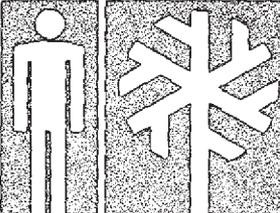


master plan

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT



NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK • NORTH DAKOTA

& W. Scans

4/30/2002



# THEODORE ROOSEVELT

NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

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# introduction

## PURPOSE

To memorialize *Theodore Roosevelt* by preserving, making accessible, and interpreting — for the benefit and enjoyment of the people — historic sites and features associated with him, as well as representative sections of the North Dakota Badlands that he loved so well, and where, as a young man, he hunted and ranched on one of America's last frontiers — an adventure which Roosevelt said prepared him for the Presidency.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

The park will be administered as an historical area.

## OBJECTIVES

### **Interpretive Theme**

Tell the story of Theodore Roosevelt's experiences in the Little Missouri Badlands, his associations with the early ranching industry, and his adventures in and contributions to a frontier community; illustrate general aspects of the range cattle industry and frontier life on the northern Great Plains; and interpret those geological, biological, ecological, and scenic aspects of the Badlands that helped to influence his thinking as our first "Conservation President."

### **Period of Historic Importance**

Focus the major historic interpretation on the period from 1883 to 1898, the time of Roosevelt's association with the region. Indian and frontier history of the area prior to 1883 and the later history of the area should be interpreted only as required to provide general orientation for the visitor.

### **Elkhorn Ranch Development**

Give highest possible priority to making accessible, reconstructing, and interpreting Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch, as provided for in the congressional act authorizing the park. Encourage legislation to acquire lands, provide access, and take other steps necessary to accomplish the primary objective.

### **Longhorn Exhibition**

Exhibit longhorn steers in the North Unit of the park as part of the interpretation of the early open-range cattle industry.

**Public Information**

Develop and disseminate informational and interpretive literature to inform visitors and the general public about the purposes and resources of the area; and otherwise communicate Service and area objectives and policies both inside and outside of the park.

**Collections**

Exercise substantial control over those historical objects associated with Theodore Roosevelt or the contemporary Badlands frontier, and over natural history collections needed for exhibits and study by interpretive personnel and visiting scholars.

Limit library acquisitions to those items needed for information, interpretation, and training purposes.

**Research**

Expedite essential historical research, such as the required historic structures report for the Elkhorn Ranch. Complete the survey of prehistoric archeological sites within the park. Continue to encourage scientific research relating to the park's natural features, including historical botany.

**Saddle and Horse-Drawn Vehicles**

Utilize those structures remaining at the site of the old Lamb Ranch in Peaceful Valley as a base for an experimental concession for the operation of saddle and horse-drawn-vehicle rides along designated roads and trails, thus inviting visitor participation in a contemporary frontier activity.

**Development**

Limit development to a level commensurate with optimum use and preservation of the primary resource, and keep development and design in harmony with the setting and atmosphere of the area.

**Camping**

Limit additional camping facilities to the development potential of the existing campground areas and group campgrounds. Addition of two horse group camps, one each in the North and South Units. Backcountry campsites will be provided in both units but will be primitive sites. Encourage further development of State, Forest Service, and private camping facilities outside the park.

**Cooperation with Other Agencies and Communities**

Cooperate with private, local, State, and other Federal agencies in coordinating visitor use and facilities, resource management, and interpretation, considering the needs and resources of the region as a whole.

**Boundary Adjustments and Inholdings**

Adjust boundaries and acquire inholdings as required for resource management, visitor use, and scenic protection.

### Architectural Theme

A general western or ranch atmosphere should be reflected in all public-use structures. Elkhorn Ranch should be reconstructed and furnished with authenticity; other buildings could be of a more contemporary, western style and not compete with the historic buildings.

### Indigenous Fauna and Flora

Continue to reestablish fauna and flora native to the area during Roosevelt's association with the Badlands. As elk was a principal wildlife species in the area during this period, they should be reintroduced as soon as feasible. However, they will be contained within the park so they are not detrimental to adjacent croplands.

Noxious plants such as leafy spurge should be eliminated.

### SUMMARY

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is in a sparsely settled region of badlands and shortgrass prairie uplands, utilized predominantly for livestock grazing and grain crops.

The park covers about 110 square miles and is comprised of three separate units along the Little Missouri River. Of the three, the South Unit has the greatest development and the heaviest visitation. These conditions are due largely to the South Unit's accessibility via Interstate 94, a heavily traveled east-west highway, in contrast to the situation at the North Unit, 70 miles farther north on north-south U.S. Highway 85. The smallest area, the Elkhorn Unit, is presently undeveloped because it lacks improved access.

The primary resource of the park is Theodore Roosevelt's association with the Badlands and the open-range cattle frontier of the 1880's. The wildlife, typical of the Great Plains, includes antelope and bighorn sheep, deer, and reintroduced bison. Longhorn cattle have also been reintroduced in the North Unit, and a small herd of feral horses exists in the South Unit. Geological resources include the scenic badlands, concentrations of petrified tree stumps, and a burning lignite vein.

The park experiences wide ranges in temperature – above 100 degrees in the summer and sub-zero extremes in winter. The average annual precipitation of 14 inches is light, but most of this falls during the growing season.

This master plan spells out the purpose and objectives of the park and recommends action plans, development, and other management programs required to fulfill the park's purpose and its objectives. This plan recommends a boundary change in the North Unit and acquisition of the remaining privately owned lands. It provides for additional facilities needed for visitors and employees, and recommends development of the Elkhorn Ranch and improvement of accessibility to it.

# the region

## ANALYSIS

The Badlands landscape of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park presents a unique contrast to the gently rolling prairie of the northern Great Plains. The Badlands, with its maze of canyons and coulees, interspersed with grassy uplands, was the hub of the northern open-range cattle industry of the 1880's. Theodore Roosevelt was a part of this industry, and the park area has been set aside as a memorial to him.

The park also offers a unique contrast in land use and management to that of the region surrounding it. Most of the nearby lands are used for grazing and grain farming; the park lands are managed under a single use concept to preserve, for the use and enjoyment of the people, a vestige of the North Dakota Badlands as it appeared in the 1880's. Hunting, grazing (except for longhorn cattle and feral horses), farming, and mining are nonconforming uses within the park.

The park is symbolic of a cultural heritage proudly shared by the people of the entire region, and it complements the adjoining town of Medora and the DeMores State Historical Site in keeping this heritage alive.

The modern picnic areas and campgrounds within the park are widely used by residents of the surrounding region; and, although the park differs widely from the region in its land use policies, it contributes substantially, nevertheless, to the regional economy and is a cultural and recreational asset to the region as a whole.

## CHARACTERISTICS

### Access and Circulation

Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is accessible by two major east-west routes, Interstate 94 and U.S. Highway 2, and one major north-south route, U.S. Highway 85. Interstate 94 and U.S. Highway 2 also serve as access routes for east-west travelers to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and Yellowstone National Park. U.S. Highway 85 is the north-south access route to Saskatchewan, Canada, the Black Hills of South Dakota, and Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.

Public transportation has no effect on park visitation, though the potential exists. The village of Medora, adjacent to the South Unit, is served by Greyhound bus. Commercial airline service is available at Bismarck and Williston, North Dakota, and Glendive, Montana, each within 130 miles of one of the units of the park. Two small airstrips, suitable for small craft, are adjacent to the South Unit at Medora, and the North Unit at Watford City.



RIDING MT. NAT'L. PARK

REGINA ○

C A N A

WATERTON - GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK ALBERTA

SASKATCHEWAN MONTANA

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK



○ GREAT FALLS

○ HELENA

BISMARCK ○

NO. DAKOTA SO. DAKOTA

○ BILLINGS

MONTANA WYOMING



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

PIERRE

MT. RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

BADLANDS NAT'L. MON

SO. DAKOTA NEBRASKA

500 MILES

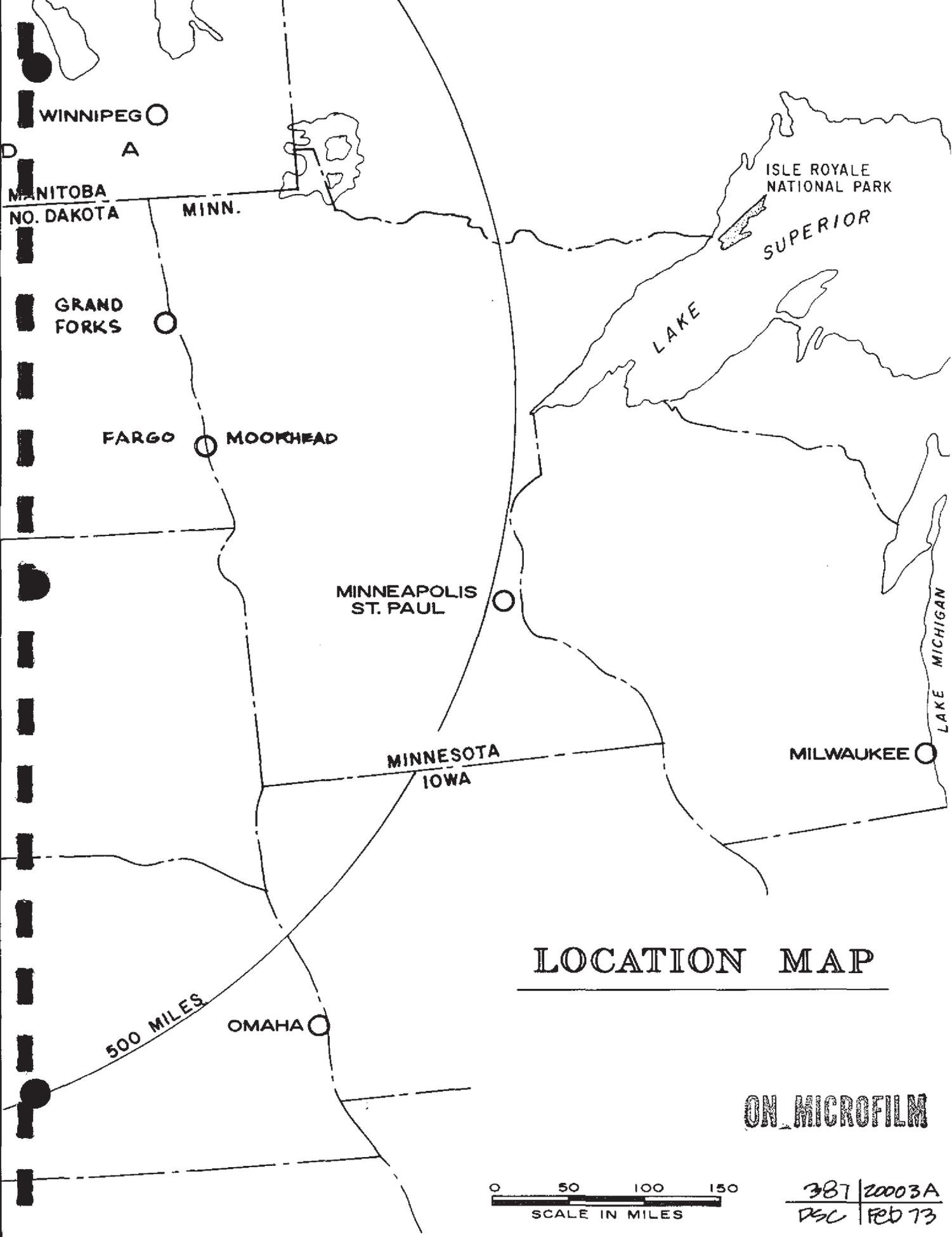
CHEYENNE ○

○ SALT LAKE CITY



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

○ DENVER



WINNIPEG ○

A

MANITOBA  
NO. DAKOTA

MINN.

GRAND  
FORKS ○

FARGO ○

MOORHEAD ○

MINNEAPOLIS  
ST. PAUL ○

MINNESOTA  
IOWA

MILWAUKEE ○

ISLE ROYALE  
NATIONAL PARK

LAKE  
SUPERIOR

LAKE  
MICHIGAN

500 MILES

OMAHA ○

# LOCATION MAP

ON MICROFILM

0 50 100 150  
SCALE IN MILES

387 | 20003A  
DSC | FEB 73

Access to the Elkhorn Ranch is difficult. At present it can be reached only by 4-wheel-drive vehicles during most of the year because access is by unmarked primitive backcountry roads.

### **Population**

In North Dakota the farm population is declining while urban population is increasing. A similar situation exists in eastern Montana. This trend toward urbanization is affecting the regional population also. The total population of North Dakota was 618,000 in 1970, while that of Montana was 695,000. According to the 1970 census, North Dakota's population has declined in the past decade; however, Montana's showed a slight increase.

Regional population centers, their size, and their distance from the South Unit, are: Fargo-Moorhead (90,800 – 318 miles), Bismarck-Mandan (45,800 – 130 miles), Dickinson (13,000 – 36 miles), Belfield (1130 – 17 miles), Beach (1400 – 25 miles), and Bowman, North Dakota (1760 – 75 miles); Wibaux (650 – 35 miles), Glendive (6300 – 63 miles), and Miles City, Montana (9025 – 141 miles); and from the North Unit: Minot (34,200 – 154 miles), Williston (11,900 – 63 miles), and Watford City, North Dakota (1768 – 17 miles), and Sidney, Montana (4543 – 70 miles).

### **Park and Recreation Facilities**

Three large reservoirs – the Oahe in South Dakota, the Garrison in North Dakota, and the Fort Peck in Montana – provide the major water-oriented recreation opportunities of the region. All three are administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which provides facilities for camping, picnicking, and other recreation. The respective State highway departments, in cooperation with local governmental units, other Federal agencies, and the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, are planning for increased recreational development along the Lewis and Clark Trail, including a perimeter scenic road system around the large reservoirs.

The "Camel Hump" reservoir, which utilizes a portion of Interstate 94 as a dam, is 15 miles west of the South Unit and provides fishing opportunities for park visitors.

The Patterson Dam Reservoir, 35 miles east of the South Unit, provides beach and swimming facilities during the summer months. Fishing, boating, and limited picnicking and camping facilities are also available.

The Little Missouri River National Grasslands, which surrounds the park, is managed by the Forest Service on a multiple-use basis; grazing is the primary use. Hunting for deer, antelope, sharp-tailed grouse, and ring-necked pheasant is the primary recreation use of these grasslands, with limited picnicking and camping facilities available. A modern campground in the national grasslands, 7 miles west of Medora, has been constructed.

DeMores State Historical Site is adjacent to the South Unit and contains the historic Chateau de Mores, the ruins of the old DeMores meat packing plant, and a recently enlarged picnic area. Guided tours are conducted through the chateau all year, and an interpretive marker is located at the ruins of the packing plant. The picnic area on the site of the old packing plant and adjacent to the Medora entrance to the memorial park obviously accommodates some park visitors who would otherwise seek picnicking facilities within the park.

The historical town of Medora is rapidly being converted into a major tourist attraction. Many of the buildings, which date back to the 1880's, are being restored; others are being built to create an atmosphere of that period. The Gold Seal Company of Bismarck, North Dakota, is doing a fine job in promoting Medora as a pioneer cattle town. The Rough Rider Hotel has been reconstructed and now contains a fine restaurant. The Ferris Store, with the Theodore Roosevelt room upstairs, has been reconstructed, and his room will be open to the public when refurnished. Another museum is located in the town, displaying the fur-trade and wildlife exhibits of the area. Two modern motels are open, and a large 500-seat outdoor amphitheater presents excellent performances throughout the summer months. There are also horseback rides and a wildlife zoo of native animals. Several gift shops and two oldtime saloons are in the town. A large campground is located just west of the Little Missouri River, operated by Gold Seal Company. The North Dakota State Park Service has developed a group campground near Medora, while a second, smaller campground has been developed within the town.

