

Obed Wild and Scenic River

The official newspaper of
Obed Wild and Scenic River

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Welcome to Obed Wild and Scenic River

The beauty and wildness of the Obed Wild and Scenic River draw whitewater paddlers and rock climbers from around the world. Visitors come to the Obed for a myriad of other reasons ranging from fishing, swimming and hiking to stargazing, birdwatching and simply enjoying the stillness of a place where the only sound you hear is the whisper of water over stone.

Take the pictures above, for example. They are all winners from the park's first annual photography contest and represent one of many ways that visitors can explore their artistic sides in this dramatic natural setting. The Obed's new Art in the Park program encourages artists of all types to transform the inspiration that they receive from the park into works of art to be displayed in the park's Visitor Center.

The production of a new park movie is also ongoing. Featuring footage from all four seasons, the film will take the very best that the Obed has to offer and make it more accessible to all of our visitors. We also look forward to continuing our successful relationship with our volunteers. This program is highlighted by our annual River Cleanup and the Obed Adopt-a-crag event, which draws over one hundred climbers to the park for projects such as battling the destructive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Finally, funded in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation, the park recently brought every sixth grader in the local school system to the park for a day of rock climbing, paddling and learning about the National Park in their backyard. Through the continuation of this and similar Junior Ranger programs, the park hopes to inspire an entire generation to protect this remarkable resource.

Above are just a few of the exciting recent developments at the Obed Wild and Scenic River. Visit the park today and discover how this rugged and dramatically beautiful place will inspire you!

Niki Stephanie Nicholas

Niki Stephanie Nicholas, Superintendent

Contact Information

Obed Wild and Scenic River
PO Box 429
208 North Maiden Street
Wartburg, TN 37887
(423) 346-6294

In the event of an emergency dial 911

<http://www.nps.gov/obed>
Twitter @ObedWSR
facebook.com/ObedWSR



scan this code to access our
website on your smartphone



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Photos: (Clockwise from lower left) Aquatic Plants and Reflections by Tom Wood, Stewartia ovata by Calvin R. Wenzel, Sunlit River by Tom Wood, Lilly Bluff Overlook by Michael Foster, and Luna Moth at Alley Ford by Hans Christen.

Park Information

Protect Your Park



Dispose of your litter in trash cans provided for that purpose. Recycle whenever possible.

Leave all natural and cultural items as you find them to preserve the past and present. Collecting or damaging items such as rocks, flowers or other vegetation is prohibited.

Respect all wildlife from a safe distance. Disturbing or removing wildlife is prohibited.

Visitor Center



Located at 208 North Maiden Street on the courthouse square in Wartburg, Tennessee, the visitor center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. An introductory park movie/slideshow is available for viewing upon request.

Common Visitor Questions

1. When did the Obed Wild and Scenic River become a part of the National Park Service?

The Obed Wild and Scenic River became a part of the National Park Service on October 12, 1976. The enabling legislation through the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act allowed Congress to preserve over 45 river miles in Morgan and Cumberland Counties for the recreation and enjoyment of its citizens. A grassroots effort over many years from local townspeople spurred Congress to preserve sections of Clear Creek, Daddys Creek, the Obed River, and the Emory River. Today, the Obed WSR is one of the premier kayaking and rock climbing locations in the Southeastern US. Visitors from every state and many foreign countries have toured the park, and have enjoyed its pristine beauty, its quiet solitude, and its recreational opportunities.

2. Do you need a permit to hunt wild boars or hogs in the boundaries of the Obed Wild and Scenic River?

Yes, you do. You can purchase a Hog Hunting Permit at the Obed Visitor Center, located at 208 North Maiden Street in downtown Wartburg, Tennessee. The permit costs \$5, and is good for the Obed WSR and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, located in Oneida, Tennessee. The park has a special cooperative relationship with the Tennessee Wild-

life Resources Agency and the adjacent 80,000 acre Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. TWRA can be contacted at (931) 484-9571.

3. May I hunt and fish in the park?

Yes. Except in designated safety areas, hunting is permitted on all park-owned lands within the boundary. State hunting and fishing regulations are still in force and can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/twra>.

4. Do you have hiking trails?

Ask us about one of the following trails: Lilly Bluff Overlook Trail (.3 miles one-way), Bridge Trail (.5 miles one-way), Boulder Trail (.2 miles one-way), Point Trail (3.8 miles round-trip), Emory River Nature Trail (.7 miles round-trip) and the Obed Wild and Scenic River segment of the Cumberland Trail (14.2 miles one-way).

5. May I camp in Obed Wild and Scenic River?

Rock Creek Campground, located at the downstream end of the park, features 11 shaded campsites in close proximity to the Emory River. Facilities are primitive and the campground roads are narrow, so vehicle lengths including any trailers are limited to a total of 25 feet. There is a fee of \$7 per campsite per night, and campers must complete self-registration procedures within 30 minutes of occupying a campsite. Alcohol is not allowed. Other campground regulations apply. The campground floods during high flow levels, so be prepared to evacuate during periods of heavy rain. Backcountry camping requires a free permit that may be obtained at the Obed Visitor Center or by visiting www.nps.gov/obed.



