Division of
Parks & Forestry
Beverly Mazzella, State of New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Bob McDowell, Director, NJ Division of Fish, Game &
Wildlife
Jessica Sanchez, Office of State Planning
Turner Shell, Office of Environmental Planning
Celeste Tracy, Office of Natural Lands Mgt.

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NJ Department of Transportation

Joanne Szezech, Office of Project Management

NOTE: In addition to the above, copies of the first draft Comprehensive Management Plan/EA were distributed to approximately 150 private citizens expressing interest. Approximately 450 copies of the second draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement were distributed to interested citizens and organizations from June 29th thru October 15th.

4. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS:

Comments received on the second draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement are incorporated into the final plan where appropriate. There were only five written comments received, copies of which are included as **Appendix 10**.



Great Egg Harbor River where Stephens Creek enters at upper left. Jackson Creek on left center foreground.

Photo courtesy of Natural Lands Trust



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

H. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Compendium of Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Literature of the New Jersey Pine Barrens: Kenneth Buchholz and Ralph E. Good; Center for Coastal And Environmental Studies; Division of Pinelands Research; July 1983
- Cultural Resource Survey For Weymouth Road and Bridge (Route 559); Hamilton Township, Atlantic County; RS-184 (102); by David C. Mudge; NJ Department of Transportation; Bureau of Environmental Analysis; January 1983
- Delaware & Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park Management Plan; January 1993; Delaware & Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission, USDI
- Designing A Water Conservation Program; An Annotated Bibliography of Source Materials; US Environmental Protection Agency; September 1993
- Determination of the Eligibility and Classification of the Great Egg Harbor River for Potential Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; National Park Service; January 1988
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- Environmental Resources Inventory; Borough of Folsom, NJ 1993 prepared by the Folsom Environmental Commission
- Estuaries; Journal of the Estuarine Research Federation; Vol. 19, No. 2A - June 1996
- Final Guidelines For Local River Management Plans; Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River and its Tributaries; November 1996; Great Egg Harbor River Management Planning Committee in cooperation with the National Park Service
- Forest Vegetation of the Pinelands; Andropogon Associates for the NJ Pinelands Commission; February 1980.
- Great Egg Harbor River Watershed; Gloucester County Planning Department; May 1985
- Great Egg Harbor River Final Study Report, January 1991, National Park Service; Phila., PA

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I. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Agricultural Use:

A use involving the production, keeping, or maintenance for sale, lease or personal use plants and animals useful to man, including but not limited to forages, grain and seed crops, dairy animals, poultry, beef, sheep, horses, pigs, bees, fur animals, trees, food of all kinds, vegetables, nurseries, and land devoted to soil conservation or forestry management programs.

Best Management Practices:

A practice or combination of practices for preventing or reducing diffuse or nonpoint source pollution to a level compatible with water quality goals.

Boundary:

A map line that defines the area of national interest in the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor. The area to be protected through local laws, plans and ordinances, and the use of other existing laws.

Classification:

Under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, a system for assessing existing development levels and for directing future management; the classifications for the Great Egg Harbor River are recreational and scenic.

Commercial Development:

Any use, except home occupations, involving the offer for sale, rental or distribution of goods, services, or commodities; or the provision of recreational facilities or activities for a fee, but not including the manufacture of goods or commodities.

Conditional Use:

A use generally appropriate for a zoning district but permitted only after review by local officials and with the possible attachment of conditions pursuant to criteria set forth in the zoning ordinance for this class of use.

Conservation Easement:

A flexible legal instrument that protects land while leaving it in private ownership. The easement, a legal document, guides future uses of a property regardless of ownership. A landowner generally donates the easement to a qualified conservation organization or government agency that in turn ensures that the conditions of the easement are met over time.



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Critical Habitat:

That area of land or water that is crucial to the survival of either a plant or animal species.

Cultural Resources:

Tangible and intangible features, animate or inanimate, that provide information about a cultural system; this may include human history, archaeological sites, industrial remnants and architectural features.

Easement:

A partial interest in land.

Endangered Species:

Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

Fee title Acquisition:

Outright purchase of a property.

Fish and Wildlife Management:

The management of the characteristics and interactions of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats in order to promote, protect or enhance the ecological integrity of those populations.

Floodplain:

The channel of a natural stream and the relatively flat area adjoining the channel, which has been or which may be covered by flood water, including, at a minimum, those areas designated by the Federal Flood Insurance Administration and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency as "flood hazard areas."

Forestry:

The management, including growing or harvesting, of a forest, woodland or plantation, including the construction, alteration or maintenance of woods roads and landings and related research and educational activities.

Free-Flowing:

First and most important eligibility criterion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is that a river be free-flowing. Applied to any river, or section of river, means existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the waterway.

High Water Line:

The line on the shore to which high tide rises under normal weather conditions. High water line is generally computed as a mean or average high tide and not as extreme height of water.

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Historic District:

A geographically definable area, urban or rural, that possesses a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united historically by past events, aesthetically by plan, or physically by development.

Impervious Surface:

Any material which prevents the absorption of stormwater into previously undeveloped land.

Impoundments:

Any body of water located on a tributary, brook, stream, kill or river formed by a new manmade structure within the boundary of the designated river; this does not include structures for fishery management such as eel weirs, or small agricultural ponds not on tributaries.

Interpretive Program:

A program designed to develop a visitor's interest in, and enjoyment and understanding of, an area by describing and explaining its characteristics and their interrelationships.

Jurisdiction:

The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

Jurisdictional Wetland:

An area defined as a wetland under the methodology established by the Federal Interagency Committee for Wetland Delineation in the handbook "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands" (Manual). In general, the three technical criteria established in the manual for defining wetlands are that the site must possess hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology, the driving force creating wetlands.

Landfill:

A site where trash or refuse, including toxic or radioactive waste, is buried as part of a public or private business operation.

Lot Coverage:

That portion or percentage of the lot area, which is covered by buildings, pavement or other impervious surfaces (also known as building coverage).



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Lot:

A parcel of land designated by metes and bounds, registered land survey, auditor's plot or other accepted means; and separated from other parcels or portions by the description for the purpose of sale, lease, or separation of the parcel or portion.

Mean High Water Line:

A mean is the middle of two extremes. The mean high water line is the mean of all high water lines.

Natural Cover:

Natural vegetation including trees, shrubs, or other plants which help to keep soil from being washed or blown away.

Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values

Scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values in a river corridor based on the professional judgement of the Great Egg Harbor River Study Team.

Overlay District:

A zoning district which overlays other zoning districts (the requirements of which are applicable to any lot) and imposes additional requirements without changing any normally applicable requirements within those districts.

Perennial Stream:

A stream that flows during all seasons.

Population Density:

The number of families, individual dwelling units or principal structures per unit of land.

Public Access Area:

A publicly owned area where the general public can gain access to the water. Facilities at these areas may include parking lot, map of the facility, comfort station, public telephone, trash containers, boat-launching area, and limited picnicking sites.

Public Facility:

A facility operated by a unit of government.

Recreational Designation:

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines and that may have undergone some impoundment or other diversion in the past.

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Riparian Zone:

The bed of a stream, its banks, and that adjacent land area vegetated by species that are well adapted to period flooding.

Riparian Forest Buffer:

A forested area situated between a stream and an adjacent land use which is managed to help maintain the hydrology and ecology of stream channels and shorelines; prevent or reduce upland sources of pollution from reaching surface waters by trapping, filtering, and converting sediments, nutrients and chemicals; and protect fish and wildlife by supplying food, cover and shade.

Scenic Designation:

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments with shorelines or watershed still largely primitive and largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

Scenic Easement:

A strip of land dedicated by easement or covenant on a deed to remain in a natural and protected state.

Selective Cutting:

The removal of single scattered trees.

Setback:

The minimum horizontal distance between a structure and the normal high water level or between a structure and a road or highway.

Sewage System:

Any system for the collection, treatment and dispersion of sewage, including but not limited to septic tanks, soil-absorption systems and drain fields.

Significant Cultural Site:

Any archaeological or historical site, standing structure, or any other property that:

1. is listed on the Nat'l Register of Historic Places;
2. is listed on the State Register of Historic Sites;
3. is determined to be an unplatted cemetery; or
4. is determined to meet the qualifications for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Sites after review by the appropriate state agency.

Steep Slope:

Lands having average slopes of 20 percent or more, as measured over horizontal distances of 50 feet or more.



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Stewardship:

An individual's responsible management of his or her land or property with proper regard to the conservation of the scenery and the natural, historic, and wildlife values that said property possesses.

Stream Corridor:

The Great Egg Harbor River, its tributaries and their immediate environments, including adjacent land areas.

Stream Discharge:

The discharge of treated or untreated effluent to a stream.

Stream Rest Stop:

An area reached by watercraft where people in that watercraft can stop and rest. Facilities at these areas may include a map of the facility, comfort station and trash containers.

Structure:

Any building, sign, or appurtenances to the sign or building; except aerial or under ground utility lines, such as sewer, electric, telephone, telegraph or gas lines, including towers, poles and other supporting appurtenances.

Terminal Boundary:

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Management Plan, the boundary at either the upper or lower end of the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor.

Threatened Species:

Any species that is likely to become an Endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Wetlands:

Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems, where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land use covered by shallow water. For purposes of this definition, wetlands must have the following three attributes:

1. a predominance of hydric soils.
2. Inundation or saturation by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
3. Ability under normal circumstances to support a prevalence of such vegetation.

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106 STAT. 3528

PUBLIC LAW 102-536—OCT. 27, 1992

Public Law 102-536
102d Congress

An Act

Oct. 27, 1992
[H.R. 5853]

To designate segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in the State of New Jersey as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Conservation. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

“() GREAT EGG HARBOR, NEW JERSEY.—39.5 miles of the main stem to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classifications:

“(A) from the mouth of the Patcong Creek to the mouth of Perch Cove Run, approximately 10 miles, as a scenic river;

“(B) from Perch Cove Run to the Mill Street Bridge, approximately 5.5 miles, as a recreational river;

“(C) from Lake Lenape to the Atlantic City Expressway, approximately 21 miles, as a recreational river; and

“(D) from Williamstown-New Freedom Road to the Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way, approximately 3 miles, as a recreational river, and

89.5 miles of the following tributaries to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classifications:

“(E) Squankum Branch from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Malaga Road, approximately 4.5 miles, as a recreational river;

“(F) Big Bridge Branch, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to headwaters, approximately 2.2 miles, as a recreational river;

“(G) Penny Pot Stream Branch, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to 14th Street, approximately 4.1 miles, as a recreational river;

“(H) Deep Run, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Pancoast Mill Road, approximately 5.4 miles, as a recreational river;

“(I) Mare Run, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Weymouth Avenue, approximately 3 miles, as a recreational river;

“(J) Babcock Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to headwaters, approximately 7.5 miles, as a recreational river;

“(K) Gravelly Run, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Pennsylvania Railroad Right-of-Way, approximately 2.7 miles, as a recreational river;

“(L) Miry Run, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Asbury Road, approximately 1.7 miles, as a recreational river;

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"(M) South River, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Main Avenue, approximately 13.5 miles, as a recreational river;

"(N) Stephen Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to New Jersey Route 50, approximately 2.3 miles, as a recreational river;

"(O) Gibson Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to First Avenue, approximately 5.6 miles, as a recreational river;

"(P) English Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Zion Road, approximately 3.5 miles, as a recreational river;

"(Q) Lakes Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to the dam, approximately 2.2 miles, as a recreational river;

"(R) Middle River, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to the levee, approximately 5.6 miles, as a scenic river;

"(S) Patcong Creek, from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to Garden State Parkway, approximately 2.8 miles, as a recreational river;

"(T) Tuckahoe River (lower segment) from its confluence with Great Egg Harbor River to the Route 50 bridge, approximately 9 miles, as a scenic river;

"(U) Tuckahoe River, from the Route 50 Bridge to Route 49 Bridge, approximately 7.3 miles, as a recreational river; and

"(V) Cedar Swamp Creek, from its confluence with Tuckahoe River to headwaters, approximately 6 miles, as a scenic river."

SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT.

16 USC 1274
note.

(a) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the river segments designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by this Act through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass, pursuant to section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and in consultation with such jurisdictions, except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands.

(b) AGREEMENTS.—(1) Cooperative agreements for management of the river segments referred to in subsection (a) shall provide for the long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of such segments and shall be consistent with the comprehensive management plans for such segments to be prepared by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and with local river management plans prepared by appropriate local political jurisdictions in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate representatives of local political jurisdictions and the State of New Jersey, shall review local river management plans described in paragraph (1) to assure that their proper implementation will protect the values for which the river segments described in subsection (a) were designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If after such review the Secretary deter-

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mines that such plans meet the protection standards for local zoning ordinances specified in section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, such plans shall be deemed to constitute "local zoning ordinances" and each township and other incorporated local jurisdiction covered by such plans shall be deemed to constitute a "village" for the purposes of section 6(c) (prohibiting the acquisition of lands by condemnation) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Reports.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior shall biennially review compliance with the local river management plans described in paragraph (1) and shall promptly report to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate any deviation from such plans which could result in any diminution of the values for which the river segment concerned was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(c) PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary of the Interior may provide planning assistance to local political subdivisions of the State of New Jersey through which flow river segments that are designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and may enter into memoranda of understanding or cooperative agreements with officials or agencies of the United States or the State of New Jersey to ensure that Federal and State programs that could affect such segments are carried out in a manner consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and applicable river management plans.