Kampgrounds of America and other private campgrounds have year-round camping facilities available at both Dickinson and Williston.

Recreation units within the area include the Des Lacs, Lostwood, Lake Zahi, and Smoke Creek National Wildlife Refuges, and the Writing Rock Historical and the Fort Lincoln State Parks in North Dakota; the Medicine Lake and Lame Steer National Wildlife Refuges and Fort Buford State Park in Montana; the Grand River National Grassland in South Dakota; and the Custer National Forest. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is 70 miles northwest of the North Unit.

Within a 100-mile radius of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park there are over 150 recreation sites administered by other Federal, State, and local entities, containing about 4,970,702 acres of land and water.

#### **Surroundings and Existing Use**

The topography of the country around the memorial park is representative of the Missouri Plateau and the North Dakota Badlands sections of the Great Plains physiographic province. The Badlands begin near the headwaters of the Little Missouri River in northeastern Wyoming and extend for 140 miles along the river's course, becoming more pronounced in the immediate area around the three units of the park, and terminating where the river enters the Garrison Reservoir. The Badlands consist of a maze of canyons and coulees

eroded by the river and its tributaries. This erosion has produced an infinite variety of buttes and other land formations, which are interspersed with flat-topped, grass-covered islands and peninsulas that are vestiges of the upland prairie. Moderately rolling prairies typical of the Great Plains extend eastward from the rim of the Badlands. The area to the west is characterized by large river valleys along both the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Temperature extremes, both summer and winter, are common throughout the area. The Badlands offer some protection from the raging winter storms of the Great Plains.

Lands adjacent to the park are about equally divided between private and public ownership. The Forest Service administers most of the public lands as the Little Missouri National Grasslands. These national grasslands are managed on a multiple-use basis, with grazing being the primary use. Land use throughout the Badlands is primarily grazing, while grain farming is the predominant land use of the upland plains.

Oil production is becoming an important industry in southwestern North Dakota. A number of wells exist near the park, and a protective oil lease has been signed to permit the drilling of a diagonal well adjacent to the South Unit to utilize oil lying underneath park lands.

Lignite coal mining is increasing in North Dakota. There is no mining activity in the Badlands at present, although the potential exists. There is also a potential for utilizing sand, scoria, and bentonite deposits in the Badlands area.

# the resource

## EVALUATION

On September 7, 1883, Theodore Roosevelt stepped from the train in Little Missouri, North Dakota, ostensibly to enjoy a buffalo hunt. He eventually did get his buffalo. But of far greater significance was his reaction to the tortured landscape, and a wilderness laboratory where he could observe nature in its primitive state. The rugged land, the equally rugged people, and the freedom of the wild animals, all played a tremendous part in his later life and his response to political responsibility. Indeed, in the *Fargo Forum*, September 5, 1910, he said, "If it had not been for what I learned during those years I spent here in North Dakota, I never in the world would have been President of the United States." Also of great importance to him was the realization that these resources were not inexhaustible, and, as our 26th President, he set about arousing the Nation's conscience to the need for conservation. From his experiences here, he learned to speak softly and "carry a big stick."

Men in the fur trade were followed by men engaged in the open-range cattle industry, who further developed the frontier. Great herds of cattle, and later sheep, were brought to the area without concern for the proper use of the range. It was not long before overgrazing became evident. The history of man's use and misuse of the land ties directly with Roosevelt's concern with conservation, and is a significant historical resource.

Native wildlife, including reintroduced bison, antelope, and bighorn sheep, roam the park's rugged badlands and upland plateaus, which support mixed grasses and other plant associations typical of the northern plains. This ecological combination provides a resource typical of the region before the coming of Europeans, and one that may well have had important association with early occupation of the area.

The badlands and other geologic features of the park offer both scenic and scientific values unrivaled anywhere in this section of the northern Great Plains. Distinctive, colorful landscapes provide a striking contrast to the surrounding plains. Erosion has carved the land into sharp buttes, tablelands, steep-walled canyons, and gulches. It has uncovered large concentrations of petrified wood, layers of many-colored clays, sandstones, and shales, and occasional beds of lignite. An actively burning lignite bed — a natural phenomenon caused by lightning — is creating additional deposits of scoria, a red slag-like material which caps many of the hills and buttes. The scoria, sandstone caprock, and hard concretions of large size retard erosion of softer clays that support them, and produce pedestal rocks and the rounded mound-like surfaces common to the Badlands. Many of these features are not unique, but all contribute to the story of the Badlands and add greatly to the scenic and scientific values of the park.

## DESCRIPTION

### History

Theodore Roosevelt first came to the Little Missouri Badlands in September 1883, to hunt bison and other game. He became intrigued with the people, the scenery, and wildlife of the area, and, after discussions with local ranchers, decided to invest in the then-flourishing cattle industry. Later in the month, he contracted with Sylvane Ferris and William Merrifield for the purchase of cattle and establishment of his interests on the Chimney Butte Ranch, some 7 miles south of the present town of Medora. This ranch soon became known as the Maltese Cross Ranch because of Roosevelt's distinctive brand. The small log house constructed on the site, a symbol of Roosevelt's early ranching life, was moved to several different places in the 1900's, and finally in 1959 was placed next to the park visitor center, where it serves as a part of the interpretive program.

Late in the autumn of 1883, Roosevelt returned to New York, only to have a dual personal tragedy strike when his wife and mother died within a single night early in 1884. However, he continued to serve the State as a legislator until later the same year, when his restless nature made him return to the Little Missouri.

The ensuing months saw his cattle interests prosper, so he bought additional cattle and established another ranch 35 miles north of Medora along the Little Missouri. Again, his distinctive brand, the Elkhorn, became the name of the ranch. None of the original buildings remain, but the site has been preserved as a separate unit of the park. As Roosevelt was most closely associated with the Elkhorn Ranch, this site is the basic tangible historical resource of the park.

Roosevelt's cattle venture continued successfully until the blizzard of 1886, when "... nature and economics seem[ed] to conspire together for the entire overthrow of the open-range cattle industry." He spent short periods in the Badlands until 1898, when he decided that his herds had dwindled to a point where it was no longer economically feasible to continue. He sold out to his old partner and manager, Sylvane Ferris, before leaving for Cuba with the "Rough Riders" in 1898. It is estimated that he lost 60 percent of his cattle in the blizzard and some \$20,000 before quitting. The money had been well spent, though, as his health had improved, and he had tested himself as a man, gaining insights into the need for conservation that might have eluded him if he had not had the experience. The rugged life had made him a rugged man, and it showed remarkably during his years as a "Rough Rider" and in the Presidency.

Fairly contemporary with Roosevelt's ranching years was the Long X Ranch located in the vicinity of the North Unit. While Roosevelt did not have direct contact with this region, the Long X Trail through the park does directly relate to the open-range cattle industry of which he was a part. Hence, the reintroduction of a small longhorn herd will do much to round out the story of the cattle industry's contribution to the opening of the West and its influence on the 26th President of the United States.

In the present South Unit, there is another contemporary ranch site, the Lamb Ranch in Peaceful Valley. A working cattle ranch in the 1880's, this ranch was converted into a dude ranch known as the Peaceful Valley Ranch in the 1920's. In the 1930's, it became a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and in 1947 was converted into the first headquarters area for the newly established memorial park. When the new park headquarters was moved to Medora, all Peaceful Valley buildings were obliterated except three that have historic interest. These are the much-altered, but original, Lamb Ranch residence, a bunkhouse, and horse barn, which were associated with the Peaceful Valley Dude Ranch. During its dude-ranch period, visitors were taken by horse and coach to the petrified forest west of the Little Missouri River. These excursions gave early "dudes" an insight into frontier life and the resources which were later to become part of the park.

### **Archeology**

The park's major archeological resource ties in with the historical theme, as it is the site of the Elkhorn Ranch. Two archeological surveys and excavations were accomplished in the late 1950's by former Midwest Regional Archeologist Paul Beaubien and Dr. Dee C. Taylor of the University of Montana. The results of this work have been compiled in the report *Archeological Investigations of the Elkhorn Ranch Site, 1959*, which furnishes excellent data for future restoration of the ranch. Dr. Taylor marked the location of each ranch structure with concrete corners and metal stakes. Ray H. Mattison's *Historical Study of Buildings at Theodore Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch Site at Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, 1960*, contains valuable historic photographs and sketches of the ranch structures. The sketches shown on the Resource Base Map are based on this research.

A short distance from the Peaceful Valley picnic area is the Paddock Cabin site. The excavation of this early hunter's cabin may furnish information leading to greater knowledge of early hide and market hunting, which resulted in the extermination of the bison, elk, bear, and other commercially marketable game animals that formerly were found in the Badlands. As this is a minor theme in the park story, its priority will remain low, but it could be developed at a later date when visitor use might require additional interpretive locations.

The extent of early man's occupation of the park is not known, but some evidence of occupation by Northern Plains Indians is found in the North Unit. This evidence includes tepee rings and eagle-catching pits south of the river near the edge of the plateau, and remains of a Gross Ventre encampment across the river from Squaw Creek Campground. The North Dakota State Historical Society has conducted a survey to determine the extent of the Northern Great Plains Indians occupational use of the Badlands area within the park.

### **Geology**

Erosion has been forming these deep canyons and high buttes since Pliocene times, about a million years ago. The exposed strata is primarily of the Tongue River formation, a part of the Fort Union Group. Materials making up this formation were deposited during the Paleocene period of the Cenozoic era.

The beds of the Tongue River formation have been described as non-marine, or continental, in origin. They were deposited on an alluvial plain when the present area was at a much lower elevation, probably somewhere near sea level. There were many rivers winding back and forth over the surface of the plain, depositing sediments that owed their origin to the newly-formed Rocky Mountains several hundred miles to the west. Also, a vast amount of fine volcanic ash was carried from the mountains by the prevailing winds and deposited in thick layers, later to become the bluish-type clays called bentonite. The total thickness of the Tongue River formation is over 1000 feet, of which only the near-basal part is exposed in the park. The strata consists of fine-grained shales, clays, sandstones, silts, sands, and lignite. In general, the shales and clays are gray to brown, the sandstones light yellowish-orange to buff and tan, and the lignite dark brown to black.

At the end of the Pliocene and the beginning of the Pleistocene, there was a gradual uplifting of the land, causing an increase in the velocity of stream flow and the resulting down-cutting through the Tongue River formation. Several periods of rapid stream erosion interspersed with periods of deposition have resulted in distinct river terraces.

Fine examples of slumping can be seen in several parts of the North Unit. One slump block is the subject of an interpretive marker along the highway.

During the latter part of the Pliocene and beginning of the Pleistocene, glaciers were forming to the north and slowly working southward. The ice sheet blocked the drainage of the Little Missouri River to the north into Hudson Bay, thus forcing the river to take a new course to the east and south. Glacial drift and erratics left by the melting ice can be seen on the uplands to the north and south of the Little Missouri River in the North Unit.

Evidences of life extant during the period of deposition can be found in the remains of plant fossils, gastropods, and pelecypod shells, and a few remains of aquatic reptiles such as turtles and crocodiles. From time to time, great swamps developed in low, moist areas. As trees and plants died, they fell into the swamps, where they later turned to an impure type of coal called lignite. Some lignite beds have caught fire and burned, baking the overlying clays into a red brick-like material, locally called scoria. The scoria tops many of the buttes, thus lending the name "Burning Hills" to the area. At the present time, a burning lignite bed in the South Unit demonstrates to the park visitor how the scoria is formed. The burning was thought to have been caused by a lightning strike during a storm in the fall of 1951.

Other interesting geological features include log and cannonball concretions, hard caprocks that top many of the buttes, and extensive areas of petrified tree stumps.

The interbedded strata, exposed by erosion and showing many different colors, add much to the scenic character of the rugged badlands topography. The area is an excellent example of the badlands, and the story of the badlands formation is well-illustrated here.

## Animal Life

Animals of the memorial park are as follows:

HERBIVORES	CARNIVORES	OTHER SMALL MAMMALS
Bison	Coyote	Beaver
Mule deer	Bobcat	Porcupine
White-tailed deer	Fox	Raccoon
Antelope	Weasel	Rabbit
Bighorn sheep	Badger	Prairie dog
		Pocket gopher
		Chipmunk
REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS	BIRDS
Prairie rattlesnake	Painted turtle	Bald eagle
Bull snake	Spadefoot toad	Golden eagle
Yellow-bellied racer	Leopard frog	Hawk
Garter snake	Tiger salamander	Falcon
Hog-nosed snake		Sharp-tailed grouse
Short-horned lizard		Black-billed magpie
Sagebrush lizard		Meadowlark

Some animals that once inhabited the Badlands were extirpated by market hunters, the open-range cattle industry, and later settlement. Elk, grizzly bear, wolf, and black-footed ferret are no longer found here. Some disappearing species such as the bald eagle, golden eagle, and prairie falcon are still found here. Ducks, geese, and cranes pass through the Badlands on their annual migrations. Bison and bighorn sheep have been reintroduced into the park. Since elk were an important member of the fauna during Roosevelt's time, consideration should be given to their reintroduction. Certain exotics exist in the park, such as feral horses (in the South Unit) and longhorn cattle (in the North Unit). These animals, associated with the historic scene, are a part of the living history that can be seen in the park. Pheasant, chukar, and wild turkey can be found here also.

The park has one of the largest concentrations of black-tailed prairie dogs left in the country. The prairie dog, once common throughout the mixed-grass plains, has disappeared in most areas. The bison, which has been reintroduced, can be seen roaming free in the Badlands much as before the great slaughter of the 1870's and 1880's. Other animals such as the bighorn sheep, which has been reintroduced, and the bobcat, are seldom seen. To the few visitors who do see them, it is often for the first time, and is an unforgettable experience. Many people visit the park just to see and photograph the wildlife. The great variety of animals in their natural habitat is also of great scientific value.

## Vegetation

The badlands of the park are in a mixed-grass prairie region of the northern plains. The rough topography of the area and variety of soils encourage several different plant communities. These vary from grasslands on the flats to north slope woodlands and desert shrubs on the south-facing slopes.

The grasslands were heavily overgrazed in the 1880's, and again in the 1930's. This overgrazing, coupled with poor farming practices, contributed heavily to dust storms of the late 1930's. Since that time, much of the disturbed land has been reseeded and has returned essentially to its native condition.

The accompanying diagram indicates the several subzones within the park, and lists the characteristic types of plants occurring within each. There is, however, considerable overlapping from one subzone to another.

