

BUFFALO

National River / Arkansas

Approximate Mileage

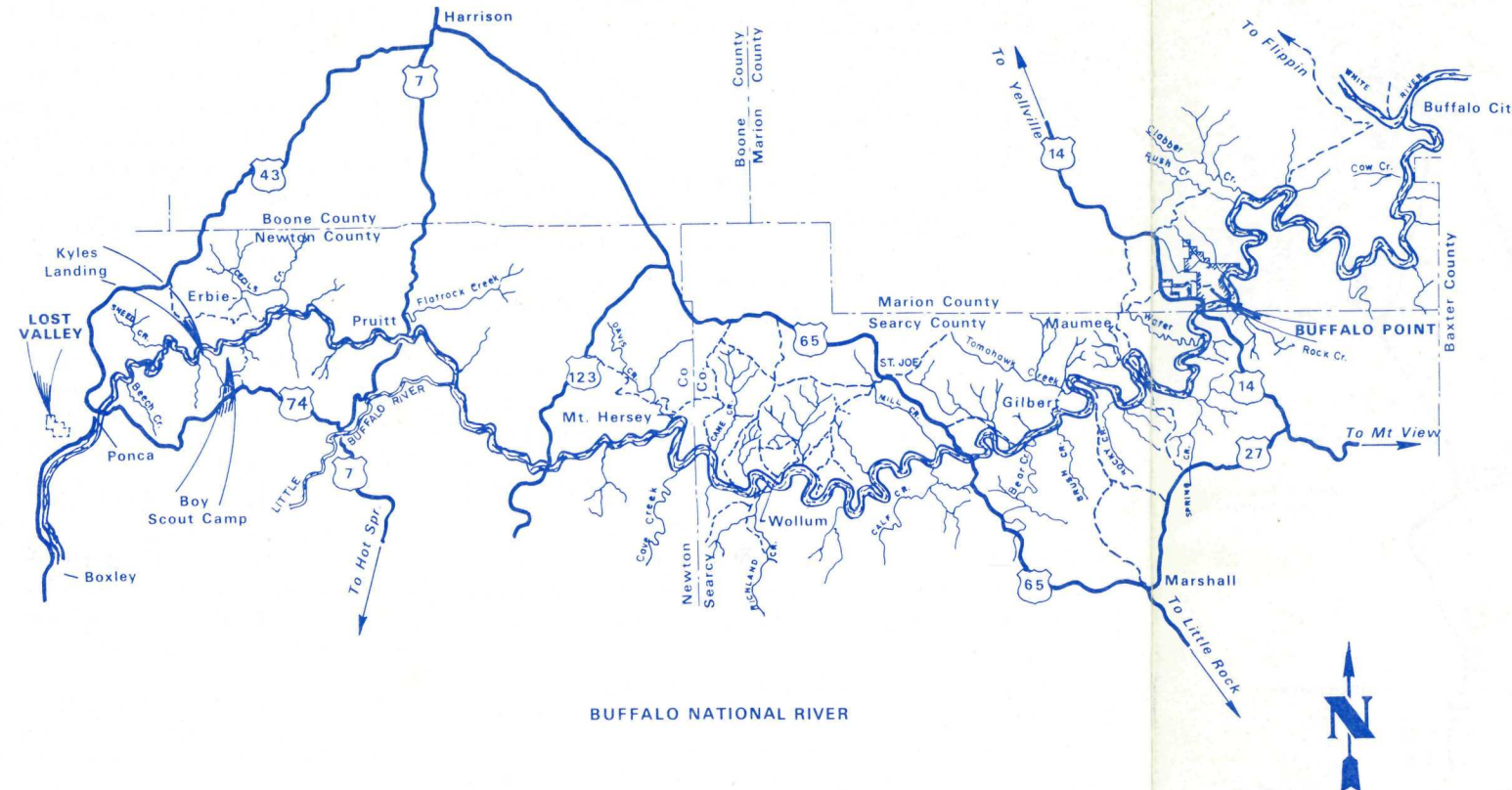
Ponca to Buffalo City - 124½
Ponca to Kyle's Landing - 10
Kyle's Landing to Pruitt - 13½
Pruitt to Highway 123 - 11
Highway 123 to Mt. Hersey - 7
Mt. Hersey to Wollum - 8½
Wollum to Highway 65 - 16½
Highway 65 to Gilbert - 4
Gilbert to Maumees - 12
Maumees to Highway 14 - 9½
Highway 14 to Buffalo Point - 1½
Buffalo Point to Rush - 7½
Rush to Buffalo City - 23½

Respect Private Property Rights

Most of the land adjoining the river is still in private ownership. Use of private lands, without permission from the owners, can have serious consequences. If in doubt, don't trespass.

