Blue Heron



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14



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NOV 94F04

VHC

S&H



BLUE HERON

B-3

L

5

13



28 JHL

S&H



BLUE HERON

B-5

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NOV 94F04



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STONE PHOTO
DUPLICATE



THC

S & H

BLUE HERON

A-2

L

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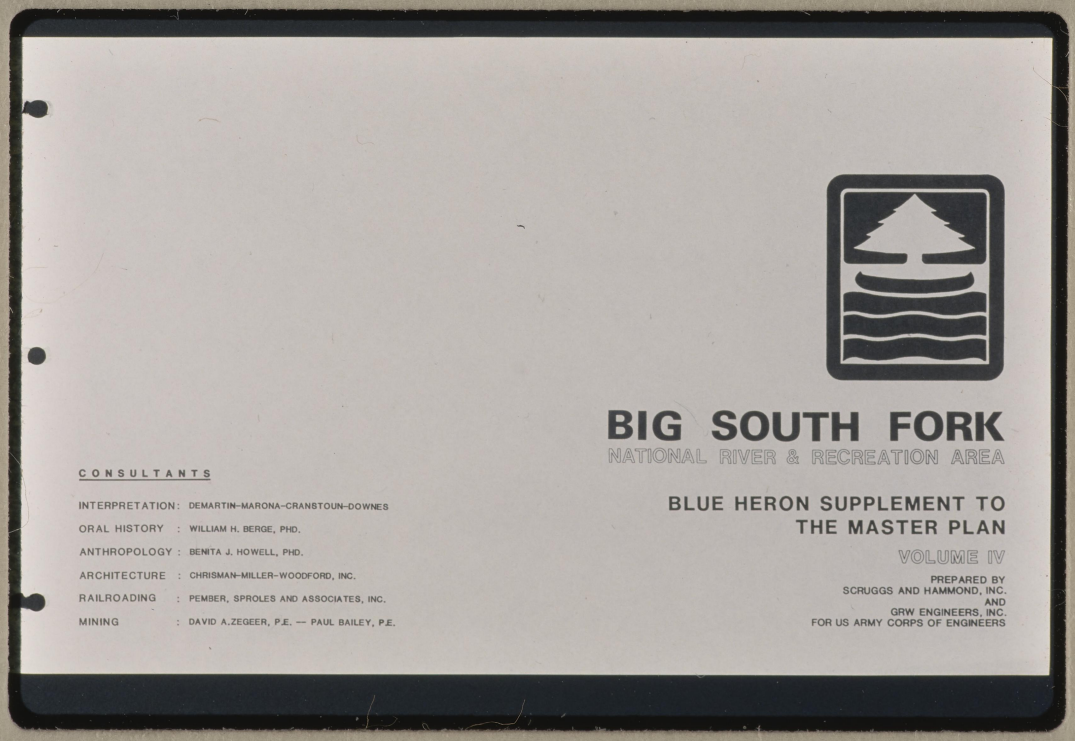

BIG SOUTH FORK
NATIONAL RIVER & RECREATION AREA

BLUE HERON SUPPLEMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN

VOLUME IV

PREPARED BY
SCRUGGS AND HAMMOND, INC.
AND
GRW ENGINEERS, INC.
FOR US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

CONSULTANTS

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MINING :	DAVID A.ZEGEER, P.E. — PAUL BAILEY, P.E.

JHS

S&H

BLUE HERON

A-15

L

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BIG SOUTH FORK
NATIONAL RIVER & RECREATION AREA
BLUE HERON SUPPLEMENT TO
THE MASTER PLAN
VOLUME IV

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Site Descriptions

Blue Heron Recreation Area

Blue Heron Recreation Area is located about 6.5 miles west of Stearns, Kentucky and about 8.5 miles southwest of Whitley City, Kentucky and near a point in the river known as Devils Jump. Access from U.S. Route 27 is through Stearns to State Route 742 from Revelo to Ross Grove Church. A short distance southwest of the church the road splits; the north fork leads to Blue Heron.