6. Can I recycle in the park?

Yes, recycling stations are spread throughout several major areas of the park. Look for the blue cans to recycle your paper, plastic, and glass refuse. There are also animal-resistant trash stations throughout the park.

7. Are there other regulations that I need to know about while in the park?

All relevant state and federal regulations apply within the park. See Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations for rules that apply to all parks generally: Visit <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys> and follow the "Code of Federal Regulations" link to view these service-wide rules. For other regulations that are specific to Obed Wild and Scenic River and that are updated annually, see

the park's "Superintendent's Compendium" by following the "Park Management" link on the park's webpage.

8. What do I need to know to enjoy my visit safely?

Stay a safe distance from cliff edges. Be aware of dead trees that may be above you, especially in windy conditions. Rattlesnakes and copperheads, although present, will avoid you if given the chance. Check for ticks during and after any hike. Carry adequate equipment and be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions.



9. Do you conduct educational or interpretive programs?

Park staff conduct a range of interpretive programs. Call (423) 346-6294 or check the park's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/obed> to obtain information about programs scheduled for the near future. We would also be delighted to arrange an interpretive program for your classroom or other group. Please contact us at (423) 346-6294 to schedule a program.



Hey kids!

Did you know that you can be a Junior Ranger at the Obed? It's true! Stop in at the Obed Visitor Center to pick up your Junior Ranger booklet. Upon completing the booklet, a park ranger will give you an official Obed Junior Ranger patch (shown above) and badge. Your booklet will be yours to keep too!

What's New? Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at the Obed Wild and Scenic River

By Justin Coffey, Biological Technician

Since the official discovery of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) at the Obed Wild and Scenic River in 2008, resource staff members have been employing select treatment methods aimed at the control of this exotic forest pest which infests and kills native Eastern and Carolina hemlock trees. Since 2008, a full scale surveying and treatment program has been implemented. In 2012, staff at the Obed reached a milestone when they successfully treated the 8,000th hemlock tree, after covering in the neighborhood of 275 acres of hemlock-dominated forests since 2008. Treatments are programmed to continue for years to come, so feel free to visit the Obed to find a cool hemlock-shaded streambank to relax and enjoy the characteristic settings created by these wonderful trees.



Far Left: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Left: Biological technician Justin Coffey applies liquid pesticide to the base of a hemlock tree. Above: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation on hemlock needles.

Resource managers at the Obed have made significant strides in deterring the negative impacts of HWA in the park. In addition, personnel are actively involved with the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Group, which is a multiagency organization dedicated to the preservation of hemlocks and the unique habitats they support throughout the Cumberland Plateau region in Tennessee. Confidence remains high among park personnel that treatments will help preserve hemlock forested areas in our parks and throughout the region.

If you have property with hemlocks or know somebody who has hemlocks on their property, let the resource staff at the Obed help you and your friends learn how to prolong the life of this magnificent tree. "Like" us on our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to learn when our next HWA workshop will be held. Then come join us to get a first-hand experience of the treatment types that fit your needs.

Give your Heart - Volunteer Your Time at the Obed

By Moria Painter, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer with the National Park Service and help care for these special places. Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) work side-by-side with National Park Service employees and partners in parks from Maine to Hawaii, from Alaska to Florida, in big cities and small towns, even in remote wilderness areas.

There are nearly 400 National Parks throughout the United States and its territories. Whether you work behind the scenes or with park visitors, you can make a difference by helping to connect people with their parks.

Become a VIP and put yourself at the heart of the park experience.

For information about becoming a VIP at Obed Wild and Scenic River contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 423-346-6294.



"The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving what you have, but in giving what you are."

Johnetta B. Cole

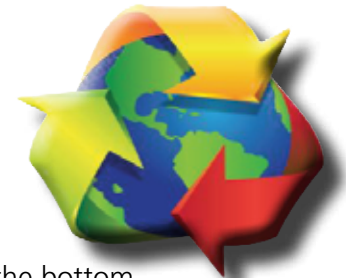
Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

By Moria Painter, Environmental Protection Specialist

Look for the blue bins located throughout Obed Wild and Scenic River.

What can I recycle in the park?

- Metal – aluminum cans and tin cans.
- Plastic – all numbers. Look for the recycle logo on the bottom.



Why recycle?

Recycling saves money. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy used to produce new materials. Using recycled aluminum scrap to make new aluminum cans uses 95% less energy than making aluminum cans from bauxite ore, the raw material used to make aluminum. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television or computer for up to three hours! Recycling reduces litter and helps make YOUR National Park more beautiful.