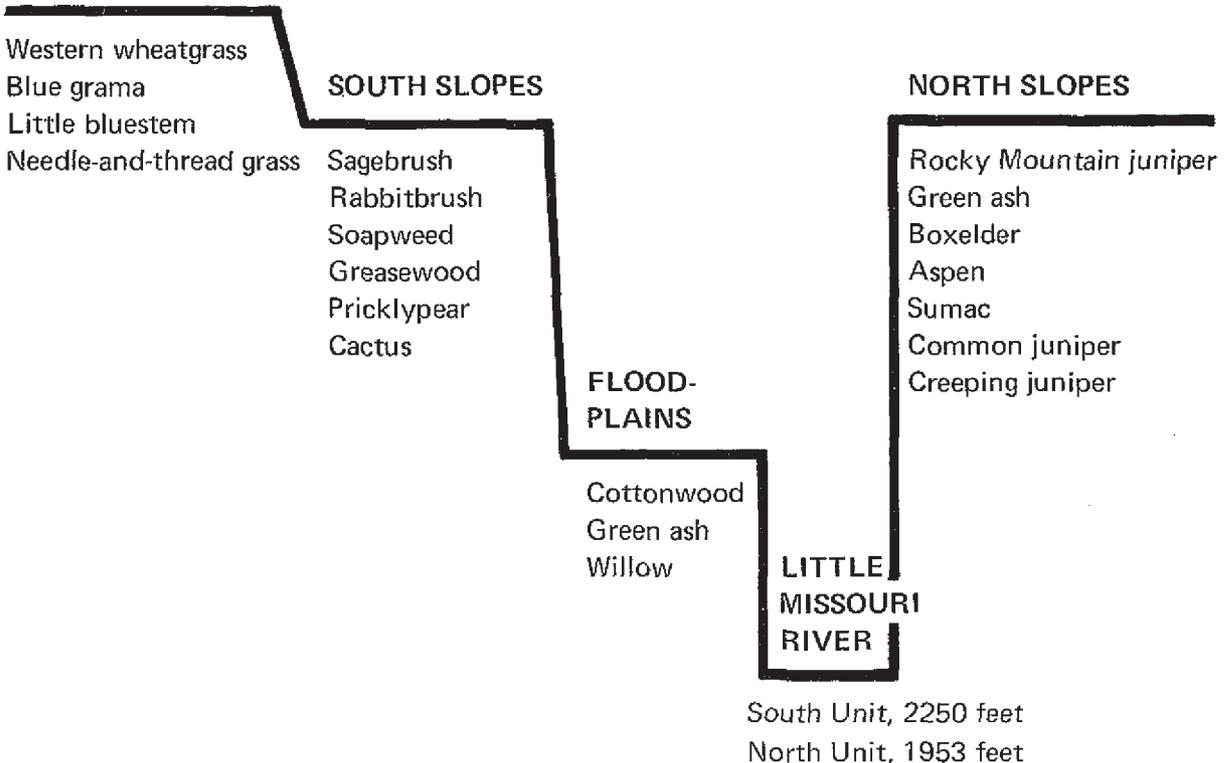
The elevations shown are the maximum and minimum for both units.

### VEGETATION zone and terrain diagram

#### PLATEAUS:

South Unit, 2855 feet

North Unit, 2570 feet



Grasslands cover 43,000 acres (60 percent) of the park, brush and woodlands each cover 10,000 acres (15 percent, each), and 7000 acres (10 percent) are non-vegetated.

### **Recreation**

The primary recreation resources are the scenery and the wildlife. These can be viewed by motoring, hiking, horseback riding, or by horse-drawn vehicles. Water recreation is lacking due to the nature of the Little Missouri River, which is a shallow, muddy river most of the year. However, canoeing is popular in the spring and early summer during high water. Occasionally, a catfish or goldeye can be caught, but the river is poor for fishing, as well as for swimming or boating. The park has many miles of old wagon roads that are adaptable for hiking or horseback riding. The cottonwood groves and river flats are well adapted to picnicking and camping.

## **FACTORS AFFECTING RESOURCES AND USE**

### **Legal Factors**

Theodore Roosevelt had its beginnings as a park in August 1934, when Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps, under the sponsorship of the North Dakota State Historical Society, began work under the direction of the National Park Service in what was then known as the Roosevelt Regional State Park. The idea of a park in the North Dakota Badlands had previously been promoted in the 1920's, when former National Park Service Director Stephen Mather and Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Roger Toll joined congressional and State representatives in an investigation of the national park potential of the badlands in the vicinity of Medora.

State School Section 16 in Township 140N, Range 102W, in the South Unit, and a small tract of land inside the original entrance to the North Unit, were acquired by the historical society for purposes of the CCC project; additional lands for park development became available through the submarginal land purchase program. The program was instituted as a land-use adjustment project, in which some lands too thickly homesteaded for all inhabitants to make an agricultural living were purchased by the Federal Government to enable the owners to settle elsewhere and to make additional land available, as Government pasture, to those who remained. Through an arrangement between Federal agencies and the State, submarginal lands within certain specified boundaries were made available for park development as they were acquired. These lands, together with intermingled remnants of the original public domain and State school lands, qualified as a recreation demonstration area when, beginning about 1936, a total of 46 such areas were established throughout the United States. These were to enable the Federal Government, through the National Park Service, to aid the States by developing recreational facilities on lands of low agricultural value, thus demonstrating their worth for public park purposes.

All park development in the North and South Units had been accomplished through the combined work of the CCC camps and the several Emergency Relief Administration and Work Project Administration projects, until the last CCC camp was closed in the South Unit in 1941.

The Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area, the largest of such areas in the United States, had been developed with a view to its eventual transfer to the State. It remained under the custody of the National Park Service during World War II, and it was concluded in 1945 that the park was more than the State could properly administer and further develop. The Fish and Wildlife Service had been interested in the area as a national wildlife refuge, and they took over its administration in April 1946. Congressman Lemke, backed by local sentiment in favor of national park status voiced by the Greater North Dakota Association and the Watford City Association of Commerce, introduced a bill that was enacted by Congress on April 25, 1947. The act, Public Law 38, established the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.

The memorial park established contained only a portion of the South Unit of the former recreation demonstration area (RDA) and was provided authority to acquire certain lands thought to contain the Elkhorn Ranch site. The reduced boundaries were a concession to local livestock interests who had protested the amount of good grazing land included in the RDA. The legislation also provided for the exchange of the remaining RDA lands to eliminate private holdings within the park boundaries.

The 1947 boundaries were found to be unrealistic topographically, and the Elkhorn Unit boundaries needed correction. Public Law 620, which passed Congress on June 10, 1948, amended the establishing act. The new act added some land from the former recreation demonstration area and also added land west of the river that included the petrified forest. It also corrected the description of the lands authorized to be acquired for the Elkhorn Ranch unit. Public Law 631, passed on June 12, 1948, added the North Unit to the park, including all but the six northernmost sections of the former North Unit of the recreation demonstration area.

Public Law 438, enacted March 24, 1956, added lands on the north side of the village of Medora for the park headquarters development. This act also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to make future boundary adjustments along U.S. Highways 10 and 85, due to realignment. A limitation of adding not more than 500 acres and excluding not more than 2000 acres was included. The Secretary adjusted the boundaries in 1963 under this authority to conform to the realignment of U.S. 10, now designated Interstate 94. This excluded 398.39 acres and added 459.04 acres.

In adding the North Unit to the park, Public Law 631 reserved to stockmen of the surrounding area a perpetual right-of-way through the park for the trailing of livestock to and from the railroad, along and adjacent to the Little Missouri River. This route is the same trail that has been used by the stockmen for this purpose since the beginning of the livestock industry in this area.

Public Law 87-193, enacted August 31, 1961, authorized the Secretary to modernize the water and sewerage facilities in the village of Medora on a reimbursable basis under certain conditions. The village has since installed a water and sewerage system of its own and is no longer interested in connecting with the park headquarters water supply system, except on an emergency basis.

On January 24, 1964, the National Park Service and the North Dakota State Highway Department entered into an agreement relative to the Painted Canyon Overlook within the park on Interstate 94. The document spells out the maintenance and development responsibilities of each agency for this viewpoint.

### **Jurisdiction**

The United States exercises proprietary jurisdiction over the memorial park. The State of North Dakota has police jurisdiction over lands within the park; the county sheriffs and the State game wardens exercise similar authority. The National Park Service will be seeking concurrent jurisdiction in the future.

### **Land Status**

The total acreage of Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park is 70,436.00. Of this total, 69,528.31 acres are federally owned, and 907.69 acres remain in non-Federal ownership. There are five private inholdings, three in the North Unit and two in the South Unit (see Landownership and Boundary Map).

### **River**

The Little Missouri River is a navigable stream; its water and its submerged land to the low-water mark are under the jurisdiction of the State of North Dakota. This river was considered navigable at the time of statehood and is legally considered as such for all times. This opinion was confirmed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Omaha Office, and the Office of the Solicitor, in 1969.

### **Climate**

The memorial park has a continental climate, characterized by cold winters and hot summers with high variations from day to day. Annual precipitation averages about 14 inches, most of which falls during the spring and summer, usually with thunderstorms. The average precipitation for the month of June – the wettest month – is 3.51 inches. The average annual snowfall is 31.4 inches, with snows as early as October and as late as May. The maximum snowfall recorded in a 24-hour period was 8.6 inches and the greatest depth on the ground at one time was 19 inches. Winter blizzards are often severe, but of short duration. Few last more than 2 days. The snow is seldom deep but high winds often pile it into drifts that may be difficult to break through when clearing roads. The strong winds also make heating more difficult in buildings.

The average maximum daytime temperature during July and August – the months of heaviest visitation – is 86.5 degrees. The average minimum nighttime temperature for the same months is 52.3 degrees. However, extremes of over 100 degrees may be expected in July, August, and September. Sub-zero temperatures occur as early as October and as late as April. A winter minimum of -.49 degrees was recorded January 26, 1950.

### **Fire History**

Fire records from 1948 through 1968 show that there have been 32 fires. Total acres burned were 509; the largest area burned was a 200-acre tract in 1949.

The fire season usually runs from the first of May to the end of October. In dry years, fire danger can remain high throughout November or may be high in March and April. Wind velocities of 20 to 30 miles per hour cause grass fires to spread rapidly, but resistance to control is medium to low. Resistance to control is high on the steep juniper slopes; however, spread is slower. These are generally quite small, widely scattered areas, which lessens the fire hazards.

### **Terrain and Soils**

The park terrain consists of badlands, river bottom lands, and flattish uplands, all of which are drained by the Little Missouri River. The badlands extend back to the headwaters of the tributary streams. These streams have cut through the soft strata, dissecting the region into a network of canyons, ravines, and gullies, which are nearly continuous along both sides of the river. There are occasional grass-covered plateaus left between some of the streams. At the edge of the badlands, the park extends into rolling grass-covered plains.

Soils in the park vary from none on some of the badlands surfaces, to alluvial soils on the Little Missouri floodplain, and to thin loam on the grassy uplands. Sinkholes are common in the badlands and can cause trouble on roads. Rapid erosion of the barren slopes of the soft geologic formations affect roads and trails also. Some of the slopes are steep, and small slides and falling rock occasionally occur, especially during wet weather. Slump blocks are also present. The park has large deposits of bentonite. One especially perplexing problem is riverbank erosion in the North Unit, where the meandering Little Missouri is threatening the Squaw Creek Campground and lands adjacent to the Elkhorn Ranch site.

## **RESOURCE USE**

### **General**

A total of 708,000 people visited the park in 1971. About 65 percent of these were out-of-State visitors, a large percentage of whom were traveling to or from the Black Hills of South Dakota or the larger national parks in the Rocky Mountain area.

A typical visit consists of a stop at the visitor center and a 2-hour motor trip through the South Unit of the park. From this type of use, there is a gradual increase in activity and length of stay involving picnicking by small and large groups (1500 persons have been recorded in one group visit); overnight camping (visitors arrive in the afternoon and depart in the morning); and a small minority of visitors who, through frequent visits or an extended stay, study the human and natural history of the area in depth.

### **Automobile Sightseeing**

The average stay in the park for visitors, excluding campers, non-recreation users, and Painted Canyon users, was found to be 2 hours by a time-in/time-out survey conducted at both the North and South Units in 1965 and 1966.

### **Interpretive Facilities**

Guided tours through the Maltese Cross Cabin, Theodore Roosevelt's first home in the Badlands, which has been relocated adjacent to the visitor center in the South Unit, are available during the peak visitor season. Some 38,000 visitors took the tour in 1970. Guided nature walks, started in 1968, are conducted daily from June 15 through Labor Day. A total of 2300 visitors took these walks in 1970.

Campfire programs are conducted nightly from June 15 to Labor Day in both the North and South Units of the park. These programs were attended by 18,700 visitors in 1970.

The contact station at the North Unit is manned for 12 hours every day during the summer season. During the off-season, it is unmanned. The visitor center in the South Unit is manned for 9 hours each day during the off-season and 12 hours each day during the summer. A total of 72,500 visitors used these facilities during 1970.

The park has three self-guiding nature trails: the Caprock Coulee Trail and Squaw Creek in the North Unit, and Wind Canyon in the South Unit. A total of 27,000 visitors used these trails in 1969. Additional self-guiding trails may be proposed following completion of the interpretive prospectus.

### **Backcountry Use**

Backcountry use is primarily during the day and by horseback. Most of these 1- to 8-hour trips originate from the Peaceful Valley Ranch, or from the group campgrounds.

Organized groups with horses are coming to both units in increasing numbers year after year. Although a number of horse trails are designated, a complete trail system is needed. These riders also return to their points of origin nightly for activities, shelter, food, and water.

At least one riding group has acquired property near the park to serve as a base camp; they spend their days riding in the park.

Hiking and canoeing are becoming increasingly popular.

### **Camping**

There are four developed campgrounds in the park. Squaw Creek in the North Unit contains 25 campsites (soon to be expanded to 50 sites). Cottonwood in the South Unit contains 108 sites, 60 of which have pull-through parking suitable for trailers up to 35 feet in length. Halliday Well in the South Unit is designed for groups of up to 80 people. The Rough Rider Group area, which now receives limited use, will eventually provide facilities for approximately 350 people. Halliday Well and the Rough Rider Group area contain only primitive facilities and can be reserved in advance.

Campground use increased from 20,000 in 1963 to 41,700 in 1970. Any reconstruction of the campground should contain only sites designed for any type of use.

### **Picnicking**

The Squaw Creek Area in the North Unit, soon to be reconstructed, presently contains two picnic area shelter houses and 25 developed sites. Two designated picnic areas now exist in the South Unit: the Peaceful Valley area and the large group area at Halliday Well. These are not sufficient to accommodate the existing demand in this unit, especially with the heavy influx of local residents on the weekends and holidays. The proposed picnic area expansion has high priority in the development program.

### **Horseback Riding**

A saddle horse concession for guided horseback tours began in 1967 at Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit. The concession now offers horseback trips and horse-drawn-vehicle tours. Considerable backcountry horseback riding is being done by local residents and saddle clubs.

### **Hotels, Lodges, Motels, Cabins, and Trailer Villages**

Since the gateway village of Medora, adjacent to the South Unit, provides overnight facilities such as motels and trailer courts, the park provides none. Medora has two motels and one hotel. The hotel, the reconstructed Rough Rider Hotel dating back to the 1880's, contains eight deluxe rooms for rent. There are 136 motel units available in Medora. The largest motel is the recently constructed Badlands Motel, which contains 120 units. The Dietz Motel contains 16 units and operates on a year-round basis. The Badlands Motel and Rough Rider Hotel operate only during the summer months. No overnight facilities other than for campers are available in the park.

There is a small eight-unit trailer village with water, electric, and sewer connections in Medora. Use of this facility by park visitors is negligible. Beach, Belfield, and Watford City, North Dakota — all within 25 miles of the park — also have limited motel and trailer village accommodations.

## **the plan**

In 1963, a master plan was approved that established the requirements for effective management and development of the park. The general development section of the 1963 plan reflected existing and proposed development, and established a pattern of use for the park.

As a premise for such planning, an optimum visitation of 7000 people per day has been projected. This is exclusive of the Painted Canyon Overlook adjoining Interstate 94, which has an estimated capacity of 15,000 per day.

The South Unit will always receive the heaviest visitation and offer the greatest variety of use. The North Unit essentially will accommodate camping, automobile sightseeing, horseback riding, and hiking. The Elkhorn Unit, because of Theodore Roosevelt's personal association, has historical significance.

The three units have in common the meandering Little Missouri River, with its wooded bottom land and side canyons, and the varied wildlife dependent on this combination of water and shelter.