Appropriation authorization.

(2) For purposes of the planning assistance authorized and reviews required by this subsection, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$70,000 annually.

Approved October 27, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 5853 (S. 3217):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 102-352 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 102-471 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 138 (1992):
Sept. 29, considered and passed House.
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.



APPENDIX 2

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

An Act¹

To provide for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that

SECTION 1. (a) This Act may be cited as the “Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.”

(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

(c) The purpose of this Act is to implement this policy by instituting a national wild and scenic rivers system, by designating the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

SECTION 2. (a) The national wild and scenic rivers system shall comprise rivers

(i) that are authorized for inclusion therein by Act of Congress, or

(ii) that are designated as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by or pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State or States through which they flow, that are to be permanently administered as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by an agency or political subdivision of the State or States concerned, that are found by the Secretary of the Interior, upon application of the Governor of the State or the Governors of the States concerned, or a person or persons thereunto duly appointed by him or them, to meet the criteria established in this Act and such criteria supplementary thereto as he may prescribe, and that are approved by him for inclusion in the system, including, upon application of the Governor of the State concerned, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Maine; that segment of the Wolf River, Wisconsin, which flows through Langlade

¹ The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) as set forth herein consists of Public Law 90-542 (October 2, 1968) and amendments thereto.

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County and that segment of the New River in North Carolina extending from its confluence with Dog Creek downstream approximately 26.5 miles to the Virginia State line.

Upon receipt of an application under clause (ii) of this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and publish such application in the Federal Register. Each river designated under clause (ii) shall be administered by the State or political subdivision thereof without expense to the United States other than for administration and management of federally owned lands. For purposes of the preceding sentence, amounts made available to any State or political subdivision under the Land and Water Conservation [Fund] Act of 1965 or any other provision of law shall not be treated as an expense to the United States. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to provide for the transfer to, or administration by, a State or local authority of any federally owned lands which are within the boundaries of any river included within the system under clause (ii).

(b) A wild, scenic or recreational river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream and the related adjacent land area that possesses one or more of the values referred to in Section 1, subsection (b) of this Act. Every wild, scenic or recreational river in its free-flowing condition, or upon restoration to this condition, shall be considered eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system and, if included, shall be classified, designated, and administered as one of the following:

(1) Wild river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

(2) Scenic river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

(3) Recreational river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

SECTION 3. (a) The following rivers and the land adjacent thereto are hereby designated as components of the national wild and scenic rivers system:

[List of designated rivers omitted. Please see following list.]

(b) The agency charged with the administration of each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated by subsection (a) of this section shall, within one year from the date of designation of such component under subsection (a) (except where a different date



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is provided in subsection (a)), establish detailed boundaries therefore (which boundaries shall include an average of not more than 320 acres of land per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river); and determine which of the classes outlined in section 2, subsection (b), of this Act best fit the river or its various segments. Notice of the availability of the boundaries and classification, and of subsequent boundary amendments shall be published in the Federal Register and shall not become effective until ninety days after they have been forwarded to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(c) Maps of all boundaries and descriptions of the classifications of designated river segments, and subsequent amendments to such boundaries, shall be available for public inspection in the offices of the administering agency in the District of Columbia and in locations convenient to the designated river.

(d)(1) For rivers designated on or after January 1, 1986, the Federal agency charged with the administration of each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall prepare a comprehensive management plan for such river segment to provide for the protection of the river values. The plan shall address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of this Act. The plan shall be coordinated with and may be incorporated into resource management planning for affected adjacent Federal lands. The plan shall be prepared, after consultation with State and local governments and the interested public within 3 full fiscal years after the date of designation. Notice of the completion and availability of such plans shall be published in the Federal Register.

(2) For rivers designated before January 1, 1986, all boundaries, classifications, and plans shall be reviewed for conformity within the requirements of this subsection within 10 years through regular agency planning processes.

SECTION 4. (a) The Secretary of the Interior or, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture or, in appropriate cases, the two Secretaries jointly shall study and submit to the President reports on the suitability or unsuitability for addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system of rivers which are designated herein or hereafter by the Congress as potential additions to such system. The President shall report to the Congress his recommendations and proposals with respect to the designation of each such river or section thereof under this Act. Such studies shall be completed and such reports shall be made to the Congress with respect to all rivers named in subparagraphs 5(a) (1) through (27) of this Act no later than October 2, 1978. In conducting these studies the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to those rivers

(i) with respect to which there is the greatest likelihood of developments which, if undertaken, would render the rivers unsuitable for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system, and

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(ii) which possess the greatest proportion of private lands within their areas. Every such study and plan shall be coordinated with any water resources planning involving the same river which is being conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act (79 Stat. 244; 42 U.S.C. 1962 et seq.). Each report, including maps and illustrations, shall show among other things the area included within the report; the characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the system; the current status of land ownership and use in the area; the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the national wild and scenic rivers system; the Federal agency (which in the case of a river which is wholly or substantially within a national forest, shall be the Department of Agriculture) by which it is proposed the area, should it be added to the system, be administered; the extent to which it is proposed that such administration, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies; and the estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the system. Each such report shall be printed as a Senate or House document.

(b) Before submitting any such report to the President and the Congress, copies of the proposed report shall, unless it was prepared jointly by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, be submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture or by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior, as the case may be, and to the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, the head of any other affected Federal department or agency and, unless the lands proposed to be included in the area are already owned by the United States or have already been authorized for acquisition by Act of Congress, the Governor of the State or States in which they are located or an officer designated by the Governor to receive the same. Any recommendations or comments on the proposal which the said officials furnish the Secretary or Secretaries who prepared the report within ninety days of the date on which the report is submitted to them, together with the Secretary's or Secretaries' comments thereon, shall be included with the transmittal to the President and the Congress.

(c) Before approving or disapproving for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system any river designated as a wild, scenic or recreational river by or pursuant to an act of the State legislature, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, and the head of any other affected Federal department or agency and shall evaluate and give due weight to any recommendations or comments which the said officials furnish him within ninety days of the date on which it is submitted to them. If he approves the proposed inclusion, he shall publish notice thereof in the Federal Register.



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(d) The boundaries of any river proposed in section 5(a) of this Act for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall generally comprise that area measured within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river. In the case of any designated river, prior to publication of boundaries pursuant to section 3(b) of this Act, the boundaries also shall comprise the same area. This subsection shall not be construed to limit the possible scope of the study report to address areas which may lie more than one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river.

SECTION 5. (a) The following rivers are hereby designated for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system:

[List of study rivers and study periods is omitted. If you need the list, please contact a Council member.]

(c) The study of any of said rivers shall be pursued in as close cooperation with appropriate agencies of the affected State and its political subdivisions as possible, shall be carried on jointly with such agencies if request for such joint study is made by the State, and shall include a determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(d)(1) In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.

(2) The Congress finds that the Secretary of the Interior, in preparing the Nationwide Rivers Inventory as a specific study for possible additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, identified the Upper Klamath River from below the John Boyle Dam to the Oregon-California State line. The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, is authorized under this subsection to complete a study of the eligibility and suitability of such segment for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such study shall be completed, and a report containing the results of the study shall be submitted to Congress by April 1, 1990. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the authority or responsibilities of any other Federal agency with respect to activities or action on this segment and its immediate environment.

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SECTION 6. (a)(1) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are each authorized to acquire lands and interests in land within the authorized boundaries of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated in section 3 of this Act, or hereafter designated for inclusion in the system by Act of Congress, which is administered by him, but he shall not acquire fee title to an average of more than 100 acres per mile on both sides of the river. Lands owned by a State may be acquired only by donation or by exchange in accordance with the subsection (d) of this section. Lands owned by an Indian tribe or a political subdivision of a State may not be acquired without the consent of the appropriate governing body thereof as long as the Indian tribe or political subdivision is following a plan for management and protection of the lands which the Secretary finds protects the land and assures its use for purposes consistent with this Act. Money appropriated for Federal purposes from the land and water conservation fund shall, without prejudice to the use of appropriations from other sources, be available to Federal departments and agencies for the acquisition of property for the purposes of this Act.

(2) When a tract of land lies partially within and partially outside the boundaries of a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the appropriate Secretary may, with the consent of the landowners for the portion outside the boundaries, acquire the entire tract. The land or interest therein so acquired outside the boundaries shall not be counted against the average one-hundred-acre-per-mile fee title limitation of subsection (a)(1). The lands or interests therein outside such boundaries, shall be disposed of, consistent with existing authorities of law, by sale, lease, or exchange.

(b) If 50 per centum or more of the entire acreage outside the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river within a federally administered wild, scenic or recreational river area is owned in fee title by the United States, by the State or States within which it lies, or by political subdivisions of those States, neither Secretary shall acquire fee title to any lands by condemnation under authority of this Act. Nothing contained in this section, however, shall preclude the use of condemnation when necessary to clear title or to acquire scenic easements or such other easements as are reasonably necessary to give the public access to the river and to permit its members to traverse the length of the area or of selected segments thereof.

(c) Neither the Secretary of the Interior nor the Secretary of Agriculture may acquire lands by condemnation, for the purpose of including such lands in any national wild, scenic or recreational river area, if such lands are located within any incorporated city, village or borough which has in force and applicable to such lands a duly adopted, valid zoning ordinance that conforms with the purposes of this Act. In order to carry out the provisions of this subsection the appropriate Secretary shall issue guidelines, specifying standards for local zoning ordinances, which are consistent with the purposes of this Act. The standards specified in such guidelines shall have the object of (A) prohibiting new commercial or industrial uses other than commercial or industrial uses which are consistent with the purposes of this Act, and (B) the protection of the bank lands by means of acreage, frontage, and setback requirements on development.



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(d) The appropriate Secretary is authorized to accept title to non-Federal property within the authorized boundaries of any federally administered component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated in section 3 of this Act or hereafter designated for inclusion in the system by Act of Congress and, in exchange therefore, convey to the grantor any federally owned property which is under his jurisdiction within the State in which the component lies and which he classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal or, if they are not approximately equal, shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the grantor or to the Secretary as the circumstances require.

(e) The head of any Federal department or agency having administrative jurisdiction over any lands or interests in land within the authorized boundaries of any federally administered component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated in section 3 of this Act or hereafter designated for inclusion in the system by Act of Congress is authorized to transfer to the appropriate Secretary jurisdiction over such lands for administration in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Lands acquired by or transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture for the purposes of this Act within or adjacent to a national forest shall upon such acquisition or transfer become national forest lands.

(f) The appropriate Secretary is authorized to accept donations of lands and interests in land, funds, and other property for use in connection with his administration of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(g)(1) Any owner or owners (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as "owner") of improved property on the date of its acquisition, may retain for themselves and their successors or assigns a right of use and occupancy of the improved property for noncommercial residential purposes for a definite term not to exceed twenty-five years, or in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner, or the death of his spouse, or the death of either or both of them. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. The appropriate Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition less the fair market value on such a date retained by the owner.

(2) A right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to termination whenever the appropriate Secretary is given reasonable cause to find that such use and occupancy is being exercised in a manner which conflicts with the purposes of this Act. In the event of such a finding, the Secretary shall tender to the holder of that right an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination. Such right of use or occupancy shall terminate by operation of law upon tender of the fair market price.

(3) The term "improved property," as used in this Act, means a detached, one-family dwelling (hereinafter referred to as "dwelling"), the construction of which was begun before January 1, 1967, (except where a different date is specifically provided by law with respect to any particular river), together with so much of the land on which the dwelling is situated, the said

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land being in the same ownership as the dwelling, as the appropriate Secretary shall designate to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use, together with any structures accessory to the dwelling which are situated on the land so designated.

SECTION 7. (a) The Federal Power Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting any river which is designated in section 3 of this Act as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system or which is hereafter designated for inclusion in that system, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established, as determined by the Secretary charged with its administration. Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to, developments below or above a wild, scenic or recreational river area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area on the date of designation of a river as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. No department or agency of the United States shall recommend authorization of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established, as determined by the Secretary charged with its administration, or request appropriations to begin construction of any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without advising the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, in writing of its intention so to do at least sixty days in advance, and without specifically reporting to the Congress in writing at the time it makes its recommendation or request in what respect construction of such project would be in conflict with the purposes of this Act and would effect the component and the values to be protected by it under this Act. Any license heretofore or hereafter issued by the Federal Power Commission affecting the New River of North Carolina shall continue to be effective only for that portion of the river which is not included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System pursuant to section 2 of this Act and no project or undertaking so licensed shall be permitted to invade, inundate or otherwise adversely affect such river segment.

(b) The Federal Power Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act, as amended, on or directly affecting any river which is listed in section 5, subsection (a), of this Act, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river might be designated, as determined by the Secretary responsible for its study or approval --



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(i) during the ten-year period following enactment of this Act or for a three complete fiscal year period following any Act of Congress designating any river for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, whichever is later, unless, prior to the expiration of the relevant period, the Secretary of the Interior and where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture, on the basis of study, determine that such river should not be included in the national wild and scenic rivers system and notify the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress, in writing, including a copy of the study upon which the determination was made, at least one hundred and eighty days while Congress is in session prior to publishing notice to that effect in the Federal Register: *Provided*, That if any Act designating any river or rivers for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system provides a period for the study or studies which exceeds such three complete fiscal year period the period provided for in such Act shall be substituted for the three complete fiscal year period in the provisions of this clause (i); and

(ii) during such interim period from the date a report is due and the time a report is actually submitted to the Congress; and

(iii) during such additional period thereafter as, in the case of any river the report for which is submitted to the President and the Congress for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system, is necessary for congressional consideration thereof or, in the case of any river recommended to the Secretary of the Interior under section 2(a)(ii) of this Act, is necessary for the secretary's consideration thereof, which additional period, however, shall not exceed three years in the first case and one year in the second.

Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to, developments below or above a potential wild, scenic or recreational river area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the area or diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the potential wild, scenic or recreational river area on the date of designation of a river for study as provided in section 5 of this Act. No department or agency of the United States shall, during the periods hereinbefore specified, recommend authorization of any water resources project on any such river or request appropriations to begin construction of any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without advising the Secretary of the Interior and, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture in writing of its intention so to do at least sixty days in advance of doing so and without specifically reporting to the Congress in writing at the time it makes its recommendation or request in what respect construction of such project would be in conflict with the purposes of this Act and would affect the component and the values to be protected by it under this Act.

(c) The Federal Power Commission and all other Federal agencies shall, promptly upon enactment of this Act, inform the Secretary of the Interior and, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture, of any proceedings, studies, or other activities within their

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jurisdiction which are now in progress and which affect or may affect any of the rivers specified in section 5, subsection (a), of this Act. They shall likewise inform him of any such proceedings, studies, or other activities which are hereafter commenced or resumed before they are commenced or resumed.

(d) Nothing in this section with respect to the making of a loan or grant shall apply to grants made under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897; 16 U.S.C. 4601-5 et seq.).

SECTION 8. (a) All public lands within the authorized boundaries of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system which is designated in section 3 of this Act or which is hereafter designated for inclusion in that system are hereby withdrawn from entry, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws of the United States. This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authorities granted in section 6(d) or section 14A of this Act.

(b) All public lands which constitute the bed or bank, or are within one-quarter mile of the bank, of any river which is listed in section 5, subsection (a), of this Act are hereby withdrawn from entry, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws of the United States for the periods specified in section 7, subsection (b), of this Act. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection or any other provision of this Act, subject only to valid existing rights, including valid Native selection rights under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, all public lands which constitute the bed or bank, or are within an area extending two miles from the bank of the river channel on both sides of the river segments referred to in paragraphs (77) through (88) of section 5(a) are hereby withdrawn from entry, sale, State selection or other disposition under the public land laws of the United States for the periods specified in section 7(b) of this Act.

SECTION 9. (a) Nothing in this Act shall affect the applicability of the United States mining and mineral leasing laws within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system except that --

(i) all prospecting, mining operations, and other activities on mining claims which, in the case of a component of the system designated in section 3 of this Act, have not heretofore been perfected or which, in the case of a component hereafter designated pursuant to this Act or any other Act of Congress, are not perfected before its inclusion in the system and all mining operations and other activities under a mineral lease, license, or permit issued or renewed after inclusion of a component in the system shall be subject to such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior or, in the case of national forest lands, the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe to effectuate the purposes of this Act;



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(ii) subject to valid existing rights, the perfection of, or issuance of a patent to, any mining claim affecting lands within the system shall confer or convey a right or title only to the mineral deposits and such rights only to the use of the surface and the surface resources as are reasonably required to carrying on prospecting or mining operations and are consistent with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, or in the case of national forest lands, by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(iii) subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in Federal lands which are part of the system and constitute the bed or bank or are situated within one-quarter mile of the bank of any river designated a wild river under this Act or any subsequent Act are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing laws including, in both cases, amendments thereto.

Regulations issued pursuant to paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this subsection shall, among other things, provide safeguards against pollution of the river involved and unnecessary impairment of the scenery within the components in question.

(b) The minerals in any Federal lands which constitute the bed or bank or are situated within one-quarter mile of the bank of any river which is listed in section 5, subsection (a) of this Act are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws during the periods specified in section 7, subsection (b) of this Act. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to forbid prospecting or the issuance of leases, licenses, and permits under the mineral leasing laws subject to such conditions as the Secretary of the Interior and, in the case of national forest lands, the Secretary of Agriculture find appropriate to safeguard the area in the event it is subsequently included in the system. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection or any other provision of this Act, all public lands which constitute the bed or bank, or are within an area extending two miles from the bank of the river channel on both sides of the river segments referred to in paragraphs (77) through (88) of section 5(a), are hereby withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing laws including, in both cases, amendments thereto, during the periods specified in section 7(b) of this Act.

SECTION 10. (a) Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development, based on the special attributes of the area.

(b) Any portion of a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system that is within the national wilderness preservation system, as established by or pursuant to the Act of

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September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C., ch. 23), shall be subject to the provisions of both the Wilderness Act and this Act with respect to preservation of such river and its immediate environment, and in case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts the more restrictive provisions shall apply.

(c) Any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system that is administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service shall become a part of the national park system, and any such component that is administered by the Secretary through the Fish and Wildlife Service shall become a part of the national wildlife refuge system. The lands involved shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and the Acts under which the national park system or national wildlife refuge system, as the case may be, is administered, and in case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts, the more restrictive provisions shall apply. The Secretary of the Interior, in his administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system, may utilize such general statutory authorities relating to areas of the national park system and such general statutory authorities otherwise available to him for recreation and preservation purposes and for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(d) The Secretary of Agriculture, in his administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system area, may utilize the general statutory authorities relating to the national forests in such manner as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(e) The Federal agency charged with the administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system may enter into written cooperative agreements with the Governor of a State, the head of any State agency, or the appropriate official of a political subdivision of a State for State or local governmental participation in the administration of the component. The States and their political subdivisions shall be encouraged to cooperate in the planning and administration of components of the system which include or adjoin State-or county-owned lands.

SECTION 11. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall encourage and assist the states to consider, in formulating and carrying out their comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plans and proposals for financing assistance for State and local projects submitted pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897), needs and opportunities for establishing State and local wild, scenic and recreational river areas.

(b)(1) The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the head of any other Federal agency, shall assist, advise, and cooperate with States or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals to plan, protect, and manage river resources. Such assistance, advice and cooperation may be through written agreements or otherwise. This



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authority applies within or outside a federally administered area and applies to rivers which are components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to other rivers. Any agreement under this subsection may include provisions for limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources.

(2) Wherever appropriate in furtherance of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are authorized and encouraged to utilize the following:

(A) For activities on federally owned land, the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 18g-j) and the Volunteers in the Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a-558d).

(B) For activities on all other lands, section 6 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (relating to the development of statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans).

(3) For purposes of this subsection, the appropriate Secretary or the head of any Federal agency may utilize and make available Federal facilities, equipment, tools and technical assistance to volunteers and volunteer organizations, subject to such limitations and restrictions as the appropriate Secretary or the head of any Federal agency deems necessary or desirable.

(4) No permit or other authorization provided for under provision of any other Federal law shall be conditioned on the existence of any agreement provided for in this section.

SECTION 12. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the head of any other Federal department or agency having jurisdiction over any lands which include, border upon, or are adjacent to, any river included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System or under consideration for such inclusion, in accordance with section 2(a)(ii), 3(a), or 5(a), shall take such action respecting management policies, regulations, contracts, plans, affecting such lands, following the date of enactment of this sentence, as may be necessary to protect such rivers in accordance with the purposes of this Act. Such Secretary or other department or agency head shall, where appropriate, enter into written cooperative agreements with the appropriate State or local official for the planning, administration, and management of Federal lands which are within the boundaries of any rivers for which approval has been granted under section 2(a)(ii). Particular attention shall be given to scheduled timber harvesting, road construction, and similar activities which might be contrary to the purposes of this Act.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Federal lands held by any private party without the consent of said party.

(c) The head of any agency administering a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall cooperate with the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency and with the appropriate State water pollution control agencies for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing the pollution of waters of the river.

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SECTION 13. (a) Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the States with respect to fish and wildlife. Hunting and fishing shall be permitted on lands and waters administered as parts of the system under applicable State and Federal laws and regulations unless, in the case of hunting, those lands or waters are within a national park or monument. The administering Secretary may, however, designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting is permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment and shall issue appropriate regulations after consultation with the wildlife agency of the State or States affected.

(b) The jurisdiction of the States and the United States over waters of any stream included in the national wild, scenic or recreational river area shall be determined by established principles of law. Under the provisions of this Act, any taking by the United States of a water right which is vested under either State or Federal law at the time such river is included in the national wild and scenic rivers system shall entitle the owner thereof to just compensation. Nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

(c) Designation of any stream or portion thereof as a national wild, scenic or recreational river area shall not be construed as a reservation of the waters of such streams for purposes other than those specified in this Act, or in quantities greater than necessary to accomplish these purposes.

(d) The jurisdiction of the States over waters of any stream included in a national wild, scenic or recreational river area shall be unaffected by this Act to the extent that such jurisdiction may be exercised without impairing the purposes of this Act or its administration.

(e) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to alter, amend, repeal, interpret, modify, or be in conflict with any interstate compact made by any States which contain any portion of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(f) Nothing in this Act shall affect existing rights of any State, including the right of access, with respect to the beds of navigable streams, tributaries, or rivers (or segments thereof) located in a national wild, scenic or recreational river area.

(g) The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, may grant easements and rights-of-way upon, over, under, across, or through any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in accordance with the laws applicable to the national park system and the national forest system, respectively: *Provided*, That any conditions precedent to granting such easements and rights-of-way shall be related to the policy and purpose of this Act.



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SECTION 14. The claim and allowance of the value of an easement as a charitable contribution under section 170 of title 26, United States Code, or as a gift under section 2522 of said title shall constitute an agreement by the donor on behalf of himself, his heirs, and assigns that, if the terms of the instrument creating the easement are violated, the donee or the United States may acquire the servient estate at its fair market value as of the time the easement was donated minus the value of the easement claimed and allowed as a charitable contribution or gift.

SECTION 14A. (a) Where appropriate in the discretion of the Secretary, he may lease federally owned land (or any interest therein) which is within the boundaries of any component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system and which has been acquired by the Secretary under this Act. Such lease shall be subject to such restrictive covenants as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) Any land to be leased by the Secretary under this section shall be offered first for such lease to the person who owned such land immediately before its acquisition by the United States.

SECTION 15. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in sections 3 and 9 of this Act, with respect to components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in Alaska designated by paragraphs (38) through (50) of section 3(a) of this Act --

(1) the boundary of each such river shall include an average of not more than six hundred and forty acres per mile on both sides of the river. Such boundary shall not include any lands owned by the State or a political subdivision of the State nor shall such boundary extend around any private lands adjoining the river in such manner as to surround or effectively surround such private lands; and

(2) the withdrawal made by paragraph (iii) of section 9(a) shall apply to the minerals in Federal lands which constitute the bed or bank or are situated within one-half mile of the bank of any river designated a wild river by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

SECTION 16. As used in this Act, the term --

(a) "River" means a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

(b) "Free-flowing," as applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic

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rivers system shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion: *Provided*, That this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(c) “Scenic easement” means the right to control the use of land (including the air space above such land) within the authorized boundaries of a component of the wild and scenic rivers system, for the purpose of protecting the natural qualities of a designated wild, scenic or recreational river area, but such control shall not affect, without the owner’s consent, any regular use exercised prior to the acquisition of the easement. For any designated wild and scenic river, the appropriate Secretary shall treat the acquisition of fee title with the reservation of regular existing uses to the owner as a scenic easement for purposes of this Act. Such an acquisition shall not constitute fee title ownership for purposes of section 6(b).

SECTION 17. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, including such sums as have heretofore been appropriated, the following amounts for land acquisition for each of the rivers described in section 3(a) of this Act:

Clearwater, Middle Fork, Idaho, \$2,909,800;
Eleven Point, Missouri, \$10,407,000;
Feather, Middle Fork, California, \$3,935,700;
Rio Grande, New Mexico, \$253,000;
Rogue, Oregon, \$15,147,000
St. Croix, Minnesota and Wisconsin, \$21,769,000;
Salmon, Middle Fork Idaho, \$1,837,000; and
Wolf Wisconsin, \$142,150.



(Insert 11 municipal maps
in alphabetical order)











































APPENDIX 4

INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

GREAT EGG HARBOR NATIONAL SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER COUNCIL INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

I. PREAMBLE

Whereas, Buena Vista Township, Corbin City, Egg Harbor Township, City of Estell Manor, Folsom Borough, Hamilton Township, Town of Hammonton, Monroe Township, City of Somers Point, Upper Township, Winslow Township and Weymouth Township have certain acreage of their municipalities located within the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River (Great Egg) as defined by Public Law 102-536, and

Whereas, the economic and social vitality of the above municipalities are supported by their close proximity to the Great Egg Harbor River and designated tributaries; and

Whereas, the health of the Great Egg Harbor River is dependent upon the economic, social and environmental policies of the surrounding municipalities; and

Whereas, the original Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee established in 1990 has successfully completed its task of preparing a Comprehensive Management Plan and assisted in the development of Local River Management Plans for the Great Egg Harbor River; and

Whereas, it is necessary to continue a formal organization to monitor implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan and assist the twelve municipalities, individually and collectively, in dealing with matters concerning the Great Egg Harbor River;

Now, therefore, it is agreed that the twelve municipalities and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association establish the "Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council" (herein referred to as "River Council") to provide on-going monitoring, coordination and assistance to its members in implementing the Comprehensive Management Plan with the National Park Service in accordance with the organizational structure and procedures set forth herein.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish an on-going River Council to assist the twelve municipalities in effectively implementing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan, as well as Local River Management Plans with the National Park Service, to define said organization and the procedures for its operation; and to establish the term for the River Council to conduct its activities.