The site itself is an abandoned railyard occupying a broad meadow terrace along the river. Of the mining operation once served by the railyard only the tipple and tramway bridge high over the river remain. Both the tipple and the bridge show evidence of considerable deterioration, but are prominent elements in the view as one reaches the site. The natural setting for all of this is the dramatic gorge, with great bluffs on both sides of the river. The site and the river are strewn with boulders the size of freight cars; the character of the river changes from quiet, still pools to Devils Jump, a rapid capable of challenging the most expert canoeist. Throughout the area are huge trees, many of them remnants of the virgin forest, which add scale and convey a sense of age and history to the scene.

Evidences of human use and habitation are few - the tipple and tramway bridge, abandoned mine openings and accumulations of mine tailings. The houses, store, church, school and even the railroad and tramway tracks are gone. Natural re-vegetation is taking place; left undisturbed, Blue Heron would soon return to wilderness.

A review and updating of the Site Analysis revealed no significant changes in site conditions from those existing when the Master Plan was completed.



Blue Heron Community Site

Blue Heron Campground

Blue Heron Campground, also reached by Kentucky Route 742, is an upland site near the National Area Boundary.

In the Master Plan the Blue Heron Campground was called "Blue Heron Group Camp" and was designated as a group camp and as the primary pack-hiking trailhead for the northern region of the BSFNRRA. The site was designed to feature two group camps and a picnic area for sightseeing visitors. Under the Reduced Scope Plan, the site has been re-named "Blue Heron Campground" and the concept has been revised to delete the group camp designation and develop the site for regular "improved" camp sites accommodating recreation vehicles and/or tents for all comers. Also deleted are the pack-hiking trailhead and the picnic area for sightseeing visitors. The number of campsites has been increased from 35 to 47.

A review and updating of the Site Analyses revealed that the only significant change in site conditions is being brought about by natural re-vegetation, which is closing in on the abandoned roadbed leading along the ridge to the northeast corner of the site. Site Analysis maps in the Master Plan indicated a considerable open area along portions of this road. Similar maps in this Supplement show the fill-in volunteer growth of pines, oaks and dogwood. A hewn-log barn, mentioned in the Master Plan as being within the meadow, and considered to be of potential cultural significance, has been destroyed by fire.