Check Water Conditions

Except for extreme dry periods, the lower half of the river can be floated almost anytime. After May 1, the upper river (Ponca to Pruitt) is normally too low to canoe. In late summer, stretches from Highway 123 to Highway 65 are often too low for good floating.



Among the few sizable, free-flowing rivers remaining in mid-America, the Buffalo is one of the most spectacularly scenic. Unpolluted and undeveloped, it looks today much as it did at the time Indians occupied the area.

Considered for size, completeness, and wild qualities, the Buffalo ranks as one of America's last significant natural rivers.

The Buffalo River rises in the Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas and flows eastward, cutting a sinuous course through the forested hill country on its way to join the White River. Its peaceful pools and short rapids belie a strength that has carved sheer cliffs of stone as much as 525 feet high.

From the time the first white hunters and squatters claimed the bottom lands before and just after 1800, the Buffalo stayed distant from the main events in American

history. These early settlers shared the land with the Indians until the Cherokee Treaty of 1828, when the Indians were pushed farther west. From then until the Civil War, more settlers came, burning the cane bottoms and turning them to the plow.

During the War Between the States, a few Confederates skirmished with Federals along the riverbanks. After the war, the pioneers scratched a scanty subsistence from the stony hill-and-hollow land.

Timber companies brought some prosperity to the area in the early 1900's. Great white oaks became staves for whiskey barrels, thousands of prime logs floated down the Buffalo to become railroad ties. Cedar crews worked from daylight till dark getting cedar to the pencil factories where they became the famous penny pencils of an earlier age. Lead and zinc mines operated from the 1800's into the 1920's.

Metal prices plummeted, forests were decimated, and the big companies left. So did many of the people. Today log cabins stand forlorn; farms have gone to pasture and to woods.

Notwithstanding an interesting human history of the area dating back into an Indian prehistory of 9,000 years, the most attractive features of the river are natural, for the Buffalo owes its charm to the lack of human intrusion. In the Buffalo Valley, oaks and hickories dominate a rich and diverse forest community of some 1,500 species of plants. The climatic changes of the Ice Age established the Ozark region as a meeting ground of normally widely separated forms of life. Although many animals, including deer, coyote, black bear, and otter, inhabit the Buffalo area, none is common. The National Park Service hopes that wildlife populations will increase under careful management for the benefit of observers and hunters.

In the spring of 1972, the Congress of the United States enacted legislation "for the purposes of conserving and interpreting an area containing unique scenic and scientific features, and preserving as a free-flowing stream an important segment of the Buffalo River in Arkansas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Private Property Must Be Respected

At this time, summer 1974, nearly 80 percent of the area authorized for inclusion in the Buffalo National River is still in private ownership. This includes most accesses to the river. OWNERS' RIGHTS MUST BE RESPECTED.

Being in the early stages of the land acquisition phase, the Buffalo National River is not yet operational as a park. Only two areas are being operated for visitors this year: Buffalo Point, the former Buffalo State Park, and Lost Valley, also a former State Park. The National Park Service cautions visitors against the use of land other than these two areas. Trespassing on private land can have serious consequences. PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.

For your convenience and protection, maps showing current federal ownership are on display at the National River Headquarters in Harrison and at Buffalo Point.

Boating

For years, canoeists and floaters have treasured the Buffalo River for its breathtaking views. If you make a float trip, do your part to help make the Buffalo a cleaner and safer river. Observe the rules and carry out what you carry in.

Float service suppliers operate within and outside the authorized boundaries of the National River. At this time the National Park Service is not issuing permits to these operators, nor do we set or approve rates. Operators make their own arrangements with private property owners on behalf of their clients. In 1973, private rentals averaged \$10 to \$12 per canoe per day.

The *Buffalo River Canoe Guide* can be purchased from the Ozark Society, Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203, for \$1.00.