### **ELKHORN RANCH DEVELOPMENT**

In 1884, Theodore Roosevelt established his second ranch, called the Elkhorn — headquarters for his ranching until it was abandoned in 1890. It was here that the frontier experience had its greatest impact upon his later life, and also where he wrote some of his famous books. On January 9, 1947, Congress recognized the importance of this site and called for the acquisition of the ranch site and reconstruction of the buildings. Remote from modern communities, accessible only by rough ranch roads, and separated from the east side by the unbridged Little Missouri River, this site has remained undeveloped. Nevertheless, it represents the principal historical resource of the area — the focal point of our 26th President's life in the Badlands — and should be developed to provide onsite interpretation of that period of Theodore Roosevelt's life which he spent there. His previous and later experiences also are considered relative to this ranching experience. Unlike the other two units of the park, where a variety of activities are available and encouraged, the emphasis at Elkhorn is singularly historical in purpose and both the manmade facilities and the natural setting will reflect the period of the 1880's.

The concept of development included in this plan provides for the Elkhorn to be:

A seasonal, day-use area

Accessible by foot only, utilizing a pedestrian bridge to cross the river

Re-created in the essence of the original complex

Interpreted on site by seasonal staff members who will be housed in four units on the east side of the river

Access to the general area via the Blacktail Road presently commences from U.S. 85, about 20 miles east of the Elkhorn Site. The gravel road meanders across some 16 miles of national grasslands and another 4 or more miles of private land. Initially, this general route should be improved, and designated as the recommended access to the Elkhorn vicinity. (See appended statement of access alternatives.)

In the vicinity of the Mosser Ranch, visitor parking and seasonal housing are proposed. Visitors will walk about 1000 feet and cross a footbridge to reach the ranch land. Another 1500-foot walk will take the visitors to the ranch site. The 1-mile round-trip walk will visually relate to the river and woods.

Though all details of each ranch building cannot be duplicated, the location, general appearance, and use of the various structures have been determined. When viewed on site, the appearance will be authentic.

Interpretation can be divided easily into two broad categories. The walk through the woods and across the meandering river and the relationship of the ranch to the river and the buildings to each other offer an intimate view. But there should also be an opportunity for close examination. One structure could be authentically reconstructed and furnished, to serve for close inspection as a focal point, possibly the residence.

The acquisition of land for the road, parking, support facilities, and scenic control is shown on the Landownership and Boundary Map. About 40 acres acquired in fee will be sufficient for visitor parking and seasonal housing. The right-of-way for the entry road is in addition to the estimated 40 acres.

Scenic-easement rights must be acquired from two landowners to preserve the view of this area when observed from the actual ranch site.

A memorandum of understanding should be initiated between the National Park Service and the Forest Service regarding three separate areas as shown on the landownership and Boundary Map. Grazing by permit, the primary use of these lands, is compatible, and there is no reason why it should not be continued.

The North Dakota State Historical Society owns two parcels of land — one bordering each end of the Elkhorn Ranch site.

## PAINTED CANYON OVERLOOK

This overlook is extraordinary, for it is a complete entity within itself. An extension of east-west Interstate 94, it is literally a "drive-in" in every sense of the term. Though there is a strong contrast between the overlook and the rest of the park, the opportunity for developing and relating this area to the entire park operation is very exciting.

The overlook is most strategically located. After hours of driving from the west, or particularly from the east, travelers need a stop. There is certainly no better place than this, where the prairie suddenly and dramatically becomes badlands. As the interstate is completed to the west, travel impact will increase.

The overlook stop should be an outstanding experience for the traveler, both in his introduction to the badlands and in the physical development of the roadside rest itself. This latter is a real challenge, since many of the Midwestern States have outstanding highway-related facilities, well designed for the comfort, enjoyment, and safety of the traveler. Perhaps even more important is the built-in opportunity to kindle a sense of curiosity and interest that could encourage the traveler to leave the interstate to further explore Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. Information about regional recreation should be readily available to travelers.

A concept of development revolves around the following criteria:

A roadside rest automatically indicates round-the-clock use. Most travelers will turn in, look at the view, stretch, and use any available interpretive devices for orientation. During the day, many travelers may wish to picnic before continuing their trip. The Park Service has begun to provide facilities for picnicking but the area will not be used for overnight stays.

The starkness of the area points up the need for a focal point, a structure, to which travelers gravitate as a logical place for parking to see the view and to refresh themselves.

This overlook and rest area is planned to be comparable to those sites developed by the State of North Dakota along Interstate 94. Information stations will be manned during the heavy-use season.

Picnicking should also be encouraged. With the expanse of existing level terrain, there is no reason why visitors should not sit, lunch, and view at the same time.

Interpretation at the overlook offers a unique opportunity to contact a great number of people, traveling under a wide range of circumstances, who, hopefully, will be excited enough by this exposure to the Badlands that they will visit the park.

The information station is the hub for information at the Painted Canyon Overlook.

Boundary adjustments and landownership questions have been resolved.

By agreement with the North Dakota State Highway Department, the National Park Service is obligated to develop and maintain visitor facilities and amenities at this site. The State provided the overpass permitting the eastbound traveler safe and ready access, and is responsible for the mowing and maintenance of the road right-of-way.

Water and sewage facilities must be constructed; electricity is necessary. Existing roadside rests to the east generally have 8 to 12 tall light standards and are located where existing trees grace the site or the terrain dips, giving a more protected appearance and feeling. The wide-open, exposed nature of this site requires extensive planting of trees and an underground distribution system for adequate irrigation. Small-scale light standards will better relate to the visitor and his needs.

The advantage of sun and wind protection for picnickers has been recognized, and structures similar to those existing have been proposed. The present metal flat-roofed shelter and the "ship-under-sail" device should ultimately be replaced with structures in character with the site and the site's improvements.

### LONGHORN EXHIBIT

Longhorn steers have been introduced into the North Unit to partially reestablish the flavor of the open-range cattle industry that flourished during Roosevelt's association with the North Dakota Badlands. The North Unit is historically suitable since the longhorn drives from Texas to the grasslands of North Dakota followed the Long X Trail, which crosses this unit of the park.

It is difficult for visitors to see these animals because of the dense brush vegetation that dominates the range area. With construction of a parking area on an overlook point, the visitor will be given the opportunity to observe the cattle. Sparse brush cover exists in the area; however, large trees are present to provide shade for the animals. Water and feed facilities will be required.

To improve the viewing of the longhorns it may be necessary to relocate them or confine their range.

## **PEACEFUL VALLEY RANCH**

Although the Elkhorn Ranch is the focal point for commemorating the story of Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands, the old Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit offers an opportunity to provide visitors with a real frontier experience. This will be the base for a concession operation for visitor rides on horseback and for horse-drawn vehicles. Three old buildings remain at the ranch site: the residence, bunkhouse, and barn. Although not designated historic structures, they do provide a measure of authentic frontier atmosphere for visitors and appropriate colorful housing for the management of the concession operation.

The exact nature and extent of the equipment will be determined by management policy and concessioner experience. The rides will be primarily along existing trails and abandoned or administrative roads on both sides of the Little Missouri River. Horse-drawn-vehicle rides will be along designated routes, such as abandoned auto roads east of the river. This will offer the park visitor an opportunity to observe bison and deer throughout the visitor season.

## **PEACEFUL VALLEY PICNIC AREA**

This picnic area now contains two units comprising individual sites. Access to it is over a paved road. Two small parking areas exist. Site expansion in the two units is proposed. The two parking areas will require enlarging. Water at the site is adequate to supply the proposed expansion. Comfort stations and utilities are needed both in the existing and in the proposed area.

## **CAMPING AND PICNICKING**

Existing National Park Service and proposed private development of individual site camping in or near the South Unit is adequate to accommodate the present and foreseeable use of this area. Additional group camping is proposed at Halliday Well, and a large group camping area to accommodate private horse-party use is being developed at the former Rough Rider Group Camp Area, located on the west side of the river near the town of Medora.

The Squaw Creek Campground in the North Unit will require reconstruction and expansion immediately to meet the rapidly increasing camper use in this unit.

## **RIVERBANK STABILIZATION**

The Squaw Creek Campground is on a sharp bend on the Little Missouri River, where the river is undermining the bank adjacent to the camping area. Considerable bank undermining is also evident in the Elkhorn Ranch area. Corrective steps should be taken to stabilize the

bank at the Elkhorn Ranch area. The problem at the Elkhorn Ranch Site has yet to be investigated.

## **PARK ROADS**

The South Unit scenic loop road originating at Peaceful Valley was completed in 1967. This provides an adequate road circulation system in this unit of the park.

In 1967, a portion of the North Unit drive was reconstructed, and new bridges and culverts were installed. The remaining portion of this road between the Squaw Creek Campground and its terminus should be bituminous-surfaced. A new access road should be constructed to the picnic area and campground.

A longhorn exhibit observation point is needed; it should be paved, and it should provide ample parking space. The parking areas at Little Missouri and Oxbow Overlooks require expansion.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA**

The approved environmental study area (ESA) is about 160 acres surrounding Halliday Wells. The educational sphere of influence includes Dickinson, Belfield, and Beach, North Dakota. Travel time from the park entrance station to the ESA is about 15 minutes. Travel time to the park entrance is 45 minutes from Dickinson, 20 minutes from Belfield, and 45 minutes from Beach. The ESA has water, picnic tables under trees, and pit toilets. The ESA contains a prairie dog town, bluffs, buttes, and a riverine habitat.

The Dickinson schools have a moderate interest in day use for the elementary schools, but financial and other considerations prevent the school district from starting new programs now. A similar situation exists in the Beach schools. Future use of the ESA will start with day-use for the elementary schools, and will eventually include a camping program.

## **PRIORITY OF NEEDS**

A sequence of action is required to carry out the plan recommended in this report. For convenience, this sequence is broken down into current and long-range needs.

### **Current Needs**

Update all required action plans, or initiate new ones. The interpretive prospectus that has been started should be completed; a land and water rights acquisition program should be prepared; a resource management plan, including considerations regarding longhorn cattle and feral horses, should be worked out. A study of the area trail system is needed; many of

the minor roads will make excellent riding and hiking trails. The roads and trails plan should be updated.

Arrange with the Geological Survey for topographic mapping of the South Unit. Encourage State of North Dakota and Billings County officials to develop an improved road access to the Elkhorn Ranch Unit.

Promote legislation to authorize the proposed boundary change in the North and Elkhorn Units, and to remove the congressional limitation on costs of the Elkhorn Ranch reconstruction.

**Elkhorn Ranch:** Acquire the land necessary for access, parking, seasonal housing, utilities, and scenic control.

**North Unit:** Adjust the boundary to provide scenic control east of U.S. 85.

**Painted Canyon Overlook:** Develop all facilities and site improvements, including extensive shade-tree planting and an underground irrigation system.

**Peaceful Valley Picnic Area:** Expand and develop on the basis of the master plan narrative and the developed area schematic.

**Halliday Well:** Expand to two group camping areas. One can be used by horse parties. An area horse trail system must be developed.

**Cottonwood Campground:** Expand.

**Saddle Horse Base-Peaceful Valley Ranch:** Enlarge concessioner corral, develop a horse pasture for riding groups, using rail or pole fencing, and install public restrooms in existing bunkhouse.

**Saddle Horse Group Campground and Trail Head:** Develop site with facilities and horse-holding accommodations, using the old CCC campsite near Medora. Improve the similar facility at the North Unit bison corral.

**Headquarters, South Unit:** Expand or rearrange visitor center to increase capacity of audiovisual room; construct additional residences for permanent employees – replacing old residence no. 111, which needs total reconstruction, and meeting existing staff needs; develop 4-unit apartment for seasonal employees; and screen north end of maintenance yard by tree planting.

**North Entrance:** Add one land and checking kiosk at entrance; develop a 4-unit apartment for seasonal employees; obliterate old trailer village, residence, and garage currently used by seasonal employees; screen maintenance area with planting.

**Squaw Creek Campground and Picnic Facilities:** Install waste disposal station for trailer campers; develop comfort station for existing picnic area; including parking area and new road access to campground and picnic area; and develop campfire circle.

Bituminous surface the remaining unimproved portion of the North Unit road, and expand parking areas at the Missouri River and Oxbow Overlooks. Develop interpretive facility at Oxbow Overlook.

#### **Long-Range Needs**

The long-range needs include those projects that depend, to a certain extent, upon increased visitation and the fulfillment of the current needs. Generally, they are proposals that require advance planning but have no immediate urgency.

Expand existing Peaceful Valley Picnic Area.

Add parking area at saddle horse base at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Develop the support facilities at Elkhorn Ranch, including utilities, the ranch site, and pedestrian access and circulation, in conjunction with the interpretive plans.

Initiate archeological surveys, including excavation of the Paddock Cabin site.

Complete geological mapping of the North and South Units.

# appendixes

APPENDIX A: ELKHORN RANCH ACCESS ALTERNATIVES

APPENDIX B: STUDY TEAM

APPENDIX C: LEGISLATION

APPENDIX D: MAPS

## APPENDIX A: ELKHORN RANCH ACCESS ALTERNATIVES

Development of the Elkhorn Ranch site is dependent on access. The access road to the Elkhorn Ranch has been proposed in many different ways. The proposal of this master plan is to encourage the State of North Dakota and Billings County to improve access from U.S. 85. Other alternatives have been proposed and considered for the development of this access.

### Alternative 1

Build a scenic road or parkway along the river from the South Unit of the park to the Elkhorn Ranch site, and on to connect with the scenic road in the North Unit of the park.

Senate Bill 230, proposed in the 91st Congress, would provide for a connecting road following the Little Missouri River and linking the three units of the park. This proposed road has highest priority in the scenic road system proposed by the State of North Dakota. This could be either federally financed as a parkway or constructed by the State of North Dakota.

A variation of this alternative is to build a scenic road or parkway along the Little Missouri River from the South Unit to the Elkhorn Ranch area, and then improve access to U.S. 85. Such a scenic road, particularly between the South and the Elkhorn Units, would help solve the present limited access to the latter in a very pleasant manner if oriented visually to the river. Even this portion of the proposed river road could provide logical access for visitors traveling north from the South Unit. The south-bound visitor, after seeing the North Unit, could swing into the Elkhorn from U.S. 85, and then proceed to and through the South Unit. Access from both the south and east would provide a loop route from either east-west Interstate 94 or north-south U.S. 85.

Construction of such a parkway would be very destructive to natural values that presently exist along the river. Almost all of the land involved would be private, and a large number of private ranch properties would be disrupted. Expense for such an undertaking would be great from the standpoint of land acquisition and construction. Because of the acquisition problems, difficulty of the terrain for road building, and tight funding situations, development of such access would take an undesirably long time.

### Alternative 2

Improve the existing East River road for 25 miles from the north boundary of the South Unit to the Elkhorn Ranch site. Improvement of the present East River road again involves much private land and would be of high cost. The present access from U.S. 85 is located mostly on Federal lands, and the road has already undergone considerable improvement.

A study has been proposed by the Forest Service to consider the Little Missouri River through the Badlands as a national recreational riverway. To propose development of road improvements of parkway along the river would be preemptive and undesirable while such studies are being considered.