S&H

BLUE HERON

A-1

S&H



BLUE HERON

A-8

S&H



BLUE HERON

A-9

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S&H

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BLUE HERON

A-4

S&H

BLUE HERON

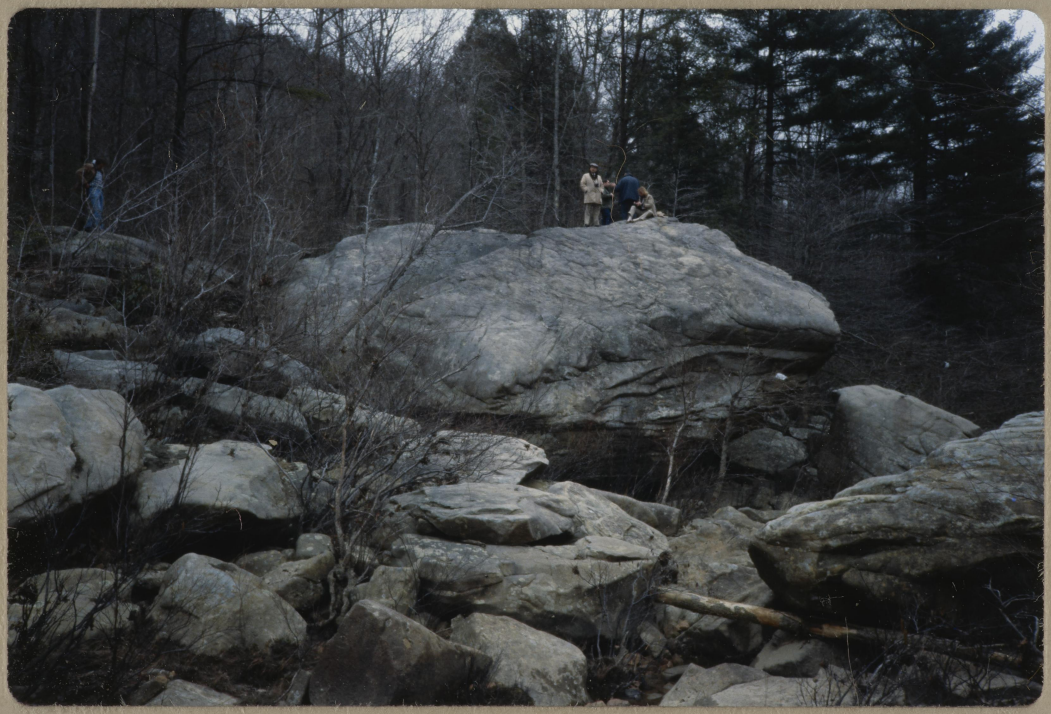
A-5

S&H



BLUE HERON

A-6



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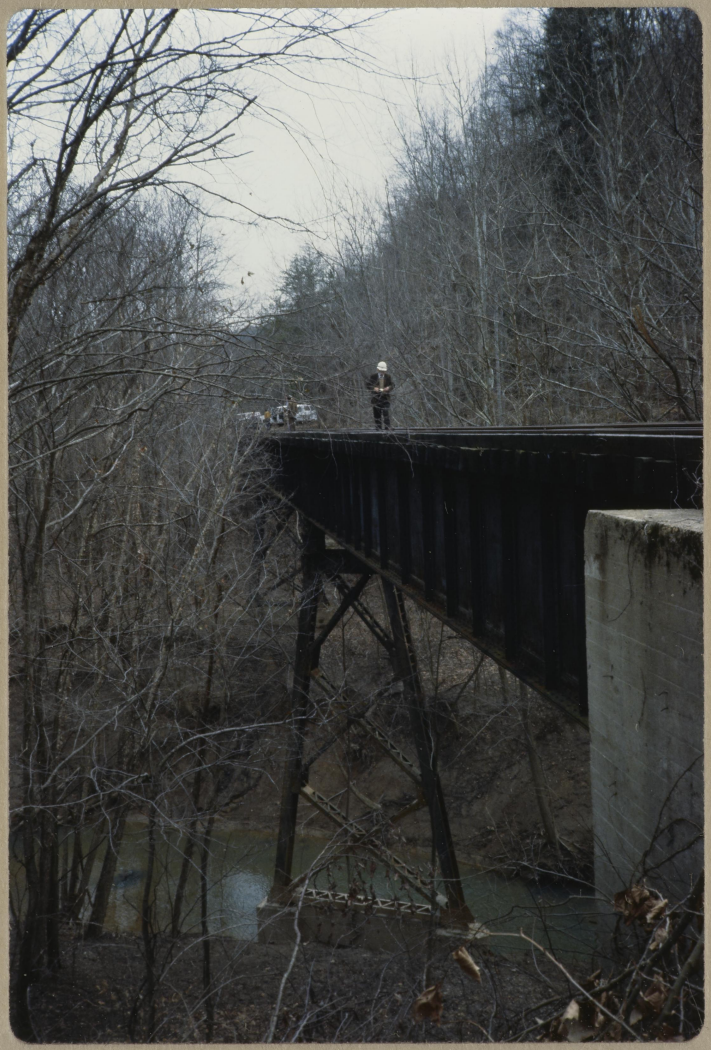