III. ORGANIZATION

There is hereby created the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council.

A. Council Membership

The Council shall be composed of one (1) member each of the twelve municipalities, as well as one member from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Municipal members will be appointed by each Mayor.

- (1) Buena Vista Township
- (2) Corbin City
- (3) Egg Harbor Township

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APPENDIX 4 - Partnership Agreement (Draft)



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INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

- (4) City of Estell Manor
- (5) Folsom Borough
- (6) Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
- (7) Hamilton Township
- (8) Town of Hammonton
- (9) Monroe Township
- (10) City of Somers Point
- (11) Upper Township
- (12) Weymouth Township
- (13) Winslow Township

Each member may also appoint a maximum of two (2) alternate members, either one of whom may serve in the absence of the regular Committee member.

All appointees shall serve a term of three years and be eligible for reappointment at the discretion of the Mayor and Governing Body. Terms will be staggered initially so that in any given year only one-third of the appointees are up for reappointment.

B. Advisory Committee

There is hereby created the River Council Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall be composed of one (1) member each from the following organizations:

- (1) Atlantic County (as designated by the Board of Chosen Freeholders)
- (2) Gloucester County (as designated by the Board of Chosen Freeholders)
- (3) Camden County (as designated by the Board of Chosen Freeholders)
- (4) Cape May County (as designated by the Board of Chosen Freeholders)
- (5) NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- (6) Pinelands Commission
- (7) National Park Service

The members of the Advisory Committee will have equal opportunity to participate in all activities of the River Council, with the exception of voting. This will include attendance at all meetings, receipt of all meeting materials and full discussion of all River Council business and activities. The membership of the Advisory Committee may be expanded or revised by the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council from time to time.

C. Community Participation

It is also recognized that other groups such as other county, state and federal agencies and private organizations have involvement and interest in activities in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. It is the intention of this Agreement that the River Council and Advisory Committee, as constituted, will interact with all other agencies interested in the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River to provide their participation in the management of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor, as appropriate, to best implement the Comprehensive Management and Local River Management Plans for the public and community at large.

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INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

D. Officers

The officers of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council shall be:

- (1) Chair
The Chair will preside at meetings of the Committee and supervise the general conduct of the Committee's meetings. The Chair will also serve as spokesperson for the Committee.
- (2) Vice Chair
The Vice Chair will conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform other duties as requested by the Chair.
- (3) Treasurer
The Treasurer will oversee the conduct of all financial matters of the River Council in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- (4) Secretary
The Secretary will see that all Council proceedings and documents are properly recorded and stored. The Secretary will also sign official documents of the Committee as necessary.

The Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the River Council and serve as an Executive Committee to organize activities of the Council.

E. Executive Director

The Council may appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Director's duties shall include:

- (1) Provide general coordination of all Council activities.
- (2) Prepare the agenda for all Council related meetings.
- (3) Provide for all administrative activities including preparation of correspondence, minutes, and other written materials; negotiation of contracts and any related administrative actions needed to effectively implement Council actions.
- (4) Prepare an annual budget for review.
- (5) Provide assistance in seeking funds for operating activities of the Council.
- (6) Provide contact with government agencies, private organizations and, as appropriate, to carry out the activities of the Council.
- (7) Perform such other related duties as requested by the Council.

The Executive Director may be compensated at a rate to be established annually by the budget.

F. Sub-Committees

The Council may create sub-committees, as needed, to undertake special activities. Sub-committees will initiate studies, complete investigations, prepare reports and drafts for the benefit of the full Council. Sub-committees will generally consist of three members but can be expanded depending upon need. The Chair of the full River Council will designate the Chair of any sub-committee. Sub-committees will also interact with other interested groups, as appropriate, to accomplish their objectives. Persons who are not members of the full Council can be designated as ex-officio members of sub-committees.



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INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

G. Meetings/Procedures

- (1) The Council will hold an annual meeting during the first week of May. Regular Council meetings will be held every two months or at the discretion of the Chair. Meetings will be open to the public with time designated for public comment. Notice of meetings of the Council shall be provided in accordance with the New Jersey Public Meetings Act. The presence of at least seven (7) members of the Council as defined in section III, (A) above shall constitute a quorum.
- (2) Matters requiring a vote shall have seven affirmative votes of Council members to be approved.
- (3) The conduct of meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules Of Order.

IV COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council are to assist in implementing the Great Egg Harbor River Comprehensive Management Plan and to preserve the resources of the river corridor. To accomplish these objectives, the Council will undertake activities including:

- (1) Present the Comprehensive Management Plan to municipal officials in the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor, other governmental officials and the public.
- (2) Provide direction and coordination in the implementation of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan.
- (3) Provide a forum for open discussion of water quality, water quantity, ground water, water supply and river corridor management issues.
- (4) Provide a vital communication link between the twelve municipalities and four counties for insuring that all river related planning activities are performed on a corridor-wide basis.
- (5) Provide technical assistance to the twelve municipalities in the watershed on water quality, water quantity and watershed management issues.
- (6) Establish a public education program to improve understanding of watershed management issues, particularly in the Great Egg Harbor River Conservation Zones.
- (7) Coordinate an on-going water quality, water quantity, and watershed monitoring program to document the ecological and hydrological condition of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.
- (8) Provide annual updates of water quality, water quantity, and watershed management activities in the designated river corridor.
- (9) Perform, coordinate and/or oversee scientific research projects on the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River and its watershed.
- (10) Update the Comprehensive Management Plan from time to time in cooperation with the

APPENDIX 4 - Partnership Agreement (Draft)

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INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

National Park Service as required and recommend these revisions and related regulatory measures for adoption by municipalities in the Great Egg Harbor River designated boundary.

- (11) Assist municipalities in updating Local River Management Plans to address resource protection needs.
- (12) Review compliance with Local River Management Plans.

V. BUDGET/FUNDING

The Executive Director will prepare an annual budget for review by the Executive Committee which will then present it to the full Council for adoption.

After adoption, the Executive Committee will be authorized to expend funds within the limits of budget appropriations.

The Council will seek funding from a variety of sources and develop methods of funding in order to successfully accomplish Council activities.

VI. TERM

This Intermunicipal Agreement shall have a term of five years beginning June 1, 2000. It shall be subject to renewal on June 1, 2005 in accordance with provisions of the New Jersey Interlocal Services Law and every five years thereafter.



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INTERMUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (Draft)

APPROVED BY:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Date</u>
Buena Vista Township	_____	_____
Corbin City	_____	_____
Egg Harbor Township	_____	_____
Estell Manor	_____	_____
Folsom Borough	_____	_____
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association	_____	_____
Hamilton Township	_____	_____
Town of Hammonton	_____	_____
Monroe Township	_____	_____
City of Somers Point	_____	_____
Upper Township	_____	_____
Weymouth Township	_____	_____
Winslow Township	_____	_____

Note: This Appendix was adapted from “Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement -II”; prepared by Nicholas Cameron, Former Chairman of Morris 2000.

APPENDIX 5

Guidelines for Water Resource Projects, Including Public Utilities, and Transportation and Recreational Facilities

Facilities providing transportation, energy resources, communications, water supply, waste disposal, education and recreation are critical public services provided to citizens living and working in, or visiting the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. However, if improperly located, designed, constructed or maintained, such facilities have the potential of destroying or severely damaging natural and cultural resource values and adversely affecting the quality of life within the corridor and watershed. The cumulative impact of multiple corridors and stream crossings can magnify these problems.

Section 7 Provisions

For these reasons, the United States Congress (in Section 7 of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90542, as amended), directed that within the boundaries of designated national wild and scenic rivers that the proposed location, design and construction of water resource projects, where any kind of federal assistance is provided, should be reviewed to determine if there is the potential of affecting the free-flowing character of wild, scenic or recreational rivers. The key terms are defined below:

Water Resources Project

Any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (FPA), or other construction of developments which would affect the free-flowing characteristics of a wild and scenic or congressionally authorized study river. In addition to projects, licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), water resources projects may also include: dams; water diversion projects; fisheries habitat and watershed restoration or enhancement projects; bridges and other roadway construction; bank stabilization projects; channelization projects; levee construction; recreation facilities such as boat ramps and fishing piers; and activities that require a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Federal Assistance

Any assistance by an authorizing agency before, during, or after construction. Such assistance may include, but is not limited to: a license, permit, preliminary permit, or other authorization granted by FERC; a license, permit or other authorization granted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Assistance also includes federal funding of project such as highways, roads and bridges, environmental and recreational facilities, community development activities, etc.

Free Flowing

Defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in section 16(b) as "existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway."

Procedures

The vast majority of these activities are subject also to review and approval by other federal, state and local agencies. No new permits are required under Section 7. However, the section does require that the federal agency assisting with the project consult with the national Park Service before a project is actually begun. Project proponents are encouraged to consult very early in the siting and project design process to avoid delays and costs associated with projects that cannot be approved under Section 7.

Section 7 states, in part, that no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license or otherwise in the construction of any water resource project that either:

- would have a direct and adverse impact on the values for which the river was established (for projects located on a designated river); in the case of the Great Egg Harbor River and its



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tributaries, this includes hydro-geology, water quality and quantity, certain botanical, fish and wildlife resources, and historic and cultural values; or

- invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife values present in the area at the time of designation (for projects above or below designated rivers, or on a non-designated tributary)

It is the intent of this Guideline to provide the National Park Service, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, the Great Egg Harbor River Council (once established), land owners and public service providers with better guidance on how to plan, review and provide such needed facilities in the future. The National Park Service should conduct its Section 7 reviews in consultation with affected federal, state and local agencies, as well as the Great Egg Harbor River Council and other appropriate citizens and organizations. Such review also will be conducted following the assessment procedures outlined in "Appendix C: Evaluation Procedures Under 'Direct and Adverse'" of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Reference Guide and the guidance which follows:

Review Criteria

Transportation, recreation and utility corridors and facilities, and other water resource projects, should be designed to protect the free flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values of the Great Egg Harbor River through application of the following:

- I. **Assessment of:**
 - A. Impacts on the free flowing character of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor
 - B. Impacts on the outstandingly remarkable values of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor for which the area was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
 - C. Effect on related environmental factors and ecological systems involved, including adjacent lands, waters, aesthetics, fisheries, recreational, floodplain, wildlife, vegetation, and historic and archeological values
 - D. Cumulative impacts
 - E. Alternatives available to the applicant
 - F. Secondary effects likely to be caused or encouraged by the project
 - G. Economic factors, including the need for resource protection measures in the approximate area in the future
 - H. Other relevant factors
- II. **In addition to the general assessments described above, the following specific items need to be considered.**
 - A. For all projects:
 1. The facility should be located to take advantage of existing topography and vegetation.

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2. The facility should be located, constructed and maintained so that it does not lead to accelerated bank erosion or degradation of streams and related resources.
 3. Removal of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation should be kept to a minimum, for the protection of water quality, fish, and wildlife habitat, visual quality and related values.
 4. Only minimal filling of wetlands and floodplains should occur.
 5. Construction should incorporate the use of materials that blend with the natural setting.
 6. During construction, strict erosion control measures should be taken to prevent sediment from reaching the river. Only minimal clearing of existing vegetation, clearing, grubbing and grading should be performed.
 7. The construction area should be restored to as natural a condition as possible immediately following construction.
 8. Following construction, special measures may be needed to restore the natural appearance of the area, stabilize river banks, discourage damaging off-road vehicle or other recreational use, or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
 9. Materials used for bank stabilization following construction should maintain and enhance the natural and aesthetic qualities of the Wild and Scenic River area.
 10. Biodegradable materials such as burlap, jute netting or blankets made from coconut fiber should be used to hold vegetative plantings in conjunction with slope stabilization and other erosion and sedimentation control measures.
 11. Specifications regarding stabilization efforts and revegetation should be consistent with the goals of maintaining stream width as near as possible to the original width, and to provide early revegetation of the area
 12. If revegetation is required within the riparian forest buffer, native plant materials commonly found in that area should be used.
 13. The time and method of planting native vegetation should occur in a manner that ensures maximum survival and growth of plant species.
 14. Work should be performed at the time of year when the stream is experiencing low flow conditions to minimize impacts to fish and macroinvertebrate populations.
- B. For corridors and rights-of-way:**
1. Planning for new right-of-way should identify existing nearby rights-of-way which the proposed facility might share or be located adjacent to.
 2. Establishment of new corridors should anticipate future needs in that area, and attempt to accommodate those needs, so that additional future intrusions into designated areas will be minimized.