## APPENDIX B: STUDY TEAM

William James, Team Captain  
Denver Service Center

James Thompson, Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park

Arthur Allen, Interpretive Planner  
Harpers Ferry Center

John Henneberger, Wilderness Coordinator  
Denver Service Center

John Sage, Landscape Architect  
Denver Service Center

Arthur Sullivan, Former Superintendent  
Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park

## APPENDIX C: LEGISLATION

[PUBLIC LAW 38--80TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 41—1ST SESSION]

[H. R. 731]

AN ACT

To establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park; to erect a monument in memory of Theodore Roosevelt in the village of Medora, North Dakota; and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That all those certain tracts, pieces, or parcels of land, title to which is vested in the United States of America, and being in the State of North Dakota, and within the boundaries particularly described, as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point where the north line of the right-of-way of United States Highway Numbered 10 intersects the east boundary of section 36, township 140 north, range 101 west, fifth principal meridian; thence southwesterly and northwesterly along the north line of said right-of-way through section 1, township 139 north, range 101 west, and sections 36, 35, 34, 27, 28, and 29, township 140 north, range 101 west, to the west boundary of said section 29; north along section lines to the northwest corner of said section 29; west along section line to the southwest corner of section 19, township 140 north, range 101 west; north along township line to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 24, township 140 north, range 102 west; west to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of said section 24; north to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of said section 24; westerly along section lines to the southwest corner of section 16, township 140 north, range 102 west; northerly along section lines to the northwest corner of section 4, township 140 north, range 102 west; thence west along township line to the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 141 north, range 102 west; northerly through the center of sections 34 and 27 to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 27 of said township 141 north, range 102 west; easterly along section lines to the northeast corner of section 28, township 141 north, range 101 west; south along section lines to the southeast corner of said section 28; east along section line to the northeast corner of section 34, township 141 north, range 101 west; south to the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 35, township 141 north, range 101 west; easterly through center of sections 35 and 36 to the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of said section 36 of said township 141 north, range 101 west; south to the southeast corner of said section 36; thence east along township line to the northeast corner of lot 3, section 2, township 140 north, range 101 west; southerly through the center of sections 2 and 11 to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of said section 11, township 140 north, range 101 west; easterly

along section lines to the northeast corner of section 13 of said township 140 north, range 101 west; southerly along township line to the northwest corner of section 19, township 140 north, range 100 west; easterly along north line of said section 19 to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter; southerly through center of sections 19, 30, and 31 to the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 31; easterly along the center of said section 31 to the northeast corner of the southeast quarter; southerly along the east line of said section 31 to the southeast corner; westerly along the township line to the east line of section 36, township 140 north, range 101 west; northerly along the township line between townships 140 north, range 100 west and 140 north, range 101 west to the north right-of-way line of United States Highway Numbered 10, the place of beginning, containing thirty-five thousand two hundred and seventy acres, more or less, are hereby dedicated and set apart as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and shall be known as the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in his discretion, to construct and maintain a road or highway through the park connecting with a State or Federal highway.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to cause condemnation proceedings to be instituted in the name of the United States under the provisions of the Act of August 1, 1888, entitled "An Act to authorize the condemnation of lands for sites for public buildings, and other purposes" (25 Stat. 357), to acquire title to the lands, interests therein, or rights pertaining thereto that are privately owned within the boundaries of the said national park, and such property, when acquired, shall become a part thereof: *Provided*, That when the owner of such lands, interests therein, or rights pertaining thereto shall fix a price for the same, which, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, shall be reasonable, the Secretary may purchase the same without further delay: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept, on behalf of the United States, donations of land, interests therein, or rights pertaining thereto required for the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park: *And provided further*, That title and evidence of title to land and interests therein acquired for said park shall be satisfactory to the Attorney General.

Sec. 3. That for the purposes of acquiring non-Federal lands within the boundaries of said park as established by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to exchange federally owned lands within the Roosevelt recreational demonstration area project, located outside the boundaries of the park for State or privately owned lands of approximately equal value within the boundaries of the park, when in his opinion such action is in the interest of the United States, the title to any lands acquired under this section to be satisfactory to the Attorney General. Upon the vesting of title thereto in the United States, any lands acquired pursuant to this authorization shall become a part of the park and shall be subject to the laws applicable thereto.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Interior is further authorized to obtain by purchase or condemnation proceedings, as part of said Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, lots 2, 3, 4, and 6 of

section 33, township 144, range 102, and to reconstruct thereon the log ranch house thirty by sixty feet, the log blacksmith shop sixteen by twenty feet, one log stable sixteen by twenty feet, one log stable twenty by thirty feet, log dog house, three log rectangular corrals, and one log circular corral, as they existed at the time the premises were occupied by Theodore Roosevelt: *Provided*, That the total cost of such land and buildings shall not exceed \$40,000.

SEC. 5. The Administration, protection, and development of the aforesaid park shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to erect a monument in memory of Theodore Roosevelt, in the village of Medora, North Dakota, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts: *Provided*, That the cost of the monument shall not exceed \$35,000 and there shall be conveyed to the United States such suitable site as may in the judgment of the Secretary be required for said monument: *Provided further*, That the village of Medora, or other public agency or organization, shall furnish, in writing, assurance satisfactory to the Secretary of its willingness to assume the perpetual care and upkeep of the monument.

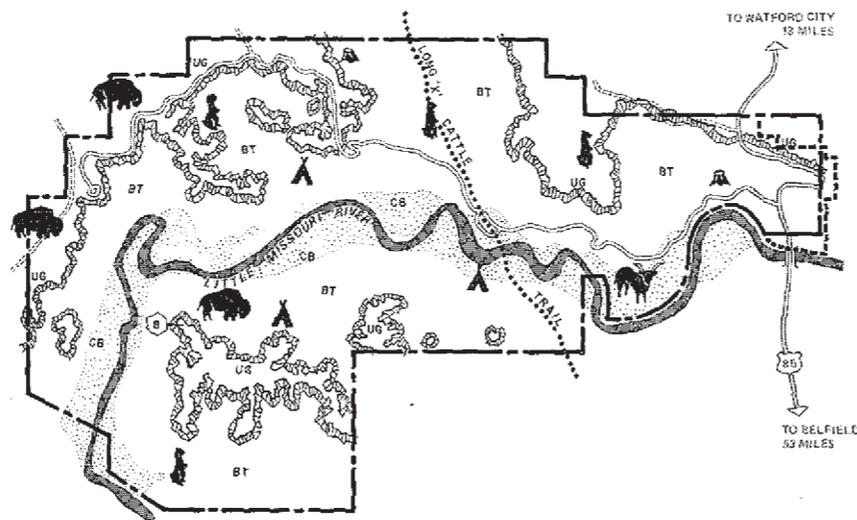
SEC. 7. That nothing herein contained shall affect any valid existing claim, location, or entry under the land laws of the United States, whether for homestead, mineral, right-of-way, or any other purposes whatsoever, or shall affect the right of any such claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of his land.

SEC. 8. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved April 25, 1947.

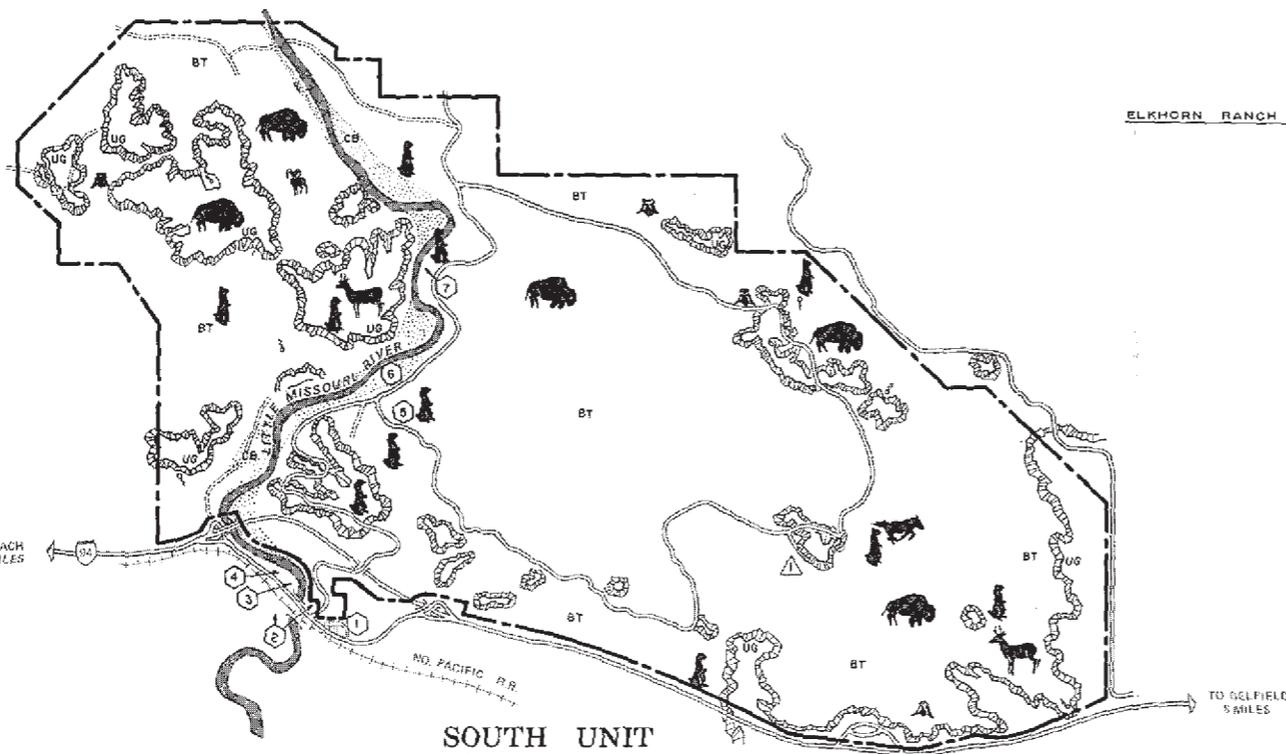
APPENDIX D: MAPS





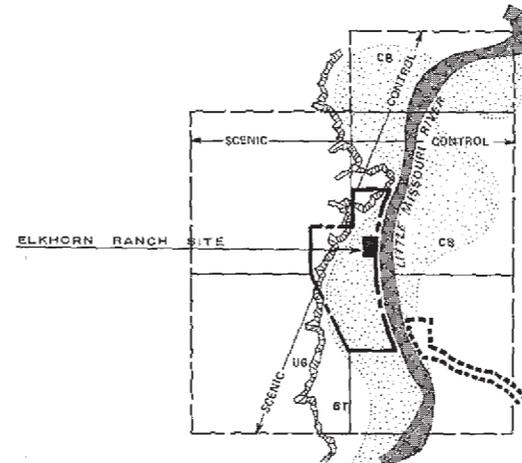
NORTH UNIT

SCALE IN MILES



SOUTH UNIT

SCALE IN MILES



ELKHORN UNIT

(SEE SCHEMATIC DRAWING)

SCALE IN MILES

LEGEND

- UG UPLAND GRASSLAND
- BT BADLANDS TERRAIN
- CB COTTONWOOD BOTTOM
- ☉ SPRING
- 🐃 BISON RANGE
- 🐄 LONGHORN CATTLE
- 🐎 FERAL HORSE
- 🐏 BIGHORN SHEEP
- 🐇 ANTELOPE AND DEER
- 🐶 PRAIRIE DOG
- 🌳 PETRIFIED WOOD
- 🏠 INDIAN CAMPSITE

- ① MEDORA—HISTORIC TOWN
- ② CHATEAU DE MORES STATE HISTORIC SITE
- ③ LITTLE MISSOURI TOWNSITE
- ④ CANTONMENT LITTLE MISSOURI SITE
- ⑤ PADDOCK CABIN SITE
- ⑥ PEACEFUL VALLEY RANCH
- ⑦ DEMORES BEEF CORRAL SITE
- ⑧ EAGLE CATCHING PIT
- ⚠ BURNING LIGNITE BED

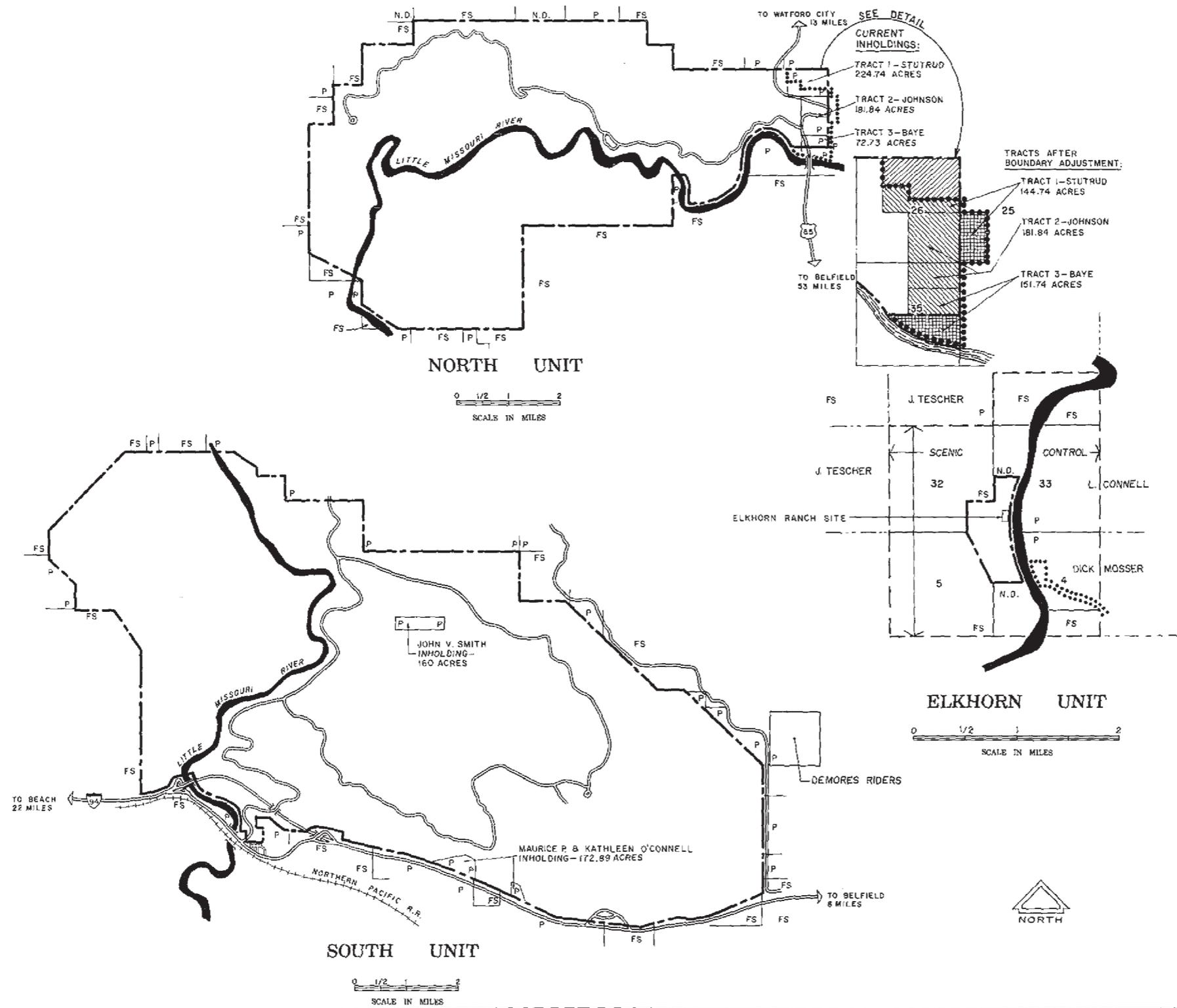


NORTH

RESOURCE BASE MAP  
THE MASTER PLAN  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

NORTH DAKOTA

387 3312-R  
DSC FEB 73



**LEGEND**

- EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY
- ..... PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY
- LAND STATUS:
- P PRIVATE
- ND NORTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- FS FOREST SERVICE
- LEGEND FOR DETAIL-NORTH UNIT
- [Hatched pattern] INHOLDING TO BE EXCLUDED
- [Diagonal lines] INHOLDING TO BE ACQUIRED
- [Grid pattern] LAND TO BE INCLUDED