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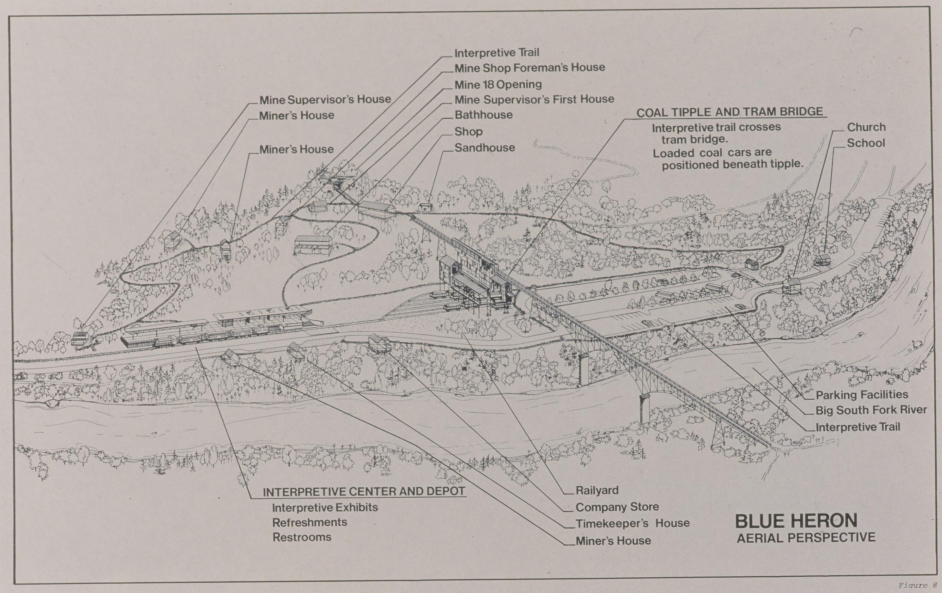

Figure 8





THIS SIDE TOWARD SCREEN

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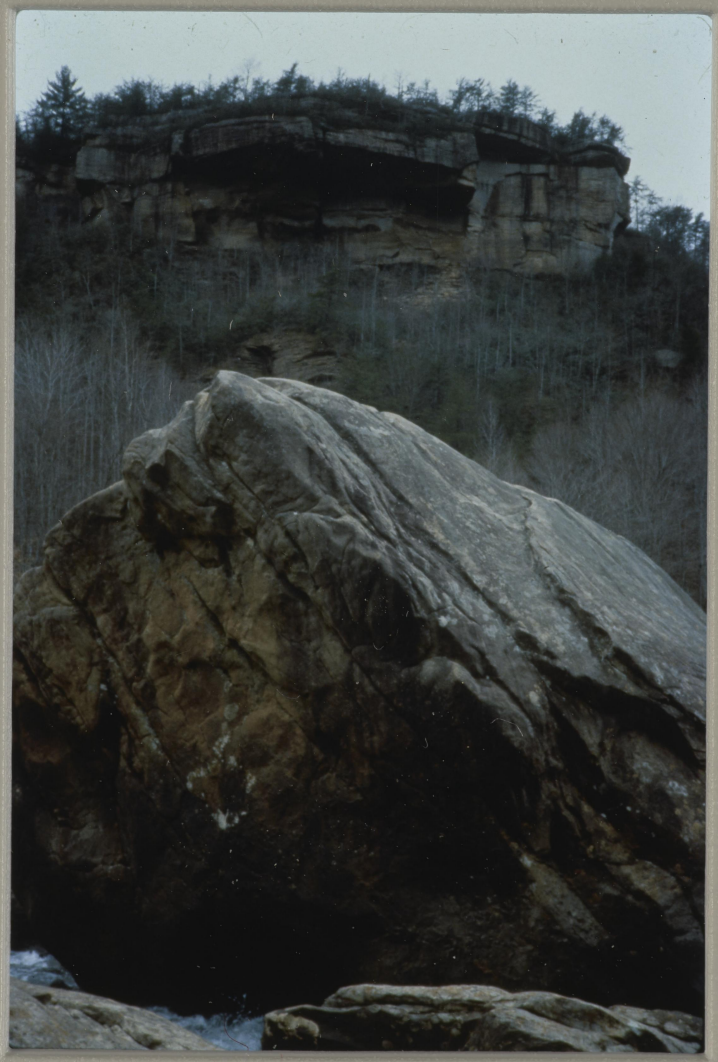
Blue Heron

