



System Unit Resource Protection Act

Restoration Plan

8/2/2024

SECTION A General Information

Case Information:

Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Obed National Wild and Scenic River	Incident Date: 7/19/2002
Project Title: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pryor Past Costs Restoration	Settlement Date: 10/28/2009
Case Name: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pryor Oil Well Blowout (AKA Howard White Unit No. 1)	Total Settlement Amount: \$699,176.00
Region: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Southeast	Future Restoration Amount: \$633,134.20
Resource Injured: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Upland vegetation, riparian and streambank habitat, stream water quality, stream benthic habitat/macrobenthos, boater and angler experience	Park Past Costs Amount: \$66,041.80

SECTION B Project Information

Restoration Information:

Est. Restoration Completion date:
9/30/2027

Est. Monitoring Completion date:
9/30/2027

Project Estimate*:

Labor	\$55,000.00
Materials	\$7541.80
Contract	\$3500.00
Total	\$66,041.80

* Identify any funds from non-settlement sources.

Estimate Method:

☒ Park Estimate (e.g. FMSS, worksheet) ☐ Vendor Quote ☐ Contractor Bid
☐ Other (explain): _____

Attach backup documentation where available

SECTION C Project Description

1. Incident & Injury Description

In 2002 the Pryor oil well – just uphill and outside of the park boundary – had a “blowout” while being drilled and spilled oil at a rate of 200-500 barrels per hour (total spill volume unknown) into White and Clear Creeks, both tributaries to the Obed River. The upland area covered by the spill then caught fire, injuring and destroying forest vegetation and soils. Oil also soaked into the stream banks and entered the creeks, injuring stream health there (as indicated by benthic algae and invertebrates, fisheries, water quality, and sediment quality). Due to closure of the area during and after the incident, boaters and anglers lost 400 paddling days and 509 fishing days, respectively.

2. Restoration Project Description

This proposal focusses on monitoring and restoring resources to protect the ecology of the forests, vegetation and aquatic resources.

Component 1. Survey the aquatic resources found in Clear Creek below the spill site near Barnett Bridge and water quality directly below the site downstream to the confluence with the Obed River. The results will allow the park to document aquatic resource diversity and abundance and water quality conditions 23 years after the spill. If the site is sustaining similar aquatic species as prior to the spill, the site would be identified as suitable for future mussel or fish restoration and augmentation by the state of Tennessee.

Proposed work: Survey mussels and fish below the spill site downstream to below Barnett Bridge in areas sampled following the spill. Collect and analyze water quality samples on Clear Creek from below the spill site downstream to the confluence with the Obed River. Water sampling would be done with NPS staff and samples would be sent to the same lab used by the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program. Aquatic resource surveys would be contracted. A report would summarize current conditions and compare ecological conditions to results found after the spill.

Cost: \$7284 total. (\$3500 labor, \$284 Materials, \$3500 contract)

Component 2. Inventory and treat invasive plants in the river gorge including riparian areas for three years.

Proposed work: Inventory plant communities and treat invasive exotic plants to restore and enhance natural plant communities and maintain a diverse ecosystem. Work would be accomplished by NPS staff using the methods and control techniques currently used by the BISO/OBRI botany program. Invasive species inventories and control are limited based on

available funding and this project will allow botany staff to do more intensive work below the spill, downstream of the spill area and throughout the OBRI watershed.

Cost: \$33,257.80 total for 3 years. (\$30,000 labor, \$3257.80 materials/herbicides)

Component 3. Treat hemlock stands to suppress hemlock woolly adelgids to protect existing trees and the unique habitats provided by hemlock stands which provide shade and biological diversity. The hemlock forests of OBRI are some of the best surviving hemlock stands left in the original range of the Eastern hemlock. Protection of these stands will support long-term ecological protection of OBRI forests and associated riparian plant and aquatic communities and prevent the need for future restoration of this species.

Proposed work: Monitor and treat hemlock stands with appropriate pesticides to kill hemlock woolly adelgids. The work will be done by NPS staff consistent with the methods and pesticides that are currently used by the BISO/OBRI botany program.

Cost: \$25,500 for 1 year. (\$21,500 labor, \$4000 materials/pesticides)

3. Monitoring

Areas where invasive species are located will be monitored each year and retreated as required. Invasive species require multiple treatments to effectively remove or reduce populations.

4. Compliance

a. NPS/Park Requirements ☒ None

(Describe or list any NPS or Park permits required or special requirements.)

b. NEPA

Date Completed

☒ Categorical Exclusion

9/7/2018, 1/2/2020

☐ Environmental Assessment

☐ Environmental Impact Statement

☐ Other (explain below):

Provide backup documentation where available

Comments: (Provide explanation if "Other" checked above)

c. Permits

Permit Name / Date Completed

☐ Federal

☐ State/County/Local

☐ Other

☒ None

SECTION D APPROVAL PAGE

Case Name: Pryor Oil Well Blowout

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY:

Thomas E. Blount
BISO/OBRI Chief of Resource Management

Date

Mark VanMouwerik
Restoration Project Manager, Resource Protection Branch

Date

APPROVED BY:

Niki Stephanie Nicholas
Superintendent, (OBRI)

Date

Jim Haas
Chief, Resource Protection Branch, Environmental Quality Division

Date