**LANDOWNERSHIP AND BOUNDARY MAP**

THE MASTER PLAN

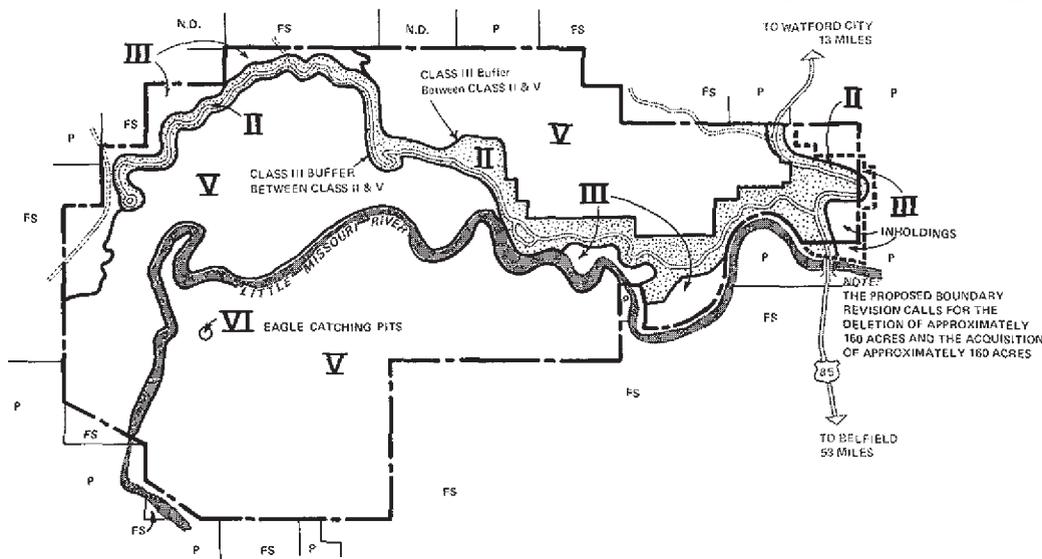
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK**

NORTH DAKOTA

387 3313-D

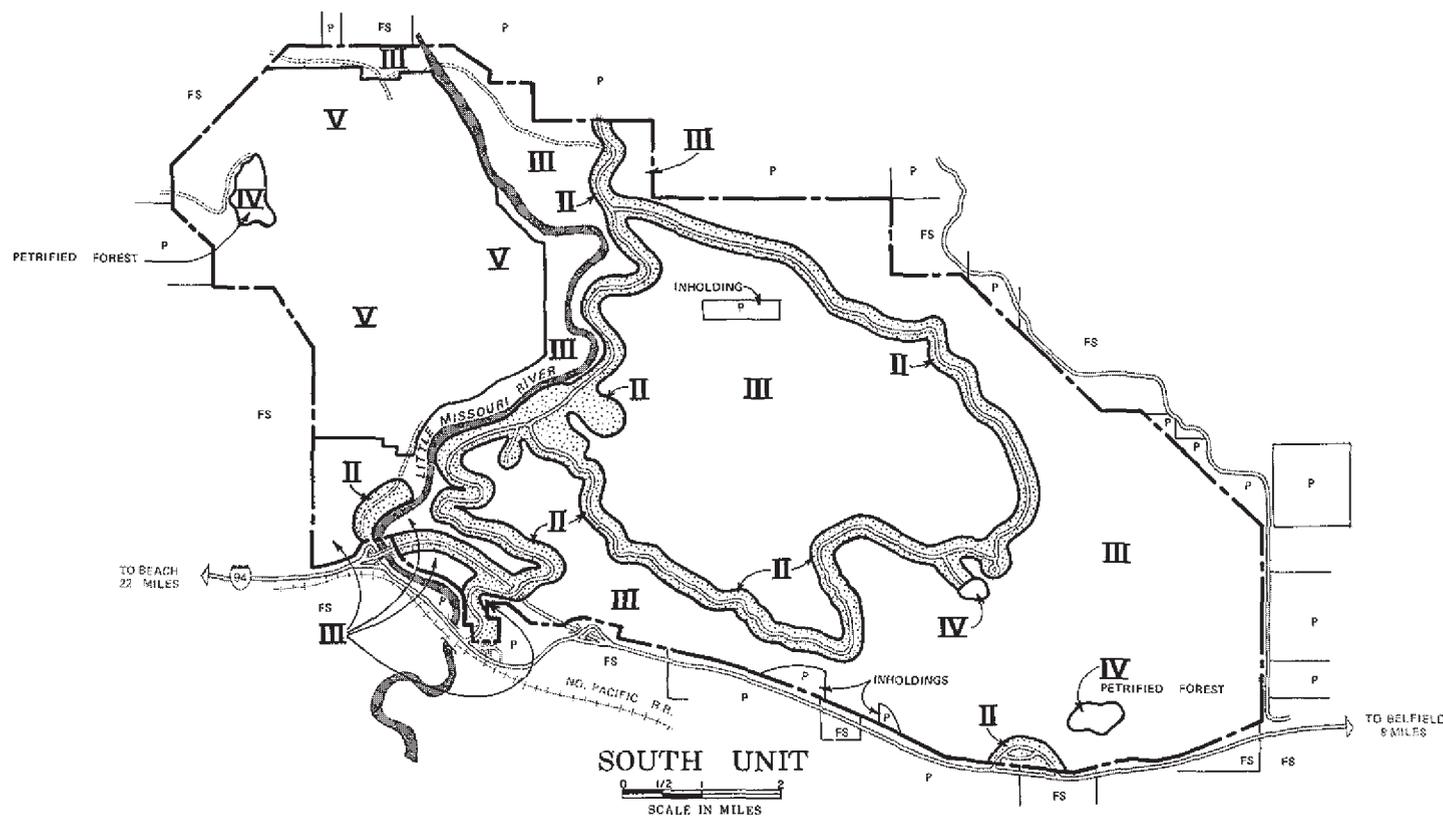
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ON MICROFILM

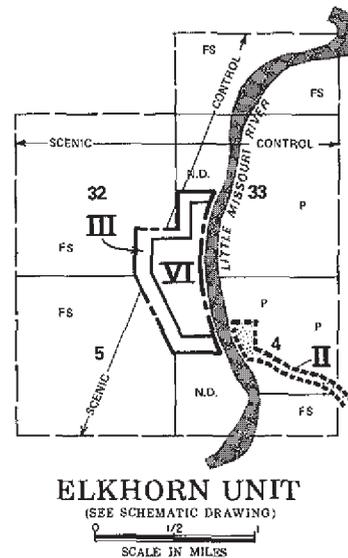


NORTH UNIT  
SCALE IN MILES

- CLASS I — HIGH-DENSITY RECREATION
- CLASS II — GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION
- CLASS III — NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- CLASS IV — OUTSTANDING NATURAL
- CLASS V — PRIMITIVE
- CLASS VI — HISTORIC AND CULTURAL



SOUTH UNIT  
SCALE IN MILES



ELKHORN UNIT  
(SEE SCHEMATIC DRAWING)  
SCALE IN MILES

LEGEND

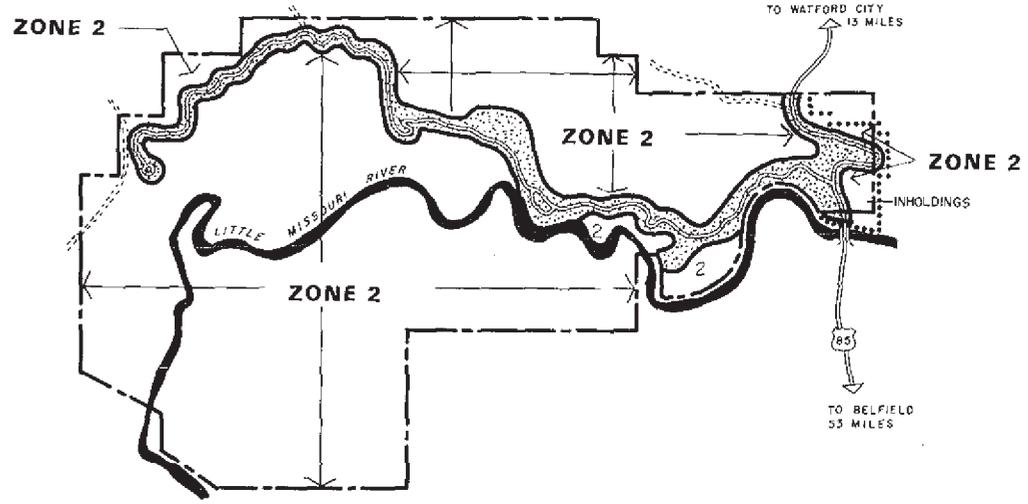
- PARK BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY
- ==== EXISTING ROAD - SURFACED
- ONE-LANE ADMINISTRATIVE ROAD
- PROPOSED TRAIL
- FS FOREST SERVICE
- P PRIVATELY OWNED
- N.D. NORTH DAKOTA STATE OWNED

LAND CLASSIFICATION  
THE MASTER PLAN  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

NORTH DAKOTA

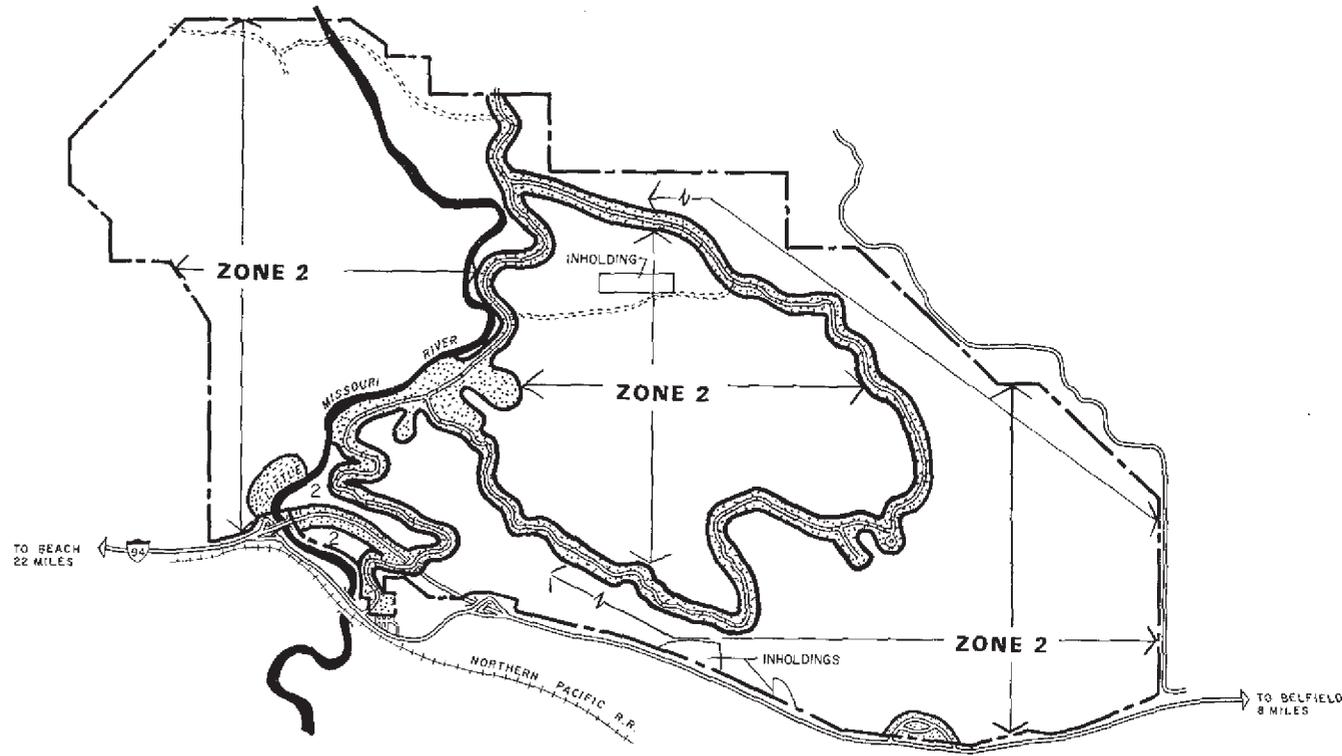
387 3305-F  
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ON MICROFILM



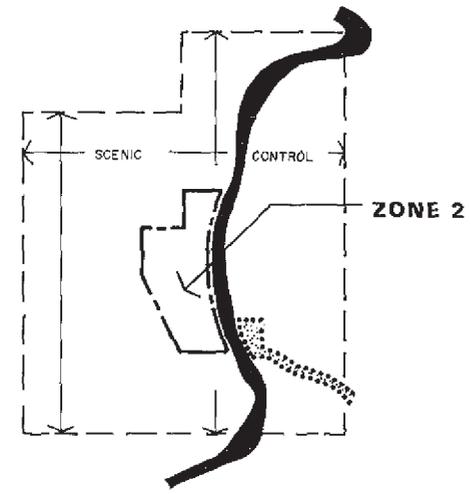
NORTH UNIT

0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES



SOUTH UNIT

0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES

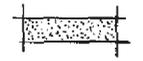


ELKHORN UNIT

0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES

**LEGEND**

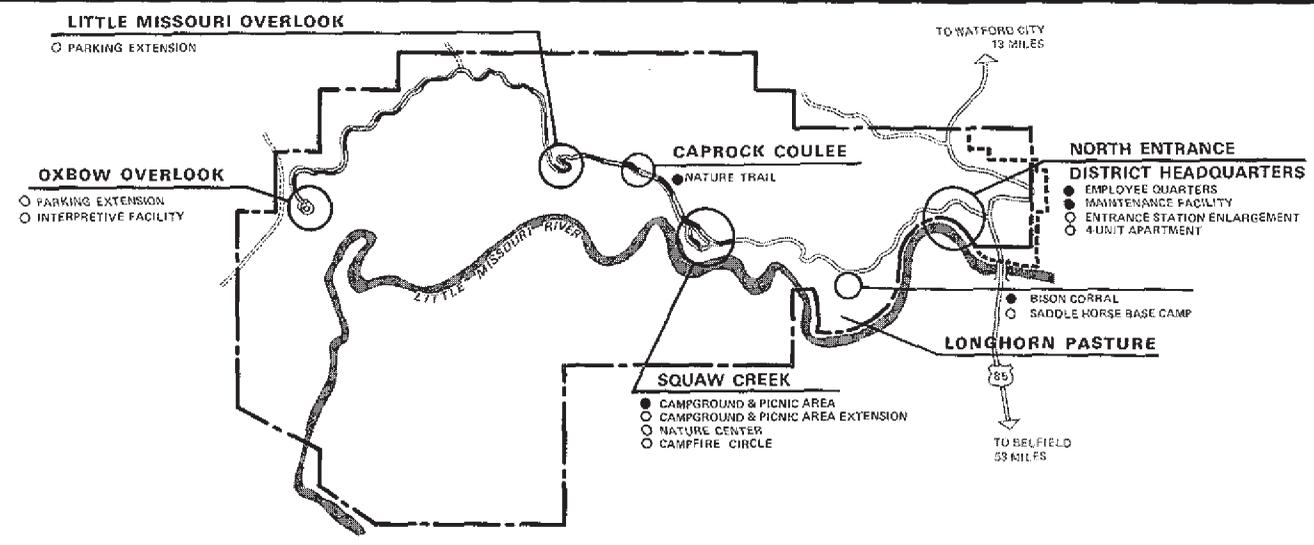
- PRESENT PARK BOUNDARY
- ..... PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY
- ONE-LANE ADMINISTRATIVE ROAD
- ZONE 1 PUBLIC USE & DEVELOPMENT
- ZONE 2 PRESERVATION-CONSERVATION



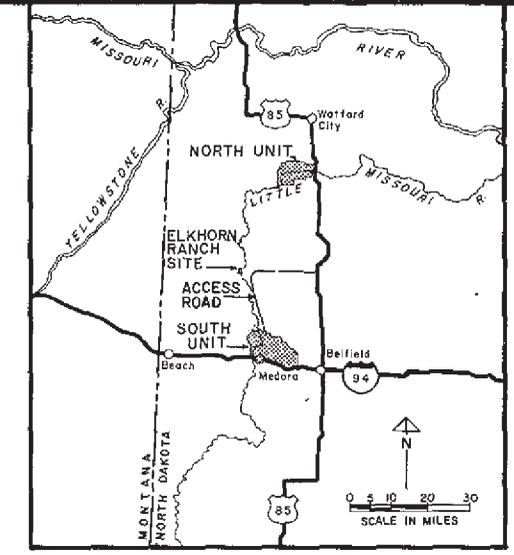
**ZONING MAP**  
THE MASTER PLAN  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