A

STK U 2X2-B



THIS SIDE
TOWARD SCREEN



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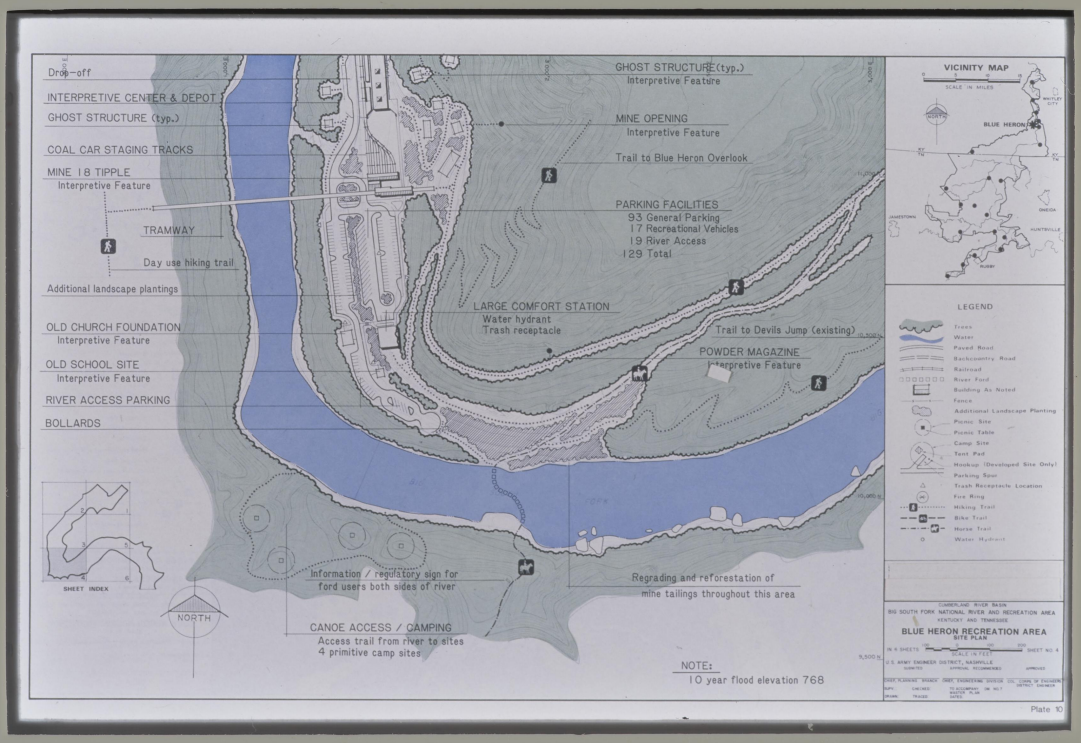
Drop-off
INTERPRETIVE CENTER & DEPOT
GHOST STRUCTURE (typ.)
COAL CAR STAGING TRACKS
MINE 18 TIPPLE
Interpretive Feature
TRAMWAY
Day use hiking trail
Additional landscape plantings
OLD CHURCH FOUNDATION
Interpretive Feature
OLD SCHOOL SITE
Interpretive Feature
RIVER ACCESS PARKING
BOLLARDS
GHOST STRUCTURE (typ.)
Interpretive Feature
MINE OPENING
Interpretive Feature
Trail to Blue Heron Overlook
PARKING FACILITIES
93 General Parking
17 Recreational Vehicles
19 River Access
129 Total
LARGE COMFORT STATION
Water hydrant
Trash receptacle
Trail to Devils Jump (existing)
POWDER MAGAZINE
Interpretive Feature
Information / regulatory sign for
ford users both sides of river
Regrading and reforestation of
mine tailings throughout this area
CANOE ACCESS / CAMPING
Access trail from river to sites
4 primitive camp sites
NOTE:
10 year flood elevation 768
SHEET INDEX
NORTH
VICINITY MAP
SCALE IN MILES
BLUE HERON
LEGEND
Trees
Water
Paved Road
Backcountry Road
Railroad
River Ford
Building As Noted
Fence
Additional Landscape Planting
Picnic Site
Picnic Table
Camp Site
Tent Pad
Hookup (Developed Site Only)
Parking Spur
Trash Receptacle Location
Fire Ring
Hiking Trail
Bike Trail
Horse Trail
Water Hydrant
CUMBERLAND RIVER BASIN
BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA
KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE
BLUE HERON RECREATION AREA
SITE PLAN
SCALE IN FEET
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NASHVILLE
Plate 10