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3. The narrowest width right-of-way necessary to facilitate construction and maintenance of the facility should be used.
4. The low points of approach on the corridor should be far enough landward of the water's edge to direct runoff to a vegetated area away from any stream.
5. Upon reaching the riparian forest buffer during clearing operations for overhead transmission or communication lines, tall growing tree species may selectively be removed. Shrubs, low-growing tree species with a mature height of less than 20 feet, and other vegetation should be left as natural as possible.
6. Management of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation for maintenance of all rights-of-way should be done manually in the riparian forest buffer. However, appropriate herbicides may be applied by hand to stumps of selectively cut trees, where establishing and maintaining a low growing shrub community in this zone will further the objectives of the wild and scenic river designation. Selective hand application of certain pesticides to control insect or disease infestations is acceptable.

C. Stream Crossings

1. Bridge and culvert structures. In order to safeguard the free-flowing character of designated streams and protect scenic, recreational and fish and wildlife values:
 - a. Bridges should be:
 1. Clear-span structures (means spanning the entire width of the waterway, and having no piers, piles, abutments or other structures located below the high water mark).
 2. Low profile, and constructed of materials which blend with the natural surroundings as much as feasible
 3. Where watercraft and/or fisherman passage is required, a vertical clearance of 5 feet between the high watermark and the bottom of the bridge is desired.
 - b. Culverts should provide for a natural streambed under the structure, either by using a bottomless structure or by recessing the culvert bottom a minimum of 12 inches below the stream bottom.
 - c. There should be no reduction of the total waterway area passing through the bridge or culvert.
2. The stream should be crossed by a method which minimizes disruption to the streambed. Streams should be crossed at the point and time least damaging to fishery resources and aquatic organisms and generally at right angles.
3. If aerial crossings are used, they should be designed to accommodate safe recreational use of the river in addition to protection of the streambanks.
4. A single-span stream crossing is preferred wherever possible, maintaining proper vertical clearance over the waterway and proper structure height for minimal adverse visual impact.

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5. Underground installation is preferred for all new utility lines except; power lines of greater than 35KV; where new lines are to be placed on existing poles, towers or bridges; or where burying is proven to be feasible because of geological constraints.
6. Directional boring will be the preferred method of crossing stream channels. Open cut construction across the stream is discouraged, except for large diameter installations such as a sewer or water main.
7. Towers and poles should be removed when elimination of existing aboveground facilities occurs.
8. The width of the streambed should not be altered.

D. Other Structures

Except as provided for in B and C above, structures associated with water resource projects should be located in such a manner as to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. Generally, the following should be observed:

1. Follow all general provisions outlined in A above.
2. Meet setback and other siting guidelines described in *Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans for the Great Egg Harbor River*, Local Zoning Ordinances, and the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan



APPENDIX 6

Regulatory Programs

Resource Focus: Water Quality

Federal

Clean Water Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

The Clean Water Act of 1977 provides, among other things, that "fishable/swimmable" waters wherever attainable shall be the objective of national policy. It provides the directives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. In 1994 the State of New Jersey was approved to assume authority of the Section 404 permit program

Federal Water Pollution Act of 1972, U.S.C. 1988 Title 33 SS. 1251 et seq.

The purpose of this Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. In order to achieve this objective, the Congress recognizes that it is a national goal to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters; wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provides for recreation on the waters of the nation. It is a national policy that area-wide waste treatment management planning processes be developed and implemented to assure adequate control of sources of pollutants in each state and that federal financial assistance be provided to construct publicly owned waste treatment works.

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, Section 502(a) (92 Stat. 3467)

Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act established the Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey. Through this legislation a partnership among local, state and federal governments and the private sector was established for the specific purpose of protecting, preserving and enhancing the land and water resources of the Pinelands Area. The development of a Comprehensive Management Plan was authorized, and a mechanism to provide financial assistance for the acquisition of lands in the Pinelands area that have critical ecological values was established.

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10)

This Act regulates waterways and wetlands, through permits, the discharge of dredge and fill material into U.S. waters (including wetlands) Any individual, company, corporation or government body planning construction or fill activities in waters of the United States, including wetlands, must obtain a federal permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers

State of New Jersey

Clean Water Act

Assumed responsibility for the Section 404 permit program under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The State of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection is the lead agency for regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material into certain waters/wetlands under the CWA, as well as its own individual and general permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill material into State regulated waters within its jurisdiction.

Flood Hazard Area Control Act of 1962, N.J.S.A. 58:16a-66 et seq.

To delineate flood hazard areas, review and process stream encroachment applications in accordance with program regulations.

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Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act of 1987, N.J.S.A. 13:9B-23 et seq.

The purpose of the Act is to preserve the purity and integrity of the state's remaining wetlands by expanding the state's jurisdiction beyond tidal waters and providing a basis for assuming responsibility for the federal program.

Safe Drinking Water Act, N.J.S.A. 58:12A-1, et seq.

The Act regulates pollutants in drinking water supplies, and empowers DEP to promulgate and enforce regulations to purify drinking water prior to distribution and to assume primary enforcement under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act through the imposition of primary and secondary drinking water standards, limits on hazardous contaminants in drinking water, and standards for construction of public water systems.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, N.J.A.C.7:50

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan establishes minimum requirements for Pinelands municipalities located within the Pinelands Area.

The Wetlands Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1, et seq.

Authorizes the Commissioner of DEP to regulate activities in coastal wetlands by issuing, revising, or repealing orders that form the basis for issuing permits.

Water Pollution Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 to 58:10A-37 et seq.

To facilitate restoration and maintenance of unpolluted surface and ground waters of the state.

Water Quality Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11A-2 to 58:11A-11 et seq.

To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of New Jersey.

Resource Focus: Natural Resources

Federal

Architectural Barriers Act of 1969; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 4151, et. Seq; 29 U.S.C. 701, et. Seq; P.L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327
Provides access to all public places for persons with disabilities and ensures that all facilities and programs are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990, as amended; Sec. 118 (42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq. & 42 U.S.C. 7609)

Establishes standards to protect and improve air quality. Authority for air quality delegated to States. Requires project conformity with State Implementation Plan concerning air quality. Sec. 118 requires Federal land managers to protect air quality on Federal land.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.

The Act provides a means to ensure that endangered and threatened species are conserved and protected and that their continued survival is ensured. The Act mandates that all federal agencies will take action to ensure that their activities do not jeopardize endangered species or habitats critical to their survival.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201-4209)

Minimizes impacts on farmland and maximizes compatibility with state and local farmland programs and policies.

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs



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Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-666)

Requires early coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service whenever water resources are involved.
Applies to projects that affect water resources

General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 U.S.C.1)

Affirmed that all national park areas, including historic sites, while acknowledged to be "distinct in character," were "united through their interrelated purposes and resources into one national park system, as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage."

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347 *et seq.*

Section 102 of the Act directs that "to the fullest extent possible: the policies, regulations and public laws of the U.S. shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this Act, and all agencies of the Federal Government shall "...insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate considerations in decision-making along with economic and technical considerations."

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; Sec. 106 and Sec. 110 (16 U.S.C. 470 & 36 CFR 800)

To protect and preserve districts, sites and structures and architectural, archaeological and cultural resources. Sec. 106 requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, Section 502(a) (92 Stat. 3467)

Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act established the Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey. Through this legislation a partnership among local, state and federal governments and the private sector was established for the specific purpose of protecting, preserving and enhancing the land and water resources of the Pinelands Area. The development of a Comprehensive Management Plan was authorized, and a mechanism to provide financial assistance for the acquisition of lands in the Pinelands area that have critical ecological values was established.

National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 (16U.S.C.1-4, *et seq.*)

To promote and regulate the use of national parks, monuments, and reservations, by such means and measures as to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the land in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

National Wild and Scenic River Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287

Certain selected rivers of the nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Sec 4(f) (49 U.S.C. 303, Subtitle I)

Preserves publicly owned parkland, waterfowl and wildlife refuges and significant historic sites. Requires the Secretary of Transportation to consider all prudent and feasible alternatives to impacting such lands.

State of New Jersey

Coastal Area Facilities Review Act, N.J.S.A. 13:13-1 to 13:19-21 *et seq.*

To create a balanced set of land use policies in New Jersey's coastal areas, including its bays, channels, beaches, intertidal, and near shore areas.

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs

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Endangered and Non-Game Species Act, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1 to 23A-13 et Seq.

Endangered wildlife indigenous to New Jersey that are found to be endangered should be accorded special protection in order to maintain them and, to the extent possible, to enhance their numbers. Through the Act (in extreme cases) the State of New Jersey can resort to condemnation procedures when it feels that proposed development poses a detrimental risk to endangered wildlife species.

Municipal Conservation Commission Act, N.J.S.A. 58:16A-50 to 16A-66 et seq.

The Act allows environmental commissions to acquire and administer property by gift, grant, bequest, or lease. This statute also allows for the creation of joint environmental commissions by municipal ordinance. In view of the disparity in zoning practices from one municipality to another, this statutory device holds promise for joint action to preserve and protect common environmental elements by monitoring use and development.

Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-2 to 40:55D-20 et seq.

The legislation is intended to provide sufficient space in appropriate locations for a variety of agricultural, residential, recreational, commercial, and industrial uses, as well as open spaces, according to their respective environmental requirements. The statute encourages planning boards to design a conservation plan that provides for the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, fisheries, endangered or threatened species, and other natural resources.

Natural Area Systems Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1B-15.4 to 13:1B-15.12a10 et seq.

This Act calls for a system to control significant natural areas in the State of New Jersey. To date there are forty-one areas encompassing 27,000 acres that are presently held by the state under the Natural Areas System Act. The Act allows any individual or organization to suggest a potential natural area to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or to the Natural Areas Council; this could allow for protection of a river area which contains endangered species and rare plants, fish and wildlife.

NJ State Planning Commission Act, N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 to 52:18A-205 et seq.

The significance of this Act rests upon the fact that this is the only statewide planning mechanism in New Jersey; the purpose is to integrate and coordinate state planning to conserve natural resources.

New Jersey Wild and Scenic River Act, N.J.S.A. 13:8-45 to 13:8-63 et seq.

The purpose is to preserve and protect New Jersey rivers, together with adjacent land areas possessing outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, floral, historic, cultural, or similar values that are a public trust.

New Jersey Environmental Rights Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:35A-1 et seq.

This Act allows any person to maintain an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against any other person to enforce or to restrain the violation of any statute, regulation, or ordinance which is designed to prevent or minimize pollution.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, N.J.S.A. 4:29-39 et seq.

All major land development activities must be carried out with regard to the control of soil erosion and sedimentation. The Act calls for the creation of land use regulations within districts in order to conserve soil resources, while preventing and controlling soil erosion.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, N.J.A.C.7:50

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan establishes minimum requirements for Pinelands municipalities located within the Pinelands Area.

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs



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Resource Focus: Historic and Cultural

Federal

Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 469-469c)

Requires survey, recovery and preservation of significant scientific, prehistorical, historical, archaeological or paleontological data when such data may be destroyed to due a federal project. Directs federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the Interior whenever they find that such a project may cause loss or damage.

Archeological Resources Protection Act, P.L. 96-95 Stat. 721

To meet an urgent need to provide greater protection for archeological resources on federally controlled public lands and on Indian lands, Congress enacted Public Law 96-95. It was signed into law on October 31, 1979. The Act has two fundamental purposes: "to protect irreplaceable archeological resources on public lands and Indian lands which are subject to loss or destruction from actions of persons who would excavate, remove, damage, alter or deface them for commercial or personal reasons; and to increase communications and the exchange of information among government authorities, the professional archeological community, collectors, Native Americans and the general public toward the goal of protecting and conserving archeological resources nationwide."

National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470-471

This Act provides for the protection and enhancement of sites associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history; or are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master; or otherwise have high artistic or specific historic value.

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, Section 502(a) (92 Stat. 3467)

Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act established the Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey. Through this legislation a partnership among local, state and federal governments and the private sector was established for the specific purpose of protecting, preserving and enhancing the land and water resources of the Pinelands Area. The development of a Comprehensive Management Plan was authorized, and a mechanism to provide financial assistance for the acquisition of lands in the Pinelands area that have critical ecological values was established.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. SS 3001, 3002

The regulations set forth by this Act develop a systematic process of determining the rights of lineal descendants and members of Indian Tribes to certain Native American human remains and cultural items with which they are affiliated. These regulations include procedures related to the intentional excavation and inadvertent discovery of human remains or cultural items from federal or Tribal lands.

State of New Jersey

National Historic Preservation Act

Requires the NJ Historic Preservation Office to review projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for projects with federal funding, permitting, licensing, etc.

NJSA 13:1B.128

Establishes the State Register of Historic Places

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs

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NJSA 13:1B-15.131

Requires state, county or municipality determination of whether any of their undertakings encroach upon state Register properties and, if so, to provide information on the project to the Commissioner of DEP. All State Register encroachment projects require authorization from the Commissioner of DEP.

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, N.J.A.C.7:50

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan establishes minimum requirements for Pinelands municipalities located within the Pinelands Area.

Non-Regulatory Protection Programs

State of New Jersey

Green Acres Program of the Department of Environmental Protection

The Green Acres Program was created in 1961 to meet New Jersey's growing recreation and conservation needs. In the first Green Acres bond referendum, the legislature declared that "the provision of lands for public recreation and conservation of natural resources promotes public health, prosperity and general welfare and is a proper responsibility of the government." Over the years, New Jersey's voters have overwhelmingly approved nine bond issues totaling more than \$1.4 billion. As a result, the State of New Jersey has acquired or assisted municipalities and nonprofit conservation organizations to acquire over 337,000 acres of open space.