NORTH DAKOTA

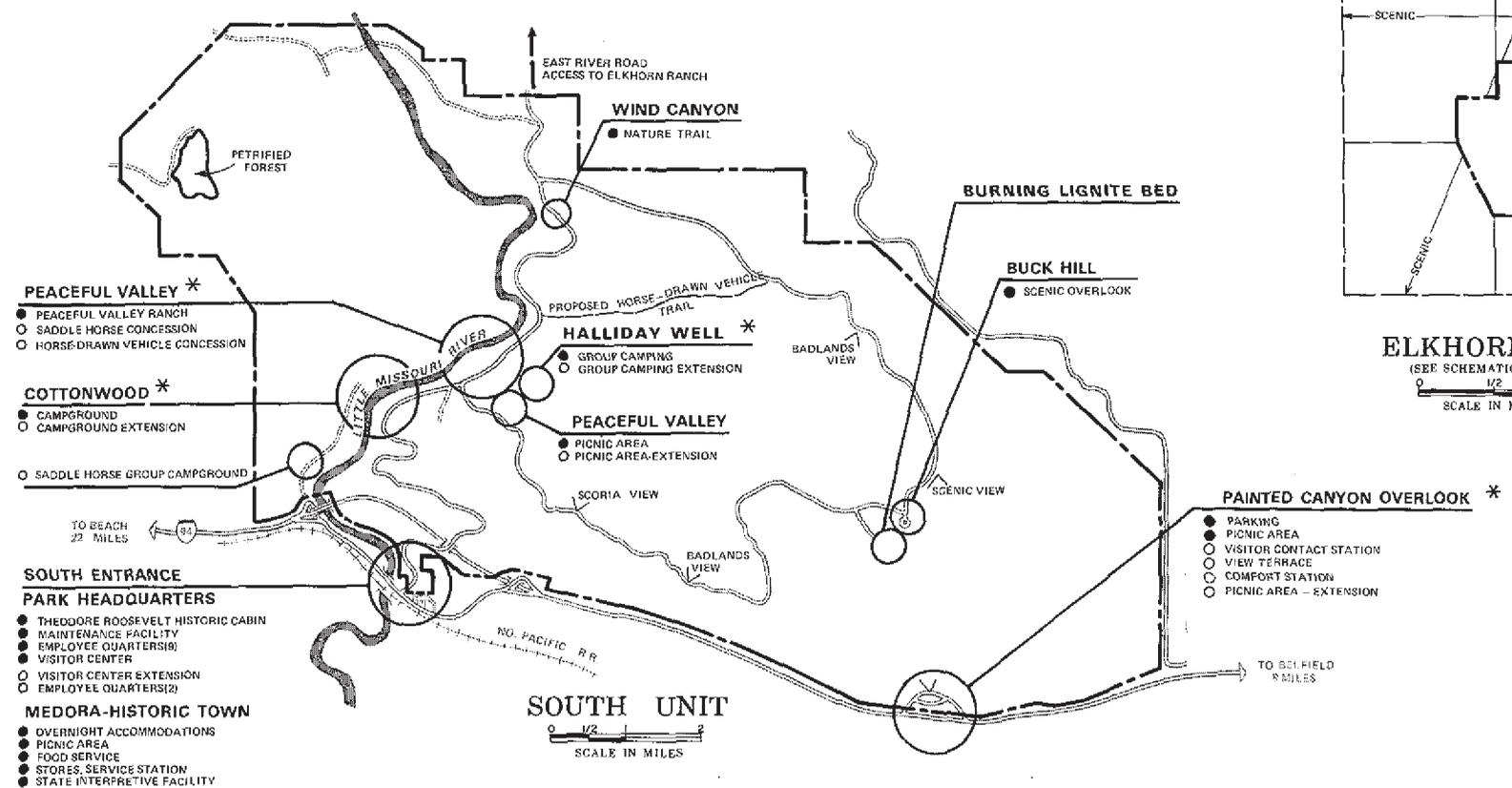
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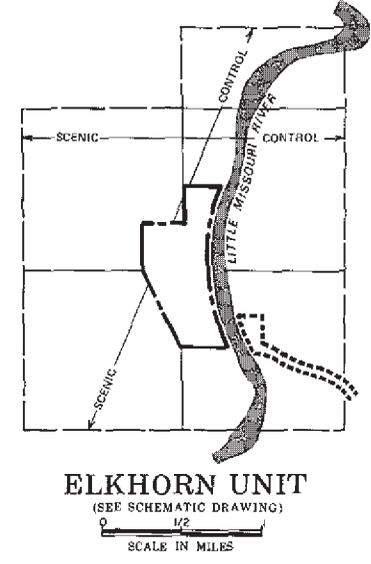
**NORTH UNIT**  
0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES



**LOCATION MAP**



**SOUTH UNIT**  
0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE IN MILES



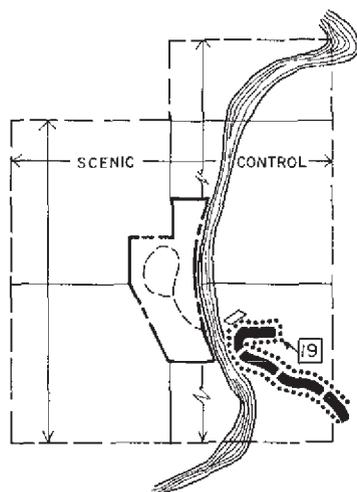
- LEGEND**
- PARK BOUNDARY
  - - - - PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY
  - EXISTING ROAD - SURFACED
  - ==== ONE-LANE ADMINISTRATIVE ROAD
  - - - - PROPOSED TRAIL
  - EXISTING ROAD - TO BE SURFACED
  - EXISTING FACILITY
  - PROPOSED FACILITY
  - \* SEE SCHEMATIC DRAWING
  - ∨ VIEW DIRECTION FROM ROAD

**GENERAL DEVELOPMENT**  
THE MASTER PLAN  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK

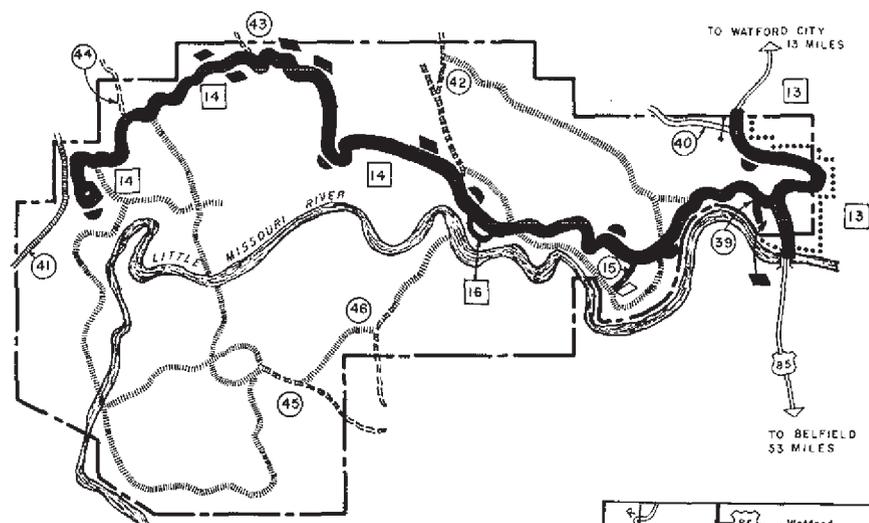
NORTH DAKOTA

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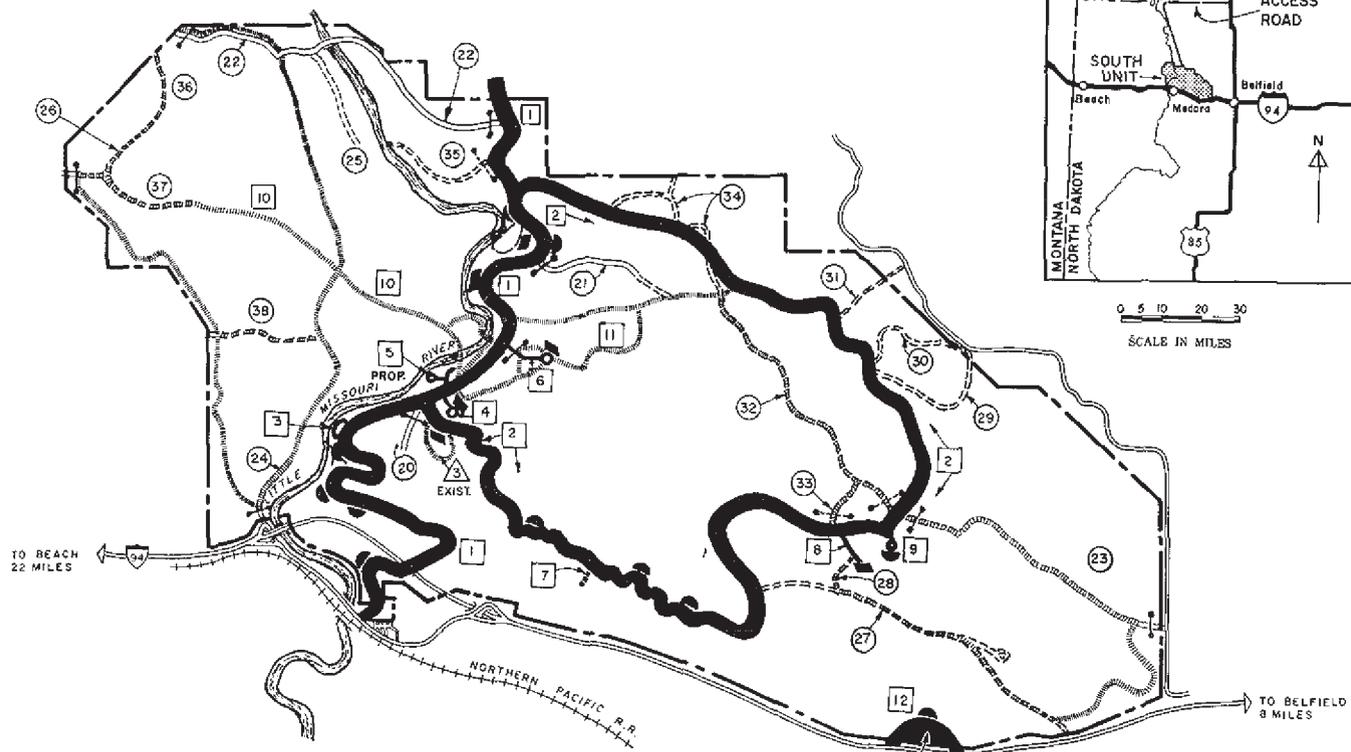
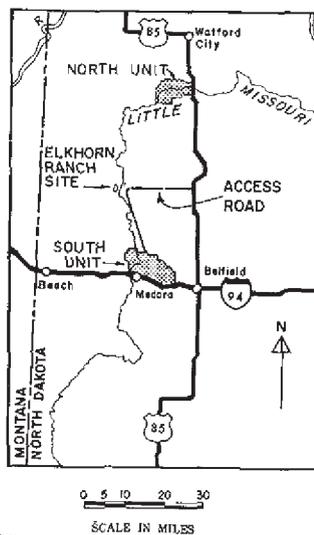
ON MICROFILM



ELKHORN UNIT  
SCALE IN MILES



NORTH UNIT  
SCALE IN MILES



SOUTH UNIT  
SCALE IN MILES

LEGEND

	EXISTING	PROPOSED	OBLITERATE
BOUNDARY	---	.....	
ROAD			
PUBLIC USE			
MAJOR	=====	=====	=====
MINOR	-----	-----	-----
MANAGEMENT	-----	-----	-----
OVERLOOK	▲		▲
PARKING	▭	▭	▭
LOCKED GATE	— —		— —
TRAIL			
HIKING	—▲—	—▲—	—▲—
OBLITERATE ROAD-RETAIN TRAIL	— —	— —	— —

PUBLIC USE ROADS □

ROAD NO.	NAME	MILES	PURPOSE
SOUTH UNIT			
1	—	12.6	PRINCIPAL PARK ROAD
2	—	19.5	— " " (LOOP)
3	COTTONWOOD CG.	2.1	CAMPGROUND
4	PEACEFUL VALLEY	0.8	PEACEFUL VALLEY PICNIC AREA (SEE PEACEFUL VALLEY SCHEMATIC)
5	—	—	GROUP CAMPGROUND
6	HALLIDAY WELL	0.5	RIDGELINE TRAIL ACCESS (OBLITERATE)
7	RIDGELINE O.	0.5	TO BURNING LIGNITE BED
8	BURNING LIGNITE BED	1	OVERLOOK
9	BUCK HILL	1	JEEP TRAIL CONVERTED TO HIKING TRAIL
10	—	6	JEEP TRAIL CONVERTED TO HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE USE
11	JONES CREEK	3	OVERLOOK OFF INTERSTATE 94
12	PAINTED CANYON	1	—
NORTH UNIT			
13	U.S. 85	2.5	MAIN NO. 50. U.S. HIGHWAY
14	—	14.4	PRINCIPAL PARK ROAD
16	SOUAW CREEK	1.8	CAMPGROUND
ELKHORN ACCESS			
19	—	2.1	ENTRY ROAD

MANAGEMENT ROADS ○

ROAD NO.	NAME	MILES	PURPOSE
SOUTH UNIT			
20	MIX PIT	0.9	OIL STORAGE & GARBAGE PIT
21	—	1	EAST TO INHOLDING
22	—	4.5	TO BUFFALO PEN & RIVER
23	TALKINGTON	4.5	OBLITERATE
24	—	2	ADMINISTRATION
25	—	2	OBLITERATE
26	—	2	TO MINERAL RESERVATION
27	CEDAR CANYON	5	OBLITERATE
28	—	1	OBLITERATE
29	SHEEP BUTTE	2	OBLITERATE
30	—	2	OBLITERATE
31	—	1	OBLITERATE
32	TALKINGTON	4	OBLITERATE
33	—	1	OBLITERATE
34	—	3	OBLITERATE
35	—	2	OBLITERATE
36	—	1	OBLITERATE
37	—	1	OBLITERATE
38	—	1.5	OBLITERATE
NORTH UNIT			
15	LONGHORN AREA	1	LONGHORN PASTURE
39	—	0.5	MAINTENANCE & HOUSING
40	—	1	TO FOREST SERVICE LAND
41	—	2	TO PRIVATE RANCH
42	—	2	OBLITERATE
43	—	0.3	OBLITERATE
44	—	0.5	OBLITERATE
45	AUCHENBACK SPRING	2.8	OBLITERATE
46	LONG X TRAIL ROAD	0.8	OBLITERATE