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BLUE HERON
GHOST STRUCTURE



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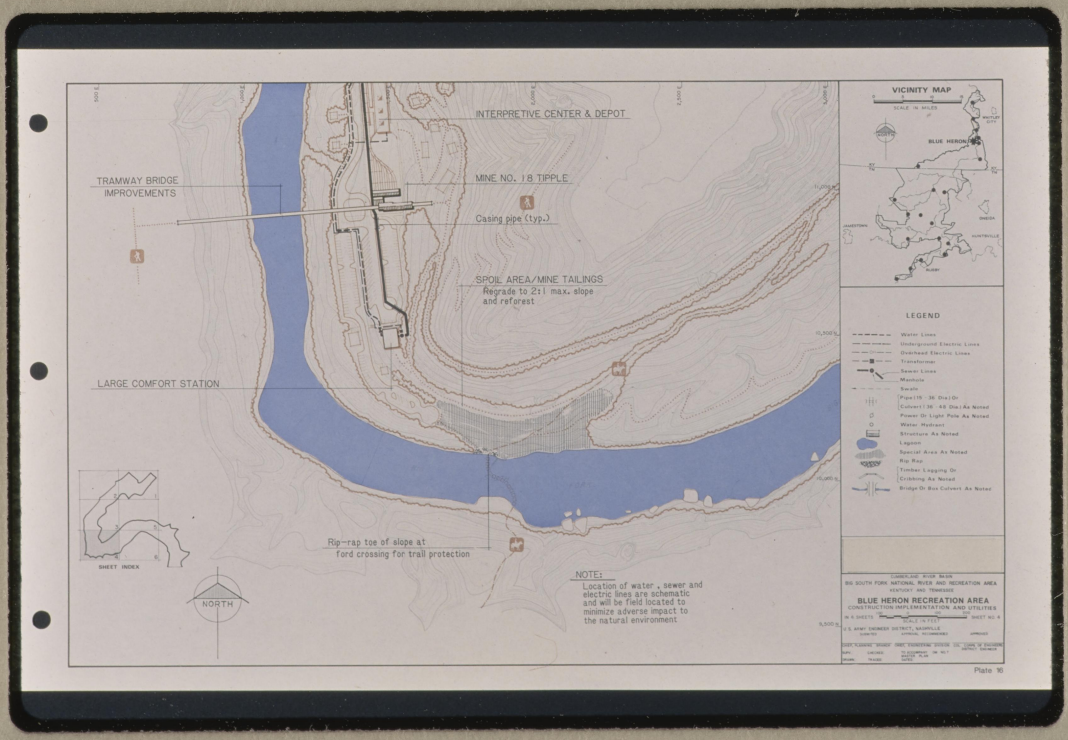
INTERPRETIVE CENTER & DEPOT
TRAMWAY BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS
MINE NO. 18 TIPPLE
Casing pipe (typ.)
SPOIL AREA/MINE TAILINGS
Regrade to 2:1 max. slope and reforest
LARGE COMFORT STATION
Rip-rap toe of slope at ford crossing for trail protection
NOTE:
Location of water, sewer and electric lines are schematic and will be field located to minimize adverse impact to the natural environment
SHEET INDEX
NORTH
VICINITY MAP
LEGEND
BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA
BLUE HERON RECREATION AREA
CONSTRUCTION IMPLEMENTATION AND UTILITIES
Plate 16