Water Quality

By Rebecca Schapansky, Resource Management Specialist

As river administering agency of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, the NPS has been tasked with protecting and enhancing the amount and quality of water that enters the Obed Wild and Scenic River boundary. Achieving this mandate, which appears in the park's enabling legislation, is critical to the survival of the park's federally listed species, all of which are either aquatic or closely associated with the riverine environment.

Fish species such as the federally threatened spotfin chub depend on clear, silt-free water to survive and reproduce, while rare plant species such as the federally threat-

ened Cumberland rosemary need periodic flooding to remove woody plants which also grow in the floodplain and compete for light and space. To ensure conditions in the park continue to support this rich biological heritage, which also includes state rare fish, mussels and plants, the NPS assists with the funding and operation of USGS stream gauges that are located in or near the park.

These gauges, along with water quality instrumentation, record critical flow and water quality parameters considered important to aquatic health. Visitors can access critical streamflow information at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/river-gauge-readings.htm>. Visit the site and catch a glimpse of what the resource professionals see!

Vertically Challenged

By Chance Melton, Park Guide

Rock climbing has been around for as long as man and rock have coexisted. Even if at first it was for more practical reasons, rock climbing has evolved over the years and split into many subcategories including traditional climbing, bouldering, aid climbing, deep water soloing and sport climbing. In sport climbing the climber clips permanently fixed bolts rather than placing removable protection into rock imperfections as in traditional climbing.

The Obed Wild and Scenic River is home to nearly 400 sport routes. Recreational climbing in the Obed can be traced back to the late 1970's, with the majority of the routes found in the Obed today established in the 1990's. These incredible routes with amazing roofs, holds of all sorts and breathtaking views at the anchors soon made areas like Lilly Bluff, Y12, Tierrany and North and South Clear Creek favorites among local climbers. Today while visiting these areas you are likely to encounter people from all over the world.

If you do decide to give this sport a try, you will find yourself surrounded by a unique community marked by friendly faces and encouraging attitudes. Though they differ in climbing abilities and backgrounds, they all share the same goal: to have a great day of climbing, to help in protecting this resource and to go home safely. The gear you need to get started includes at least ten quick-draws, a dynamic rope of between 50-70 meters (60 meters being the most common), rope bag, belay device, two harnesses, a few locking carabiners, climbing shoes, chalk bag, stick-clip and helmet. However, the most important piece of equipment was not mentioned in the list above and cannot be picked up at the store--knowledge of how all of your gear works and most importantly, how to minimize the risks in this inherently dangerous sport.



Sport climbing is a year-round activity at the Obed. Photo courtesy of Mark A. Large.

Running the Wet and Wild Obed

By Brett Painter, Park Ranger

The WIDOWMAKER, OH-MY GOD, ROCK GARDEN, GRUNCH, DOUBLE DROP, WOOTENS FOLLY, FANG OF THE RATTLESNAKE. These names describe just a few Class III-IV rapids in and around the park. Obed Wild and Scenic River has opportunities for many types of recreation, but the classic way to experience the wild and scenic nature of the park is to travel down its world class whitewater. After paddling only a short distance from your car, the combination of steep canyon walls, lack of access, and challenging rapids engender a sense of wilderness and remoteness that paddlers from all over North America come to experience.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Moore.

The character of these streams varies incredibly with water levels, sometimes just within a matter of hours. A stretch of water that offers a great day of intermediate paddling one day could offer a day of hiking and dragging a week later. Then, after a day of sustained precipitation, it could become too treacherous for even seasoned paddlers. Because of this you need to put some real effort into choosing what stretch of water and what water levels are appropriate for your skills. Knowledge for these decisions can be gleaned from the Obed staff and from experienced paddlers who have run these streams at various water levels. Links to real-time information on water levels from the US Geological Survey are available 24 hours a day on the Obed website (www.nps.gov/obed).



Photo courtesy of Barry Smith.

If you don't yet have the appropriate skills to safely tackle the area whitewater several local paddling clubs offer classes that teach basic paddling techniques. They also sometimes take newer paddlers along on easier paddling trips to teach them how to safely experience the river.

Climb with a Ranger!

For beginners, entrance into the world of rock climbing can be a scary proposition. Eliminate some of the uncertainty by taking advantage of one of the park's many rock climbing programs. We provide all



of the gear—all that you need to bring is a willingness to try new things and a can-do attitude!

In addition to programs open to the public, we also offer a variety of other programs with climbing components for schools and other organized groups.

For example, each year every sixth grader in Morgan County comes to the

park for our "A National Park in Your Backyard" program, a day-long event that includes rock climbing, paddling and an introduction to the things that make the Obed Wild and Scenic River so special. Check the park's website (www.nps.gov/obed) or call our visitor center (423-346-6294) for more information about our regularly scheduled climbing programs.

We hope to see you on rope soon!