



BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER & RECREATION AREA AND OBED WILD & SCENIC RIVER CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN

2016

INTRODUCTION

As a participant in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA) and Obed Wild and Scenic River (WSR) belong to a network of parks nationwide that are putting climate friendly behavior at the forefront of park operations and resource management. As part of this program, Big South Fork NRRA and Obed WSR have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, participated in a climate change and sustainability educational workshop, set climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction goals, and integrated these actions into a park-wide Environmental Management System (EMS).



The EMS takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing environmental impacts at the park. The EMS provides a framework for tracking environmental protection and sustainability priorities and details the implementation of these actions. By integrating CFP-related actions into the park's EMS, Big South Fork NRRA and Obed WSR are taking an integrated approach to climate change response and sustainable management of park resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Big South Fork NRRA and Obed WSR are strongly committed to protecting and preserving its natural, cultural, and archeological resources through environmental stewardship as mandated by the Organic Act and the park's enabling legislation. This commitment includes energy, water, solid waste, chemical use, and GHG emissions reductions (collectively called sustainability) as required by federal Executive Orders and Department of the Interior and NPS policy. Our staff, volunteers, and contractors will be expected to follow our environmental, pollution prevention, energy reduction, and related procedures and programs. Together we will examine and conduct operations and activities in a professionally sound manner, effectively and efficiently complying with the letter, spirit, and intent of applicable environmental regulations, standards, executive orders, and policies related to sustainability.

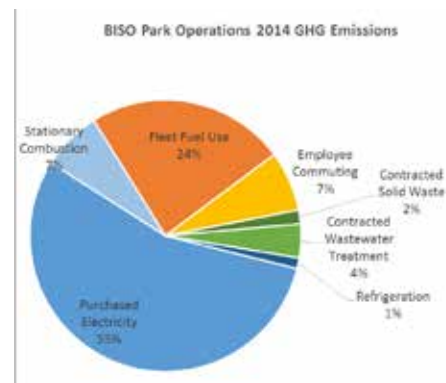
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, Big South Fork NRRA and Obed WSR had already started to embed sustainability actions in the EMS. As part of these efforts, Big South Fork NRRA and Obed WSR have taken a number of actions which have reduced the parks' environmental impact. For example, an aggressive recycling program has significantly increased the parks' solid waste diversion rate and several intensive energy saving projects were recently completed.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
GHG Emissions	Installed 33 wall mounted and 36 ceiling mounted commercial grade occupancy motion sensors.
	Swapped out several older HVAC units for newer, more efficient models.
	Removed 182 T12 fluorescent fixtures and replaced them with T8 fixtures with electronic ballasts.
	Replaced 7 older refrigerators throughout the park with Energy Star rated refrigerators.
Waste	Measured and developed a baseline for waste generation at the park
	Invested in additional animal resistant recycling containers to increase opportunities for recycling.
Education / Communication	Held a Climate Friendly Park workshop.
	Developed a staff newsletter to encourage sustainable actions
Water	Replaced 113 sink faucet aerators with commercial grade, low flow aerators.
	Replaced 36 showerheads with commercial grade, low flow showerheads.
	Purchased a commercial leak detector to identify leaks in the park water lines.

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

Big South Fork NRR and Obed WSR developed a greenhouse gas inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. The largest single source of GHG emissions (55%) was from purchased electricity. Looking only at the emissions from park operations, purchased electricity and emissions associated with transportation (24%) represent the largest sources (as shown in the figure). Having this baseline helps inform the goals and targets we have set and the actions we are taking to meet them.



GOALS & ACTIONS

As part of the CFP program, Big South Fork NRR and Obed WSR developed a number of goals. To help meet these goals, the parks will develop annual actions and track them through the EMS. The first year of those actions are listed out below. We will continue to chart our progress against the goals annually and refine our actions as part of the plan, do, check, act process.

	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
Goal	Reduce GHG emissions by 12% from baseline year of 2014 by 2024	Reduce energy use by 10% by 2024	Educate 50000 visitors about climate change and sustainability practices by 2024.
2015 Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace outdated thermostats and educate staff regarding proper use. Conserve water by locating and repairing underground leaks. Replace outdated HVAC units with energy efficient models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advance waste management goals by purchasing a recycling baler, additional animal resistant recycling containers and recycling trailers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate sustainable management of the parks into interpretation programs. Share recycling success stories both internally and externally.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

The "Green Team" is an interdisciplinary group of park employees that regularly monitors and updates sustainability goals for the park. This team also works together to identify sustainability and climate change challenges, track progress toward achieving goals, and works with other staff to continually improve operations. Through their leadership, the park ensures that sustainability initiatives move forward and goals are accomplished.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR, the parks are developing an environment that provides guidance and clarity while instilling ownership and support in accomplishing goals and initiatives. Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR has improved communication amongst employees through all-employee meetings, park-wide training sessions and a periodic newsletter that highlights past and upcoming sustainability events within the parks and greater region. The newsletter (or a link) is emailed to all employees and park specific information is posted on the Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR's websites.



CONCLUSION

The elements of the EMS form the foundation of the environmental protection, climate change response, and sustainability work that we will accomplish at the Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR. The park employees hope that visitors will check back in and see the progress as the program continues to evolve!

CONTACTS

Climate Friendly Parks Program
Email: CFP@nps.gov
Website: www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
Email: biso_superintendent@nps.gov
Website: <http://www.nps.gov/biso/index.htm>

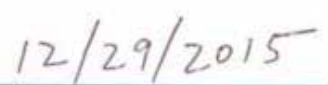
Obed Wild and Scenic River
Email: obri_superintendent@nps.gov
Website: <http://www.nps.gov/obed/index.htm>

Park Superintendent

Date





CFP Regional Representative

Date

SHAWN NORTON

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CFP National Representative

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