An Update to “Gone, But Not Forgotten: The Delisted Units of the U.S. National Park System”

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Ed. note: In Volume 7, Number 4 of the Forum we published Alan K. Hogenauer’s research paper on “defrocked” units of the U.S. National Park System. (Hogenauer writes from a uniquely first-hand perspective: In August 1980 he became the first person to visit every USNPS unit when he arrived at Katmai National Park and Preserve.) Last spring, the author returned to the United States after nearly two years in Thailand (and fifty-nine other countries). He arrived just after the Forum went to press minus a number of essential changes to his paper. He has therefore prepared the following update to the original 1983 text. Readers are invited to send any additions, deletions, or other changes of the delisted list to Dr. Hogenauer, c/o the Forum.

AUTHORIZED, BUT NEVER ESTABLISHED, UNITS

The correct number of such units is eleven, based on three changes to the previous Forum article list:

Fort Benton should be added. In 1976, legislation authorized the USNPS to build and maintain a visitor center at the site, forty miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana, to commemorate the historic fur trading post and uppermost steamboat landing on the Missouri River. The authorization was never acted upon, however, and the park-elect was delisted by 1985. There is still a small, but active, community at Fort Benton; the superb Grand Union Hotel and the ruins of the original fort can still be visited.

Georgia O’Keeffe National Historic Site should be added. The late artist’s home and studio in Abiquiu, New Mexico, were authorized for inclusion in 1980 but delisted in 1984 when agreement could not be reached as to site implementation. The structures are still there, so they may be easily viewed from the outside.

Wolf River should be moved to the next category; it was delisted, but as an established unit.

Although Patrick Henry National Monument properly remains on the list, a footnote is in order.
RECREATION
DEMONSTRATION AREAS

Undoubtedly many readers noted the omission of this entire category. Actually, the original paper intentionally dealt only with the non-RDA units.

Forty-five Recreation Demonstration Areas were developed by the USNPS beginning in 1936. Eleven were eventually incorporated, in whole or in part, into USNPS units, and so are not discussed further here. The other thirty-four, however, are a fascinating extension to “Gone, But Not Forgotten.” I have visited all of them, primarily in a summer 1983 marathon following preparation of the original manuscript.

- Alexander M. Stephens, now a Georgia state park
- Beach Pond, now the Acadia Management Area in Rhode Island
- Bear Brook, now a New Hampshire state park
- Blue Knob, now a Pennsylvania state park
- Camden Hills, now a Maine state park
- Cheraw, now a South Carolina state park
- Crabtree Creek, now William B. Umstead State Park in North Carolina
- Cuivre River, now a Missouri state park
- Custer, now a South Dakota state park
- Fall Creek Falls, now a Tennessee state park
- Hard Labor Creek, now a Georgia state park
- Hickory Run, now a Pennsylvania state park

ESTABLISHED UNITS LATER DELISTED

The correct number of such units is twenty-six.

Shasta Lake Recreation Area should be added to the list. Like Flaming Gorge (1963-68), Lake Texhoma (1946-49), and Millerton (1945-57), Shasta (1945-48) was to be jointly administered. Also like the others, Shasta was delisted when USNPS administration and criteria were seen as not feasible; responsibility for running Shasta was turned over to the U.S. Forest Service. Interestingly, the USNPS now manages a similar unit—Whiskeytown—that is not only physically close by, but actually forms part of a combined Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area that includes the former USNPS Shasta unit.

As noted above, Wolf River properly belongs under this category.

There are two footnotes. First, Donald Trump’s purchase of the delisted Mar-A-Lago apparently makes him the only private owner on record of a former national park unit. The home is still maintained as Trump’s occasional residence.

Second, work on restoration of Washington’s Union Station was completed in 1989. While no trace of the National Visitor Center remains, the spectacular interior redesign make the station a superb visitor gateway to the U.S. capital.
• Lake Guernsey, now Guernsey State Park in Wyoming
• Lake Murray, now an Oklahoma state park
• Lake of the Ozarks, now a Missouri state park
• Laurel Hill, now a Pennsylvania state park
• Mendocino Woodland, now a Camp Association within a California state park
• Montgomery Bell, now a Tennessee state park
• Montserrat, now Knob Noster State Park in Missouri
• Oak Mountain, now an Alabama state park
• Otter Creek, now a Louisville, Kentucky, city park
• Pere Marquette, now an Illinois state park
• Pine Mountain, now Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park in Georgia
• Raccoon Creek, now a Pennsylvania state park
• Shelby Forest, now Meeman-Shelby State Park in Tennessee
• Silver Creek, now an Oregon state park
• St. Croix, now a Minnesota state park
• Swift Creek, now Pocohontas State Park in Virginia
• Versailles, now an Indiana state park
• Waterloo, now a Michigan state park

• Waysides in South Carolina and Virginia, now highway rest areas except for one which is now Colleton State Park in South Carolina
• Winemac, now Tippecanoe River State Park in Indiana
• Yankee Springs, now a Michigan state park

**OTHER DELISTED AREAS**

To be complete, the list should also include two delisted "affiliated areas" of the U.S. National Park System: Cherokee Strip Museum and Highway of Flags. Also, there are five delisted units that were detached from still active units: Sheboygan Marsh (Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, Wisconsin), Chesapeake Lightship (National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.), Turkey Run Farm (National Capital Parks, Virginia; now called Claude Moore Colonial Farm), Grey Columns (Tuskegee National Historic Site, Alabama), and Confederate Park (Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi).

And, to be really complete, there are six delisted Canadian park units: Buffalo, inside the Canadian Forces Base at Wainwright, Alberta; Menissawok, near Maple Creek, Saskatchewan; Nemiskam, near Etzikom, Alberta; Vidal's Point, near Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan; Wawaskesey, inside the CFB at Suffield, Alberta; and Fort Tom Howe, in Saint John, New Brunswick.