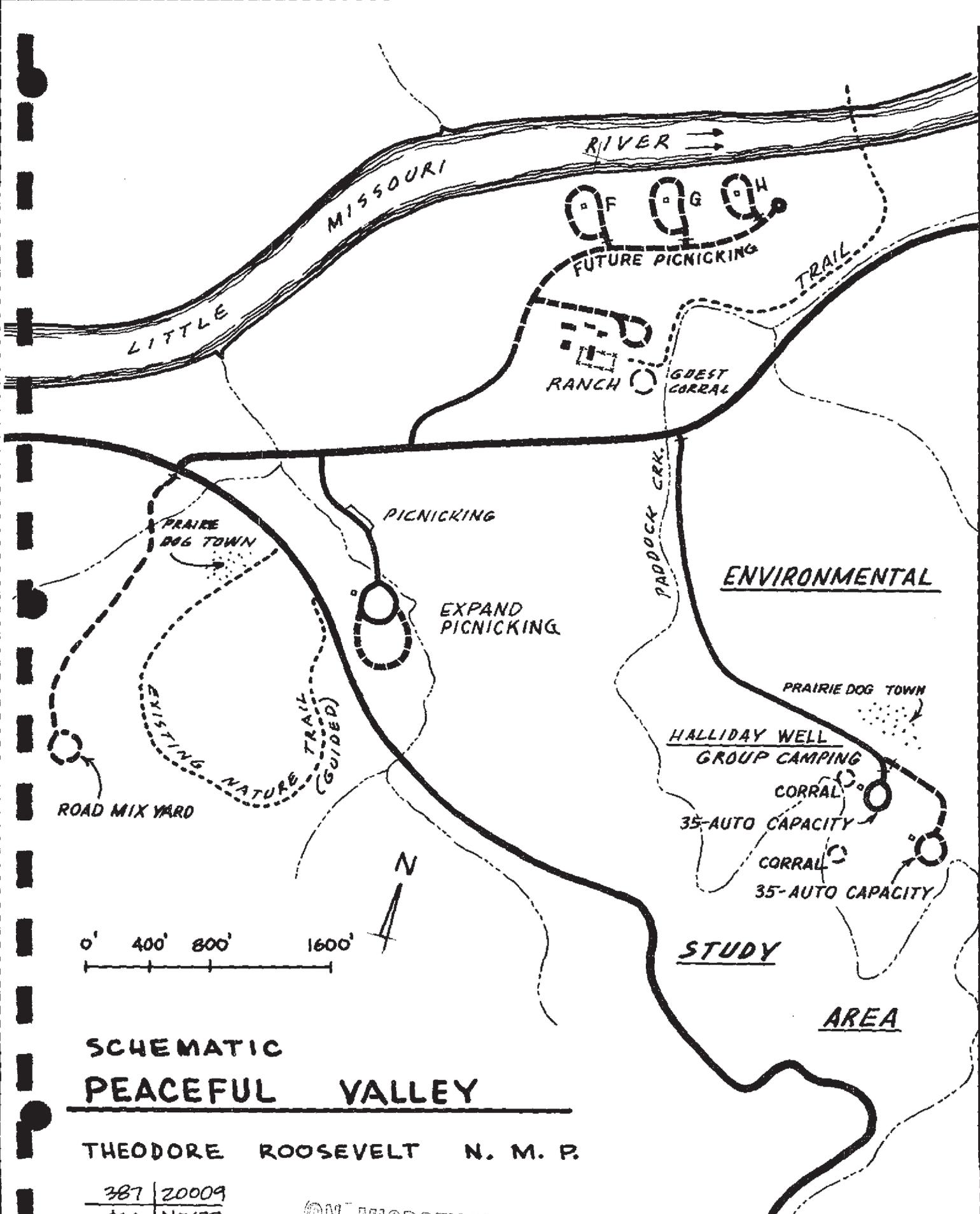
CIRCULATION SYSTEM PLAN  
THE MASTER PLAN  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK



NORTH DAKOTA

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DSC FEB 73

ON MICROFILM

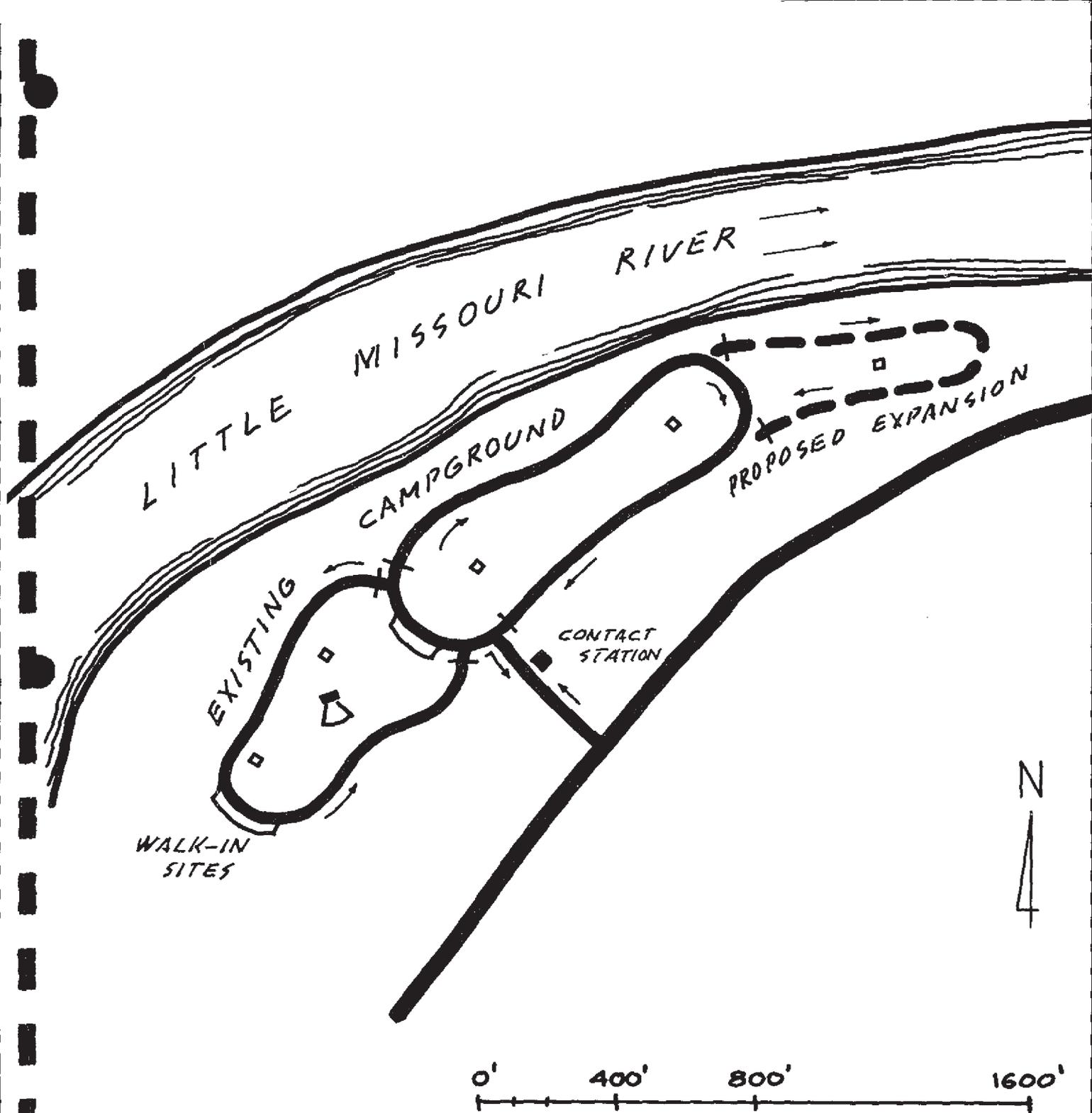


**SCHEMATIC  
PEACEFUL VALLEY**

THEODORE ROOSEVELT N. M. P.

387 | 20009  
 CAC | NOV73

ON MICROFILM



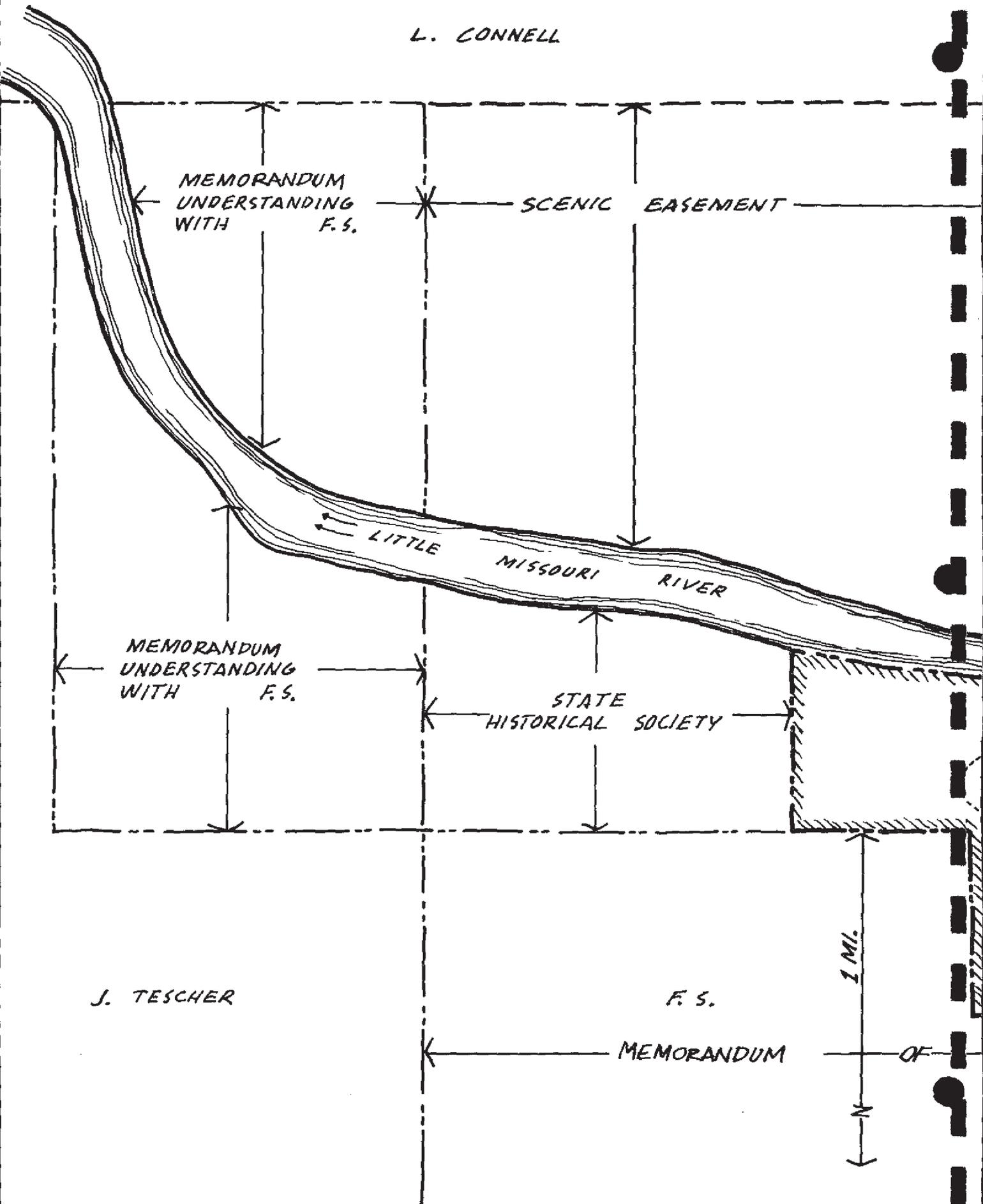
**SCHEMATIC  
COTTONWOOD CAMPGROUND**

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT N. M. P.**

387 | 20010  
dsc | NOV 73

ON MICROFILM

L. CONNELL



MEMORANDUM UNDERSTANDING WITH F.S.

SCENIC EASEMENT

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER

MEMORANDUM UNDERSTANDING WITH F.S.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

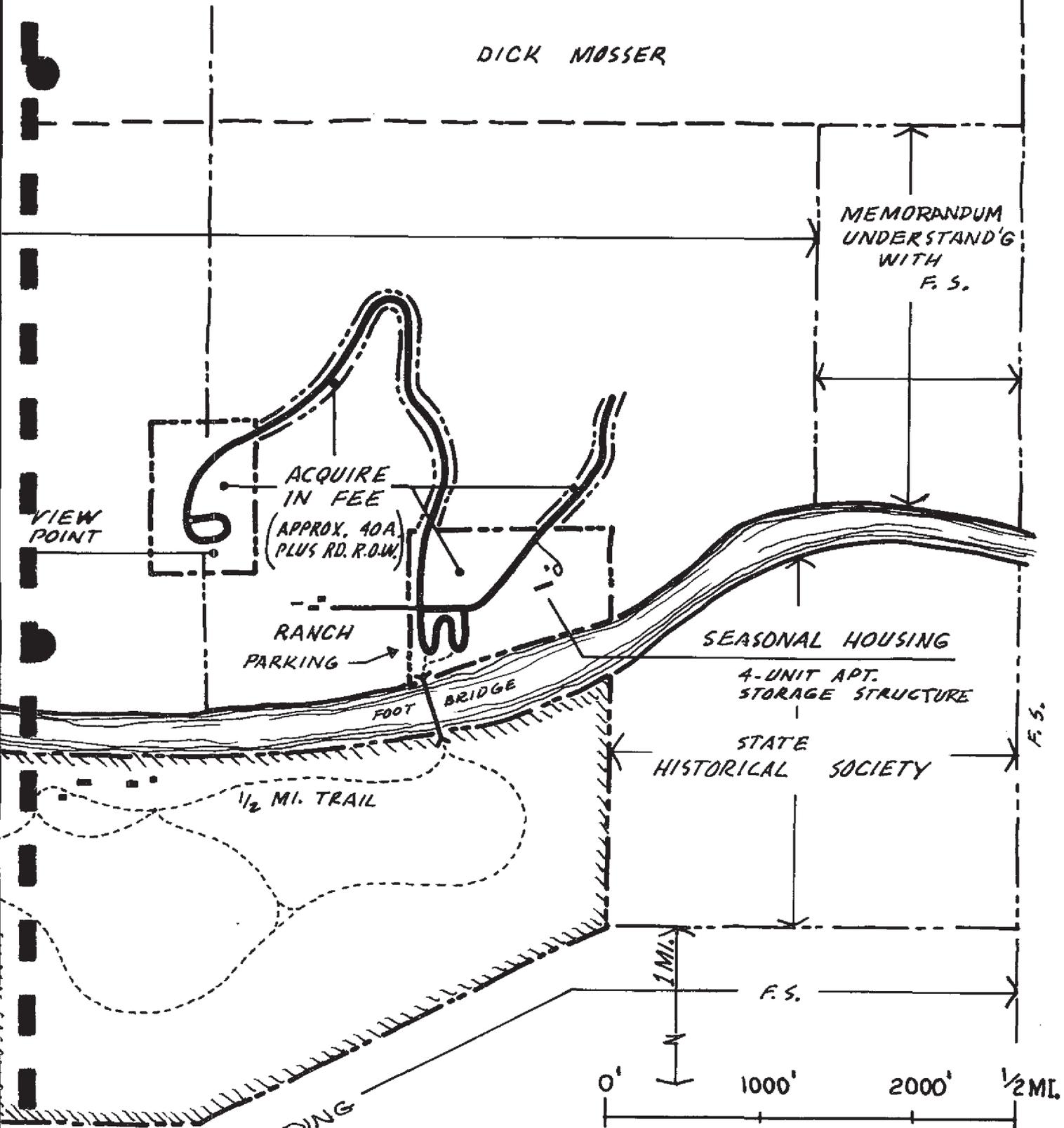
J. TESCHER

F.S.

MEMORANDUM OF

1 MI.

DICK MOSSER



ACQUIRE IN FEE (APPROX. 40A. PLUS RD. R.O.W.)

MEMORANDUM UNDERSTAND'G WITH F. S.

VIEW POINT

RANCH PARKING

FOOT BRIDGE

SEASONAL HOUSING

4-UNIT APT. STORAGE STRUCTURE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1/2 MI. TRAIL

1 MI.

F. S.

0' 1000' 2000' 1/2 MI.

UNDERSTANDING F.S.

# SCHEMATIC ELKHORN UNIT

THEODORE ROOSEVELT N. M. P.

387/20011  
d/c NOV 73

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