New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program

In 1981, New Jersey established the Farmland Preservation Program. The primary purpose of the program is to enhance the agricultural industry by purchasing development rights on farmland and sharing with farmers the cost of soil and water conservation practices. Well-managed farmland provides environmental amenities through the protection of aquifer recharge areas, pastoral and rural landscapes and wildlife habitat.

New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan "Communities of Place," 1992

The development of this plan for the State of New Jersey was a result of the response to shifting development patterns and the aging of its urban infrastructure. Since 1950, hundreds of thousands of acres of rural and agricultural lands have been converted to sprawling subdivisions: a pattern of development that destroys the character of the cultural landscape, is inefficient in terms of public facilities and services, and devoid of the sense of place that has long defined the character of life in New Jersey. Worse still, sprawl generates more vehicle miles of travel than more compact forms of development.

In 1985, the New Jersey Legislature adopted the State Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et seq.). In the Act, the legislature declared that the State of New Jersey needs sound and integrated "statewide planning to conserve its natural resources, revitalize its urban centers, protect the quality of its environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal..." The state plan is not a regulation but a policy for state, regional, and local agencies to use when exercising their delegated authority.

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs



APPENDIX 6

New Jersey Trails Plan

The 1996 plan is a major component of New Jersey's State Trails Program efforts, with the purpose of preserving and expanding trails and trail systems throughout the state by incorporating these as part of a State Trails System, and providing a planning guide for establishing trails. In the Great Egg Harbor River corridor, the Estell Manor Atlantic County Park Trail System was found eligible for inclusion in the New Jersey Trail System. In addition, 16 miles of Pine Barrens waters from Penny Pot to Lake Lenape (sections within the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor) were found to be eligible waterways for the state system.

Statewide Watershed Management Framework Document For the State of New Jersey - Draft

The January 1997 draft plan defines the geographic boundaries that will be used to target and focus statewide and regional watershed management activities. It also provides an implementation schedule and begins a process for coordinating and integrating existing NJDEP programs for the implementation of statewide watershed management activities and for achieving the water resource goals, objectives and milestones developed under the National Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) and articulated in the NJ 1996 Performance Partnership Agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

APPENDIX 6 - Regulatory Programs

APPENDIX 7

HPC - F98 - 70



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Philadelphia Support Office
U. S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

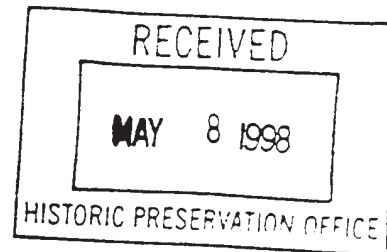
98-1170 DF

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L32(PHSO/S&P-C)

MAY 3 - 1998

James F. Hall
State Historic Preservation Officer
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
CN-402, 401 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625



Dear Mr. Hall:

The National Park Service, in partnership with a planning committee and local citizens, prepared the enclosed draft Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River, a locally managed unit of the National Park System.

Because there are a number of historic places located along the 129 mile river corridor, this draft Comprehensive Management Plan is being submitted for review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The CMP is conceptual in nature, with its main component being the development of a management structure that addresses the long term protection requirements of the 129 mile designated river corridor. Goals and strategies for addressing identified issues are listed in the CMP; however, any activities undertaken will be the responsibility of the recommended River Council, as well as local and state governments. The National Park Service is limited by legislation to working in the river corridor through Cooperative Agreements and will continue its role as facilitator and advisor. We find that this CMP will have "no effect" upon any National Register properties at this time and request your concurrence in this finding.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of this plan, please contact Mary Vavra, Program Manager, at (215) 597-9175. Please forward your Section 106 comments and concerns to Mary directly.

APPENDIX 7 - Section 106 Concurrence Letter



APPENDIX 7

Thank you for your sustained support and participation in the Northeast Region's Historic Preservation Program.

Sincerely,

J. Keith Everett
Superintendent

Enclosure

Concurrence in finding of "no effect."

New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer

6-15-98

Date

APPENDIX 8

Guidelines for Local River Management Plans Summary

The ultimate protection of the Great Egg Harbor River corridor is the responsibility of the twelve municipalities through which the river and tributaries flow. Each municipality is responsible for preparing Local River Management Plans which are the foundation for resource protection. To help in developing these plans, Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans was published in 11/96 through the efforts of the Great Egg Harbor Planning Committee. The Guidelines offered recommendations for a consistent approach to river management planning along the river and suggested, at a minimum, that each municipality delineate boundaries, identify compatible uses, and establish local management practices to protect and enhance the values that made the river eligible for designation.

The following recommendations for each municipality were made in the Guidelines:

- Incorporate the Goals for River Management Developed through the Wild and Scenic River Study outlined in the Comprehensive Management Plan;
- Identify the important river-related resources in each municipality;
- Delineate a "River Conservation Zone" boundary;
- Each municipality should actively participate on the Management Planning Committee to develop management policies for inter-municipal river issues;
- Establish a land use program for the river conservation zone which reflects the community's values and protects river resource. Recommendations for the land use program were as follows:
 - a. Identify compatible/Incompatible Land Uses
 - b. Use vegetative buffers: A vegetational buffer composed of indigenous species should be maintained parallel to the mean high water line for a width of not less than 50'. This is the line formed by the intersection of the tidal plane of mean high water with the shore.
 - c. Employ Setbacks:
 - (1) buildings and septic systems
 - Minimum building and septic system setbacks should be 300' measured from the mean high water line.
 - Septic systems are to be constructed as per the Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems and Pinelands Commission regulations.
 - When existing aging/or inadequate on-lot septic systems are replaced, or when a home is for sale, residents must conform to current statutes and regulations, as appropriate
 - (2) River Frontage: A minimum river frontage of 300' should be required



APPENDIX 8

for all compatible and conditional uses.

(3) Minimum Lot Sizes: A minimum lot size of 5 acres per unit is recommended.

(4) Clearing of Vegetation: Between the required 50' buffer of indigenous vegetation and the 300' setback for construction, no more than 20% of the area may be cleared, with reduction to 10% for slopes over 15% in grade. Replanting of ornamental species should not constitute adequate mitigation for exceeding this requirement. Rules regarding wetlands should be adhered to.

(5) Cluster Development:

- Provide the option of cluster development as appropriate action. This development should be consistent with Pinelands regulations, notably N.J.A.C. 7:50-5:19 which establishes general requirements for cluster development, and N.J.A.C. 7:50-5:23(c), 7:50-5:24(a)3, and 7:50-5.268 which provide for cluster development in forest, agricultural, and rural development areas.

- Consider limiting the number of lots for residential use (such as: the creation of 3 or more lots for residential use, whether or not constituting a major subdivision, or construction of 3 or more dwelling units within a 5 year period from or on a property or set of contiguous properties in common ownership).

(6) Building Heights: The maximum height of principal structures should be 35 feet or less. Exceptions include structures necessary for farming such as barns, water and grain towers, and windmills. Other uses may be considered on a case by case basis, depending on local zoning ordinances.

(7) Wetland Protection: Local governments should provide complementary measures which would minimize the potential for wetland disturbance from upstream and adjacent upland sources. Important considerations for this effort should address overall housing densities and natural vegetation filter strips for surface runoff produced by development activities.

(8) Control of Nonpoint Source Water Pollution:

(a) Stormwater Pollution:

- The best approach to control non-point pollution is to attempt to adjust the land use practices which would result in adverse runoff. Important considerations in this approach include natural vegetation filter strips, building densities, river lot frontage, and the amount of clearing of natural vegetation on a building lot.

APPENDIX 8

- Municipalities need to begin by examining and revising their zoning ordinances and subdivision and site review procedures to guide development in ways which are compatible with the natural features of the area. Regulations which can be imposed by zoning ordinances are varied. Clustering, impervious surface restrictions, setbacks, special use permits, design and performance standards, protection areas and overlay districts are but some of the possible zoning provisions which can be used to protect water quality.

- No more than 10% of a small lot (under 5 acres) should be covered with surfaces impervious to water, including buildings and pavement. For larger lots, impervious surface coverage should be less than 10%. Acceptable substitutes, such as gravel, should be considered. Areas covered under the Coastal Areas Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) should be consistent with guidelines for areas in the coastal zone.

- Clearing of vegetation for building purposes should be limited to 20% of lot area, with a reduction to 10% for slopes over 15% in grade.

- Ensure such controls are in effect throughout the River Conservation Zone.

- Continuing education programs and workshops can be conducted at local colleges. Programs on the NJ Dept. Of Environmental Protection Best Management Practices manual, water conservation, and freshwater wetlands should be offered to residents, developers, municipal engineers, public work officials, local officials, NJ DOT, Atlantic City Expressway Authority, and soil conservation districts.

(b) Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution: Each municipality must assess the agricultural activities that exist in their community and determine which best Management Practices (BMPs) would be most appropriate. Agricultural lands include: cropland, irrigated cropland; range and pasture; orchards; permanent hayland; specialty crop production; and nursery crop production.

(c) Erosion and Sedimentation Control: Use the Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, prepared by the NJ Dept. Of Agriculture, and consider the following factors:

- Plant cover should be maintained to help prevent erosion;

APPENDIX 8 - Summary of Guidelines for Local River Management Plans



APPENDIX 8

- Limit erosion and sedimentation from construction on steep slopes since land cleared is prone to excessive soil erosion and sediment runoff. To avoid these problems, locate principal structures on slopes of 15 percent or less. Alternatively, a professional engineer's plan will help to minimize problems associated with erosion and sedimentation on steep slopes. Ensure such controls are in effect throughout the River Conservation Zone.

(9) Protection of Upland Habitat: Design a River Conservation Zone large enough to protect upland habitats from over-development.

(10) Aquifer and Groundwater

- All plans and land use ordinances for municipalities in the Pinelands are required to comply with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan

- The potential impacts of increased ground water withdrawals on the aquifer and freshwater wetlands by using the aquifer within the watershed area as a source of water supply needs to be considered.

(11) Dock and Bulkhead Regulations:

- Municipalities need to address the negative visual impacts that an accumulation of docks may cause along the rivers, especially in the areas designated as scenic. In addition, municipalities should address the potential environmental hazards associated with some dock construction materials.

- The creation of a comprehensive marina policy is important to river corridor protection. Concentrated development is preferable to continued proliferation of individual docks along the river.

(12) Sign Regulations: All signs should be in compliance with NJAC 7:50-6.106 through 109 (Pinelands Mandatory and Suggested Provisions for Signs)

(13) Landscape Regulations: Employ landscape regulations to help preserve and enhance shorelines by protecting existing trees and plants and requiring use of native trees and plants for new plantings.

(14) Overlay Zoning: Overlay zoning should be a technique for consideration in the River Conservation Zone which will allow for

APPENDIX 8

the protection of specific land areas, such as riverfront, while considering all land uses currently permitted. This method provides extensive and legal land use control without requiring municipal ownership.

(15) Performance Zoning: This type of zoning ties permitted development densities to a specific amount of developable land within a given site.

(16) Recreational Opportunities:

- Scenic areas are the most undeveloped portions of the river corridor. Intensive use recreation facilities in these segments should be prohibited by local zoning ordinances. In some cases, intensive recreation facilities may be permitted in recreational areas provided there is direct access by two-lane highway.

- There should be public and commercial use control strategies employed for river corridor protection

- Site disturbance during construction should be limited. Trees and shrubs should be retained to keep the facility hidden from view. River bank access should be controlled to limit erosion. Road access must be adequate and safe. The proposed facility also must comply with state health regulations.

- Campground and recreational vehicle parks located within the Pinelands should be consistent with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. NJAC 7:50-5:23 specifies that campgrounds cannot exceed a density of one campsite per gross acre in forest areas, or if clustered, a net density of 10 campsites per acre. Campgrounds are not allowed in agricultural production areas per NJAC 7:50-5:24

- In areas outside of the Pinelands, campground and recreational vehicle parks should not exceed 8 sites per acres for recreational vehicle camping or 10 sites per acre for tent camping. A minimum of 10 acres of land should be required to establish any recreational vehicle campground, with a 5 acre minimum for tent campgrounds.



APPENDIX 9

FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES IN NEW JERSEY



An **ENDANGERED** species is any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

A **THREATENED** species is any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
FISHES	Shortnose sturgeon*	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E
REPTILES	Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	T
	Atlantic Ridley turtle*	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	E
	Green turtle*	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T
	Hawksbill turtle*	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	E
	Leatherback turtle*	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E
	Loggerhead turtle*	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	T
BIRDS	American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	E
	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T
	Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T
	Roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	E
MAMMALS	Eastern cougar	<i>Felis concolor cougar</i>	E+
	Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E
	Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E+
	Delmarva fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger cinereus</i>	E+
	Blue whale*	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	E
	Finback whale*	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	E
	Humpback whale*	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	E
	Right whale*	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>	E
	Sei whale*	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	E
	Sperm whale*	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	E

Revised 2/98

APPENDIX 9 - Federally Listed Endangered & Threatened Species and Ecological Critical Data Sheets

APPENDIX 9

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
INVERTEBRATES	Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E
	Northeastern beach tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</i>	T
	Mitchell saytr butterfly	<i>Neonympha m. mitchellii</i>	E+
	American burying beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	E+
PLANTS	Small whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	E
	Swamp pink	<i>Helonias bullata</i>	T
	Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	T+
	Knieskern's beaked-rush	<i>Rhynchospora knieskernii</i>	T
	American chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E
	Sensitive joint-verch	<i>Aeschynomene virginica</i>	T
	Sea-beach pigweed	<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	T+

STATUS:			
E	endangered species	PE	proposed endangered
T	threatened species	PT	proposed threatened
+	presumed extirpated		

* Except for sea turtle nesting habitat, principal responsibility for these species is vested with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Note: for a complete listing of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, refer to 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12.