Fishing

Float fishermen treasure the Buffalo National River for smallmouth bass, goggle-eye and other game fish. All fishermen are subject to State of Arkansas regulation. Nonresidents may purchase a 14-day license for \$3.50 or an annual license for \$6.00. A trout permit costs an additional \$2.00.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted on most lands within the Buffalo National River owned by the Federal government, although some areas may be restricted. Check at the National River headquarters in Harrison or the Buffalo Point Ranger Station in Yellville if you have any doubts about hunting on any lands.

State of Arkansas hunting regulations apply. A special

3-day non-resident license costs \$7.00; the annual license is \$20.00. Deer or turkey tags cost an additional \$10.00.

Camping

The National Park Service operates a modern, 100-site campground at Buffalo Point. Facilities include tables, grills, flush toilets, showers, and a sanitary dump station for self-contained units. No reservations are accepted. The fee is \$3 per site per night.

A 16-site primitive campground is operated at Lost Valley on a first-come first-served basis.

Many privately owned and operated campgrounds offer a variety of facilities throughout the Buffalo River country.

For Your Safety

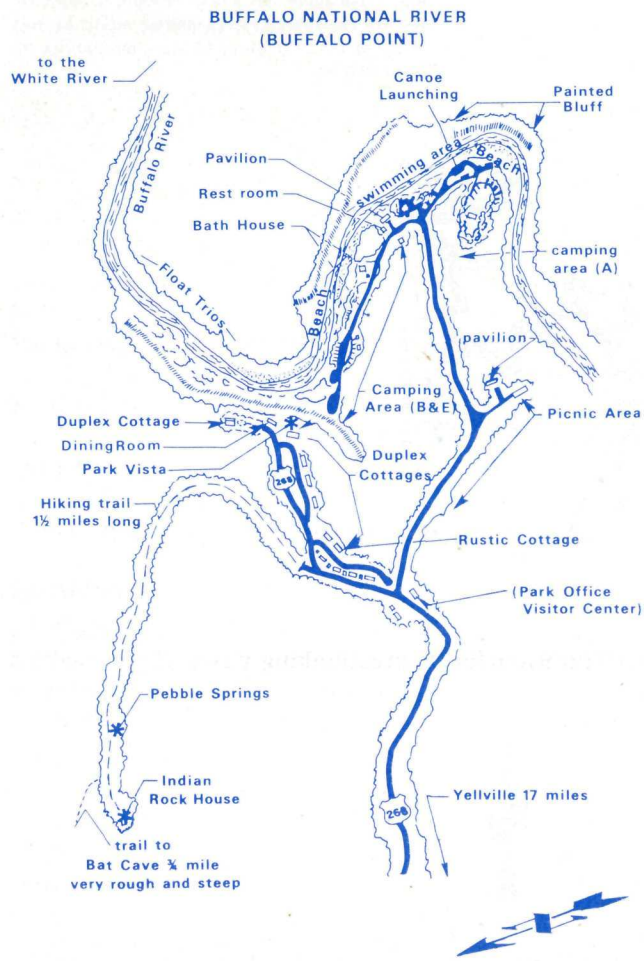
For the enjoyment and safety of our visitors, we ask that you observe these simple but necessary rules:

1. Stay away from the edges of cliffs. Limestone in this area is very unstable and cliffs are extremely dangerous.
2. If you go on the water, observe all safety regulations. Wear a life jacket. Waterproof your gear. Never go on the river by yourself. Recognize your canoeing ability; there IS an art to boating!
3. Beware of flash flood conditions. The river rises rapidly during heavy rain storms. Choose a safe place to camp!
4. Canoeing the river under flooding conditions is highly dangerous and should not be attempted.
5. Keep the area free of litter. If you pack it in, pack it out.
6. Help preserve the natural and historic scene. Do not remove trees, shrubs, flowers, or items of man's former life. Do not deface caves or other natural or man-made features. Downed, dead wood may be used for campfires in authorized camping areas.

Administration

Buffalo National River was authorized by Congress by an Act signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon on March 1, 1972. Responsibility for planning and establishing the National River was assigned to the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent whose address is P.O. Box 1173, Harrison, AR 72601, is in immediate charge.

As the nation's principal conservation agency, The Department of the Interior has basic responsibility for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States - now and in the future.



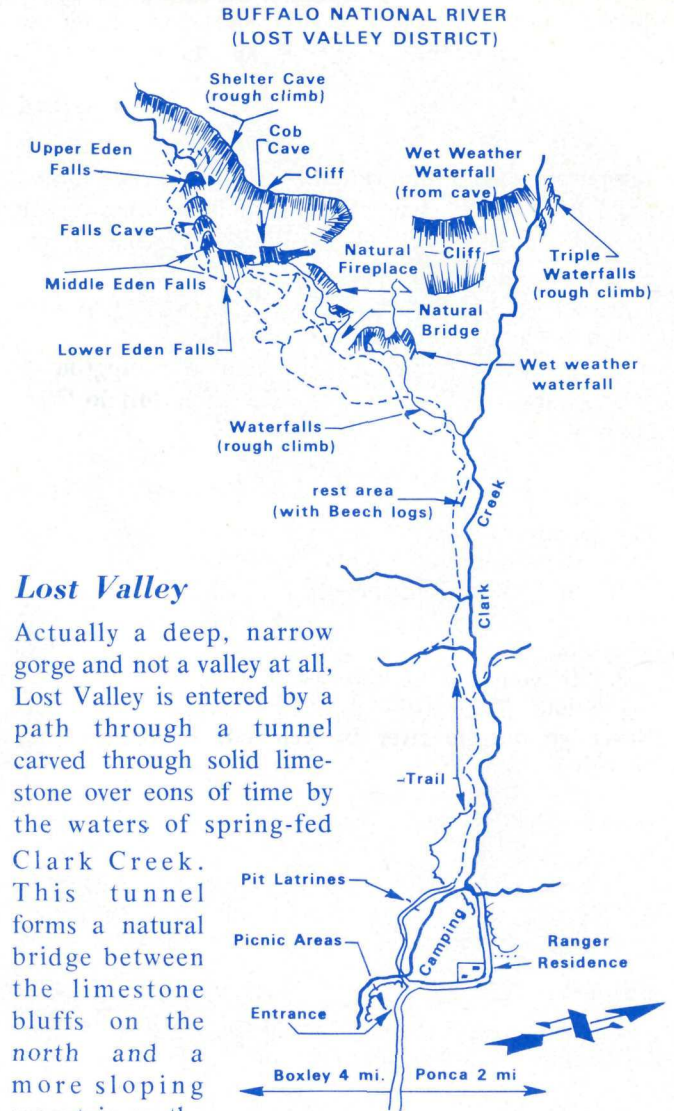
Buffalo Point

Buffalo Point includes 2,020 acres of ruggedly wild and beautiful terrain. This mountain land features springs, caves, nature trails, and the famous Buffalo River, one of our Nation's few remaining free-flowing streams.

Facilities include a year-round modern campground, a picnic area, three pavilions, canoe launch area, hiking trails, and a guarded swimming beach. Concessionaire operated cabins and dining facilities are also available.

Guided nature walks, campfire programs, and related interpretive programs are provided by the National Park Service during the summer visitor season.

Buffalo Point is the former Buffalo River State Park. It was donated to the Federal government by the people of Arkansas for inclusion in the National River.



Lost Valley

Actually a deep, narrow gorge and not a valley at all, Lost Valley is entered by a path through a tunnel carved through solid limestone over eons of time by the waters of spring-fed Clark Creek. This tunnel forms a natural bridge between the limestone bluffs on the north and a more sloping mountain on the south.

Clark Creek winds between sheer cliffs for nearly a mile to a point where it emerges from a cave and cascades into its creek bed below. A scenic fantasy in the heart of the most rugged section of the Ozark Mountains, probably no other area within the National River is as appropriately named as "Lost Valley."

Although Lost Valley was the home of Indians centuries before the first settlers arrived in the early 1800's, it has retained much of its primitive character.

We welcome you to this natural wilderness spectacle. A hiking trail winds up the deep gorge to the falls. A ranger is stationed at the house adjacent to the primitive campground. He will answer most of your questions, help you with directions, and explain rules and regulations.

Lost Valley is a former State Park. It was donated to the Federal government by the people of Arkansas for inclusion in the National River.