For further information, please contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 New Jersey Field Office
 927 N. Main Street, Building D
 Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
 Phone: (609) 646-9310
 Fax: (609) 646-0352



APPENDIX 9



FEDERAL CANDIDATE SPECIES IN NEW JERSEY



CANDIDATE SPECIES are species that appear to warrant consideration for addition to the federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Although these species receive no substantive or procedural protection under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages federal agencies and other planners to give consideration to these species in the environmental planning process.

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Bog asphodel	<i>Narthecium americanum</i>

Note: For complete listings of taxa under review as candidate species, refer to Federal Register Vol. 62, No. 182, September 19, 1997 (Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species).

Revised 10/97

APPENDIX 9

Ecological Critical Area Data Sheets

Critical Areas

Critical Areas Criteria

Critical Areas	Linkages or corridors	Unique or exceptional ecosystem	Pristine aquatic communities	Headwater	Nationally endangered and threatened plant or animal species	Diversity of vegetation types within a given area	Nationally proposed or under review plant or animal species	State endangered, threatened, declining, or undetermined plant or animal species	Representative vegetation types	Outliers, disjuncts, or relict species	Species at the limits of their range - N.S.E.W.	Restricted and endemic species	Breeding areas – nesting, spawning	Overwintering concentrations	Migratory stopover areas	Areas of scientific interest and research	Oldest, largest or exceptional individuals
1 Lower Gr. Egg Harbor River													X	X			
1.1 Lower Gr. Egg Harbor River						X		X					X	X			
2 Lakes Creek								2									
3 English Creek														X			
3.1 Flat Creek													X				
3.2 Nell Run													X				
4 Middle River	X								X				X				
4.1 Grissom Creek	X								X				X				
4.2 Hawkins Creek	X			X					X				X				
4.3 Charley Creek	X								X				X				
4.4 Peters Creek	X								X				X				
4.5 Abrams Creek	X								X				X				
5 Gibson Creek					X			X					X				
5.1 Jackson Creek																	
6 Powell Creek																	
7 Mathews Run																	
8 Stephen Creek				X									X				
8.1 Stephen Lake				X									X				
8.2 James Branch								2					2				
9 Cave Run																	
10 South River				X									2	X			
10.1 South River	X			X				3					2				
10.2 Cedar Branch				X									X	X			
11 Mity Run													X	X			

Legend

- X The criterion applies to the critical area.
- 2 Two species from the criterion are found in the critical area
- 3 Three species from the criterion are found in the critical area

Excerpted from the N.J. Pinelands
Critical Areas Study (1980)

APPENDIX 9

Ecological Critical Area Data Sheets

Critical Areas	Critical Areas Criteria																
	Linkages or corridors	Unique or exceptional ecosystem	Pristine aquatic communities	Headwater	Nationally endangered and threatened plant or animal species	Diversity of vegetation types within a given area	Nationally proposed or under review plant or animal species	State endangered, threatened, declining, or undetermined plant or animal species	Representative vegetation types	Outliers, disjuncts, or relict species	Species at the limits of their range - N.S.E.W.	Restricted and endemic species	Breeding areas – nesting, spawning	Overwintering concentrations	Migratory stopover areas	Areas of scientific interest and research	Oldest, largest or exceptional individuals
1 Tuckahoe River	X					X		2	X								
1.1 Tuckahoe River			X		X		X					X	X				
1.2 Tuckahoe River			X		X		4			2			X				
2 Cedar Swamp Creek												2					
3 Halfway Creek	X							X				2					
4 Flat Creek	X				X			X				2					
4.1 Mirey Run	X							X									
5 Mill Creek	X				X							X					
5.1 Black Run	X																
6 Warners Mill Stream																	
7 M ^c Neals Branch								X									
7.1 Pole Bridge Branch				X													
8 Tarklin Brook				X	X			X					X				
9 Green Branch				X	X			X									
10 Sharps Branch				X			2										

Legend

- X The criterion applies to the critical area.
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Excerpted from the NJ Pinelands
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APPENDIX 9

Ecological Critical Area Data Sheets

Critical Areas

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1 Upper Great Egg Harbor River	X								X								
1.1 Upper Great Egg Harbor River	X		X			X	X	3	X		3		X				
1.2 Upper Great Egg Harbor River	X					X	X	X	X		X		X				
1.3 Upper Great Egg Harbor River									X				X				
1.4 Upper Great Egg Harbor River			X		X	X		X			X						
2 Watering Race Branch				X													
3 Dry Run				X				X			X						
4 Mare Run	X																
5 Big Ditch	X			X		X			X				X				
6 Deep Run	X																
7 Little Mill Creek	X	X		X		X		X	X		X		X				
7.1 Makepeace Lake	X		X	X		X							X				
7.2 Makepeace Stream	X		X			X		X									
8 Indian Branch	X																
9 Hospitality Branch		X		X		X		X									
9.1 Three Pond Branch				X		X		X									
9.2 Marsh Lake-M ^c Carthus Lake				X		X		X									
9.3 White Oak Branch																	
9.4 Faraway Branch		X		X		X		X					X				
9.5 Whitehall Branch																	
9.6 Timber Lakes				X													
9.7 Oakland Branch																	
10 Penny Pot Stream	X					X		X			X		X				
11 Big Bridge Branch				X													

Legend

- X The criterion applies to the critical area.
- 2 Two species from the criterion are found in the critical area
- 3 Three species from the criterion are found in the critical area

Excerpted from the NJ Pinelands
Critical Areas Study (1980)

APPENDIX 9

Ecological Critical Area Data Sheets

Critical Areas

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12 Squankum Branch			X				X	X			X						
12.1 Hedges Branch																	
13 Ducks Nest Stream																	
14 Fourmile Branch				X													

Legend

- X The criterion applies to the critical area.
- 2 Two species from the criterion are found in the critical area
- 3 Three species from the criterion are found in the critical area

Excerpted from the NJ Pinelands Critical Areas Study (1980)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 13 1999

Mr. J. Keith Everett, Superintendent
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Class EC-2

Dear Mr. Everett:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the second draft of the Comprehensive Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (CMP EIS) (CEQ No. 990287), for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River (River) (129 miles), through Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden, and Cape May Counties in New Jersey. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat. 1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-536, which designated segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries in New Jersey as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. As such, the National Park Service (NPS), has responsibility for managing the river segments through cooperative agreements with the twelve political jurisdictions through which the River passes. Section 3 (d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) requires preparation and implementation of a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for protection of the river values. The draft EIS presents the CMP for the River, and evaluates four management alternatives for its implementation.

The CMP provides appropriate recommendations to protect the Great Egg Harbor River environmental resources. It includes such actions as: development of a watershed management plan, establishment of wildlife corridors, local and state acquisition of Pinelands critical areas, water quality monitoring, minimization of impacts from commercial operations, limiting public access to the River, carrying out impact studies, water quality monitoring, development of emergency management procedures, education and outreach, and enforcement of various land use restrictions.

The four management alternatives for implementation of the CMP evaluated in the draft EIS are: Alternative I, no action (management by local, county and state governments with limited NPS involvement, and no overall coordination); Alternative II, establishment of an Advisory Council within the Atlantic County Government; Alternative III, management by NPS; and Alternative IV, establishment of a River Council under the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

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APPENDIX 10

COMMENT

2

(GEHWA). All of the alternatives recognize that primary river corridor protection rests with municipal zoning and compliance with the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Alternative IV is identified as the preferred alternative because the Great Egg Harbor River Council would be established under the existing GEHWA, which has a history of involvement with the River. In addition, according to the document, Alternative IV would provide the strongest partnership and the most resources for implementing the CMP.

Under the preferred management plan, NPS will work cooperatively with the River Council, other federal agencies, and the State to assure proper implementation of the CMP. The River Council will comprise one representative appointed by the Mayor from each of the twelve municipalities, and one member from the GEHWA. The Council will receive input from a representative from each County, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Pinelands Commission, and the NPS. The River Council will undertake activities for implementing the CMP, such as, ensuring that all river related planning activities are performed on a corridor-wide basis, providing technical assistance on water quality and watershed management issues, and coordinating an on-going water quality, water quantity, and watershed monitoring program. In addition, the Council will assist municipalities in updating Local River Management Plans to address resource protection needs, and provide a public education program to improve understanding of watershed management issues.

In concept, we agree that Alternative IV is the most acceptable mechanism for implementing the CMP. However, according to the draft EIS, this alternative will require \$255,000 to be implemented; this amount is expected to go down over time, as the River Council becomes established. Unfortunately, Public Law 102-536 restricts funding to \$70,000 per year for the purpose of NPS planning assistance and review. Accordingly, the final EIS must discuss realistic alternative funding sources to ensure the full implementation of Alternative IV. In a related matter, Alternative IV, as presented, is viable only if the GEHWA continues to exist. While we do not believe that GEHWA's continued existence is in question, we believe that it would be prudent to develop a contingency plan to ensure the continuation of the River Council in the unlikely event that the GEHWA ceases to exist.

Furthermore, in order to monitor the effectiveness of the preferred alternative's environmental impacts, EPA suggests that the final CMP EIS include a section detailing a plan for a periodic assessment of the River Council's implementation of the CMP's recommendations. This plan should include the criteria to perform this assessment, and a plan for a process to address any problems that may be identified. Costs associated with this monitoring plan will have to be included in the cost summary of all alternatives.

In conclusion, based on our review and in accordance with EPA policy, we have rated this draft EIS an EC-2 indicating that we have concerns about timely implementation of the CMP recommendations to enhance and protect the River's water quality; and that more detailed information is needed in this regard. The final EIS should include a funding plan, and a detailed plan for periodic evaluation of the implementation of the CMP.

NPS RESPONSE

The comment expressing the need to develop a contingency plan to ensure the continuation of the River Council should the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association cease to exist was addressed under the Analysis section of Alternative IV in the Environmental Impact Statement section of this document.

A paragraph entitled *Funding Plan* was included in the Environmental Impact Statement section to address the comments regarding realistic alternative funding sources.

A section entitled *Periodic Reporting Requirements* was added to the final document to address comments concerning the need to assess the implementation of the plan.

Comments about timely implementation to enhance and protect the River's water quality are difficult to address. The National Park Service's authority in the designated river corridor is very limited. Under Section 7(a) of Public Law 90-542, NPS has the authority to review water resource permits to assure no adverse effect on identified outstandingly remarkable resources.

Through the designation legislation for the Great Egg Harbor River (P.L. 102-536) the National Park Service, through the Secretary of the Interior, was given responsibility for "managing the river segments through cooperative agreements with the political jurisdictions within which such segments pass... except that publicly-owned lands within the boundaries of such segments shall continue to be managed by the agency having jurisdiction over such lands."

The National Park Service will own no land nor will it have a direct presence in the river corridor. Resource protection, including water quality, will primarily occur at the local and state level with the National Park Service providing coordination and assistance wherever appropriate. Information on water quality, along with recommendations for its improvement, is included in this document on pages 64 through 69. NPS recognizes the importance of implementing those recommendations but also recognizes the limits of its authority in the river corridor. In addition, the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS are incorporated into the final plan by reference which also addresses protection of the lands and waters of the Great Egg Harbor River.



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Please be certain to add EPA to your mailing list for distribution of all future CMP related documents. In the interim, should you have any questions, please contact Barbara Giannacco at (212) 637-3755.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W. Hargrove, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch

cc: Mary Vavra, National Park Service

COMMENT



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
927 North Main Street (Bldg. D1)
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232



SP-99/29

August 13, 1999

Mary Vavra
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Ms. Vavra:

This is in reference to the June 28, 1999 letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requesting review and comments on the second draft of the May 1999 *Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. The National Park Service (NPS) and Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association have jointly distributed the CMP/EIS for public comment. The Service has reviewed the CMP/EIS and offer the following comments.

AUTHORITY

The following comments are provided as technical assistance and do not preclude separate review and comments by the Service on any forthcoming environmental documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act as amended (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884; as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*); or comments if any permits are required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1344 *et seq.*) or the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403 *et seq.*).

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Comments contained in the letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Service have been incorporated into this document.



COMMENT

GENERAL COMMENTS

The second draft of the CMP/EIS is well organized, adequately addresses the issues, and clearly explains how the river will be managed. The material is presented in a clear and understandable format.

The Service recommends that the Roles and Responsibilities (page 20) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be replaced with the following description which more accurately depicts Service responsibilities in New Jersey:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a bureau within the U.S. Department of the Interior with the mission of, "working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American People." The New Jersey Field Office (NJFO), located in Pleasantville, Atlantic County, implements the USFWS's Ecological Services (ES) program throughout New Jersey which includes: protecting endangered species and implementing recovery efforts, reviewing federal projects and activities under federal permit or license, investigating environmental contaminant problems, developing partnerships, and providing public education and outreach. The NJFO's responsibilities focus on stewardship of federal trust resources, which include federally listed threatened and endangered species, migratory fish and birds, certain marine mammals, and federal lands including National Wildlife Refuges (NWR).

The United States Government passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. The Act entrusts the USFWS with the responsibility to protect and restore federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The NJFO is responsible for 20 federally listed species in New Jersey. Section 7 of the ESA states that all federal agencies shall consult with the Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, permitted, or carried out, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. Other activities relating to the ESA in New Jersey include implementing recovery efforts for listed species; reviewing projects that could adversely affect listed species; monitoring populations of listed and declining species; working with partners to conserve listed species habitats, assessing the status of species considered candidates for listing; and educating the public about threatened and endangered species, why they are important, and what people can do to help.

Under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the NJFO provides technical assistance and project review to other federal agencies. The Service participates in project planning to protect federal trust resources in federally funded or permitted activities such as flood control projects, dredging projects, and proposals involving development in wetlands.

Through the Service's environmental contaminants program, NJFO biologists may get involved in activities such as conducting scientific investigations to document and remedy contaminant-related problems for fish and wildlife, monitoring long-term contaminant trends, participating in oil and chemical spill clean-ups, consulting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce impacts to federal trust resources at Superfund sites, and ensuring that polluters restore and compensate for environmental damage.

Another beneficial program that the NJFO administers in New Jersey is the Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*, a program directed at protecting and restoring important fish and wildlife habitats on non-federal lands through voluntary partnerships. The program's main focus is wetland restoration, but the Service also pursues riparian and upland restoration. Individual citizens and groups looking to restore, enhance, or even create wildlife habitats can contact the NJFO for more information about the *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* or other partnership programs.

The Service's NJFO provides educational opportunities for elementary and high school students. The *Earth Stewards* program blends the Service's mission with school curricula, helping students understand and appreciate New Jersey's wild living resources while advancing the school's educational efforts. Other outreach efforts include public contact at festivals and shows, producing educational materials, working with Congress, and informing the media to better educate people about fish and wildlife.

The NJFO also works closely with Service counterparts in law enforcement and NWRs, including the Cape May NWR, which manages 8,000 acres in Cape May County, part of which is located within the designated Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

The Service is concerned about overuse of the river for recreational purposes, which could result in adverse impacts to aquatic resources. Presently there are two commercial operations promoting canoeing, kayaking, and tubing on the upper Great Egg Harbor River. Articles in local newspapers and the CMP identify problems associated with the increased recreational traffic. Increased boat traffic on the upper river has caused problems from drinking, littering, trespassing and offensive language to residents who live adjacent to the river. Increased boat traffic can also have adverse impact to aquatic organisms.

Two associated problems that concern the Service are the removal of structure from the river to ease passage for recreational craft, and disturbance to wetland vegetation and other aquatic resources during low water levels. Submerged logs and other structure provide habitat for many aquatic organisms and is the basis for a healthy and stable aquatic environment. Unpermitted removal of structure by the commercial businesses interested in unobstructed passage for recreational users could significantly adversely impact the River. When water levels fall, tubers may begin to spend significant amounts of time out of their tubes, an activity with the potential



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to significantly disturb aquatic resources, including wetland vegetation. This year, water levels have been especially low. In order to protect the River, the Service believes there should be restrictions on the numbers of commercial recreational traffic allowed on the upper river. Additionally, the plan should consider establishing a water level below which prohibits commercial recreational traffic.

Pages 1 and 2 of Appendix 9 omitted a page of the Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in New Jersey. Enclosed is a copy of the correct list.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the CMP. Please contact Allen Jackson of my staff at (609) 646-9310 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Clifford G. Day
Supervisor

Enclosure



State of New Jersey
THE PINELANDS COMMISSION

PO Box 7
New Jersey NJ 08064
X66989334R
(609) 894-7300

HARSHINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

Ms. Mary Vavra
Program Manager
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
200 Chestnut St., Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

August 3, 1999

Comments contained in the letter from The Pinelands Commission have been incorporated into this document.

Dear Ms. Vavra:

We appreciate the opportunity to review the second draft of the *Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. We have a few minor comments which follow. Our added comments are in bold type.

- Page 7 – 3rd paragraph — “Simply stated, responsibility for long term management and protection of the Great Egg Harbor River National Scenic & Recreational River is shared among neighboring municipalities, the four counties, the State of New Jersey, the **Pinelands Commission**, and the National Park Service.”
- We have attached a new map of the Pinelands.
- **Section VI: Resource Management Issues, Goals, & Prescriptions**
Under part (i) Water Supply/Withdrawal, there is no mention of the joint policy between NJ DEP and the Pinelands Commission regarding water withdrawals from the Kirkwood/Cohansey aquifer. Under Recommended Action, add **“An interim water supply policy should be continued which recommends the use of viable alternate water supply sources until ecological effects of water diversion from the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer are adequately determined.”** This policy should be applied to proposed water supply projects involving diversion of more than 100,000 gallons per day that are located within the boundaries of the Pinelands and within the adjacent water supply policy areas. For more information contact the Pinelands Commission.

<http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/>
E-mail: Info@pinelands.state.nj.us

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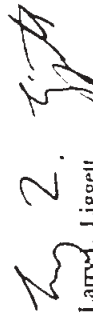
Section VIII: Environmental Impact Statement
Alternative 1: No Action

p. 115 Under the analysis sub-heading, the following sentence should be changed. "The authority of the Pinelands Commission, which is executed through State regulations, is basically a land use act with significant impacts and select controls on water, water quality, water habitats, etc. N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.1 through 6.14 (part I of subchapter 6) discusses the standards for wetlands. N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.81 through 6.87 (part VIII of subchapter 6) discusses the water quality standards of the CMP.

p. 130 – "The Comprehensive Management Plan for the Pinelands National Reserve and the Pinelands Area designates the lower and middle reaches of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries as scenic corridors of special significance to the Pinelands."

We hope that these comments are helpful to you. If you have any questions concerning them, please call Dr. Barry Brady of our staff at 609-894-7300.

Sincerely,


Larry L. Liggelt
Manager, Planning Office

Enclosure

/FP2A1

COMMENT

NPS RESPONSE



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Coastal Planning and Program Coordination
PO Box 418

Trenton, NJ 08625-0418
Phone 609-292-2662
Fax 609-292-4608

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner

September 27, 1999

Mr. J. Keith Everett, Supervisor
Philadelphia Support Office
National Park Service
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Everett:

The Office of Program Coordination of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has completed its review of the Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River. Our Department supports the Plan; adherence to the plan can only have positive effects on the fish and wildlife resources and habitat in the Great Egg Harbor River system.

The Comprehensive Management Plan coincides with the goals and objectives of New Jersey's Coastal Management Plan. The Wild and Scenic River designation promotes resources protection, and enhancement, public access, and sustainable coastal development, all goals of New Jersey's Coastal Management Plan. From a regulatory perspective, the Comprehensive Management Plan provides the regulatory programs with guidance for the review of permitted activities and their impact on the resources of this part of the coastal region.

We offer the following minor comments on the draft document for your consideration.

- Page 63 of the report states that the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries are currently classified as FW-2 NT and the plan recommends that consideration should be given to upgrading the entire watershed to FW-1. Classification of the streams in the Great Egg Harbor River watershed varies depending on location (as per page 65 of the Surface Water Quality Standards).

Comments contained in the letter from the Office of Coastal Planning and Program Coordination within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection have been incorporated into this document.



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- Pages 66 and 74 of the report indicate that a "Recommended Action" is to encourage the recharge of treated wastewater to ground water rather than discharge to surface water. Certain ground water disposal proposals may be found inconsistent with the Water Quality Management Plan, and a plan amendment may be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Schmidt
Director
Office of Program Coordination

C: Robert McDowell, NJDEP
Barry Miller, NJDEP
Donna Frizzera, NJDEP



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JAMES G. ATKINSON
FRESHOLDER

CHARLES E. ROMICK, AICP/PP
PLANNING DIRECTOR

Comments contained in the letter from the Gloucester County Planning Department have been incorporated into this document.

August 30, 1999

Mary Vavra
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mary:

The Gloucester County Planning Department has reviewed the Comprehensive Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River (Second Draft) and offers the following comments:

d. 3. Gloucester County (page 44)

- * The Gloucester County Planning Department has extensive experience in developing and implementing comprehensive watershed management plans (i.e. Alcyon Lake, Glen Lake, Still Run). Projects developed and implemented as part of our watershed planning program include:
 - A. Investigations and studies to document and map point and nonpoint sources of pollution in the various watersheds
 - B. Shoreline stabilization and remediation project at Glen Lake
 - C. Betty Park (Alcyon Lake) Restoration Project
 - D. Rowan University streambank stabilization project utilizing bioengineering techniques
 - E. Surface water monitoring program within the Alcyon Lake and Glen Lake watersheds in cooperation with the Gloucester County Health Department and NJDEP





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- F. Stream gaging program within the Alcyon Lake and Glen Lake watersheds in cooperation with USGS. As part of this project, USGS also developed the methodology to calculate sediment and nutrient loadings using water quality information and streamflow measurements
- G. Development of a geographical information system and environmental database for watersheds within Gloucester County in cooperation with USGS, NJDEP, and Rowan University.
- H. Sponsor workshops in cooperation with NJDEP on freshwater wetlands and the Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Best Management Practices Manual.
- I. Development and implementation of an environmental education program in cooperation with the National Estuary Program and Gloucester County College consisting of the following components:
- K through 12 water resources educational curriculum for school districts in Gloucester County
 - A Water Resources Video was produced in conjunction with the curriculum
 - Two series of environmental workshops were conducted for County residents on the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, watershed management alternatives, and water conservation.
 - A drought resistant garden was constructed at Washington Lake Park in cooperation with the Gloucester County Highway Department, Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Department, Gloucester County Soil Conservation District, Washington Township Public Works Department, and local nurserymen.
- J. The Planning Department also provides technical assistance to Rowan University graduate students completing the requirements for Master's Degrees. For example, the following projects have been completed:
- A. Protecting Our Water Resources: A Public Education Program for Municipal Officials
- This project focuses on protecting our water resources and environmentally sensitive areas within the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System. The project has already been presented to the Gloucester County Planning Board, municipal planning boards, and environmental commissions.

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B. An Enrichment Unit on Local Water Resources and Water Conservation to Supplement Eighth Grade Earth Science Curriculum

The author has been awarded a mini-grant to implement the program within the existing curriculum in the Glassboro Public School System.

K. Development and implementation of a Public Relations Plan for the Alicyon Lake Watershed in cooperation with the Rowan University Communi-Care Praction Team

L. Exhibit-Displays for the watershed projects at the Gloucester County Library and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions Congress

P. Sand and Gravel Mining (page 57)

* Hydrological studies and modeling should be conducted to evaluate the impact of mining operations on wetlands, groundwater, and streamflow.

S. Water Quality (page 59-64)

* Additional information concerning water quality within the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed can be obtained from the following NJDEP documents:

- Ambient Biomonitoring Network (Atlantic Coastal Drainage Basin)

- Unified Assessment and Priority System for New Jersey: A Clean Water Action Plan.

* Technical assistance for plan development and implementation is also available from County Planning Departments, USGS, and other governmental agencies.

t. Water Supply-Withdrawal

* The hydrogeologic study will evaluate and model the impact of water supply withdrawals on the aquifer, streamflow, and wetlands. Additional hydrogeologic information for the watershed can be obtained in USGS reports entitled "Water Resources of the Unconfined Aquifer System of the Great Egg Harbor River Basin, 1989-1990 and Statistical Characteristics of Stream Discharge in Tributaries of Selected Estuaries in New Jersey."

* In the early 1980's, the Planning Department requested the assistance of the USGS in developing and implementing a program to review and monitor the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System (CKKD). Since that time, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders have funded the



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following research projects:

A. GLOUCESTER COUNTY WATER TABLE NETWORK

Since 1987, water level measurements have been taken from 25 wells (domestic, agriculture, observation, industry, public) screened in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System as part of a series of cooperative agreements with USGS. Water level measurements are obtained twice each year and used to evaluate and map the long term effects and trends of groundwater withdrawals on the aquifer system.

In 1994, digital water level recorders were installed on four CKKD wells. Data collected for the project is submitted to the Planning Department on an annual basis in the form of water table maps, charts, hydrographs, tables, and plates.

B. STATION NUMBER 01411456 - LITTLE EASE RUN NEAR CLAYTON

The gage was installed in 1988 as part of a series of cooperative agreements with USGS to measure stream discharge (cfs) at this location. The streamflow data is used to evaluate and monitor the impact of ground water supply development in the CKKD Aquifer System, groundwater levels, and streamflow.

* Hydrogeologic data is also available from the following sources:

- Hydrogeologic studies conducted by the municipalities (i.e. Monroe Township) and industry

- Monroe Township Hydrological Program (streamflow gaging at selected sites in cooperation with USGS).

- Water quality data collected in Monroe Township by the Gloucester County Health Department, NJDEP, and USGS.

* In addition to treated wastewater, stormwater also recharges the aquifers.

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The Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to provide input for this most important project. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Rick

Richard Westergaard
Principal Planner

RW:vb

C: Jim Atkinson, Department Freeholder
Jack Fisher, County Administrator
Mike Datz, Public Works Director
Chuck Romick, Planning Director
Jerry Jessick, Planning Board Chairman
Ted Bamford, Planning Board Secretary