23

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34

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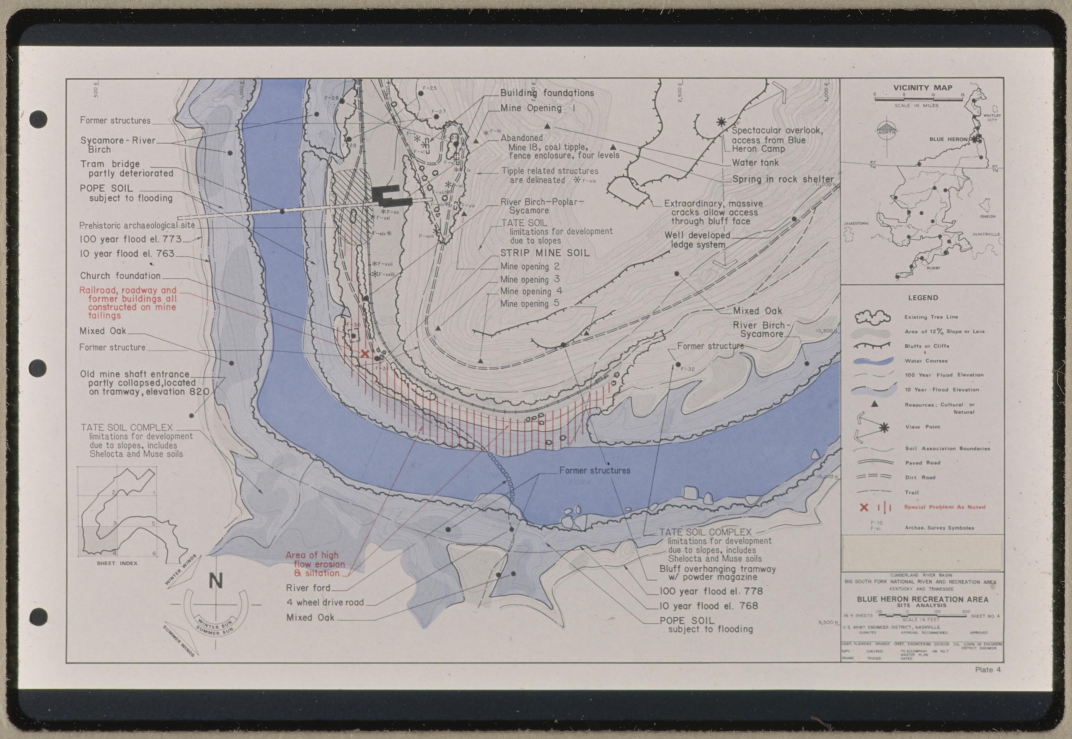
Former structures
Sycamore - River Birch
Tram bridge partly deteriorated
POPE SOIL subject to flooding
Prehistoric archaeological site
100 year flood el. 773
10 year flood el. 763
Church foundation
Railroad, roadway and former buildings all constructed on mine tailings
Mixed Oak
Former structure
Old mine shaft entrance partly collapsed, located on tramway, elevation 820
TATE SOIL COMPLEX limitations for development due to slopes, includes Shelocta and Muse soils
Building foundations
Mine Opening
Abandoned Mine 18, coal tipple, fence enclosure, four levels
Tipple related structures are delineated
River Birch-Poplar-Sycamore
TATE SOIL limitations for development due to slopes
STRIP MINE SOIL
Mine opening 2
Mine opening 3
Mine opening 4
Mine opening 5
Spectacular overlook, access from Blue Heron Camp
Water tank
Spring in rock shelter
Extraordinary, massive cracks allow access through bluff face
Well developed ledge system
Mixed Oak
River Birch-Sycamore
Former structure
Former structures
TATE SOIL COMPLEX limitations for development due to slopes, includes Shelocta and Muse soils
Bluff overhanging tramway w/ powder magazine
100 year flood el. 778
10 year flood el. 768
POPE SOIL subject to flooding
Area of high flow erosion & siltation
River ford
4 wheel drive road
Mixed Oak
SHEET INDEX
N
VICINITY MAP
BLUE HERON
LEGEND
Existing Tree Line
Area of 12% Slope or Less
Bluffs or Cliffs
Water Courses
100 Year Flood Elevation
10 Year Flood Elevation
Resources: Cultural or Natural
View Point
Soil Association Boundaries
Paved Road
Dirt Road
Trail
Special Problem As Noted
Archeo. Survey Symbolos
CUMBERLAND RIVER BASIN
BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA
KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE
BLUE HERON RECREATION AREA
SITE ANALYSIS
SCALE IN FEET
SHEET NO. 4
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NASHVILLE
Plate 4

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The Big South Fork at Devils Jump

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2





3

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18 BLUE HERON AERIALS



17



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12

MAY 78

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2



30 MAY 89



4

14



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MAY 89

S & H INC



BLUE HERON

S&H INC



BLUE HERON



2/ MAY 80

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MAY 80

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11 BLUE HERON

AERIALS 13



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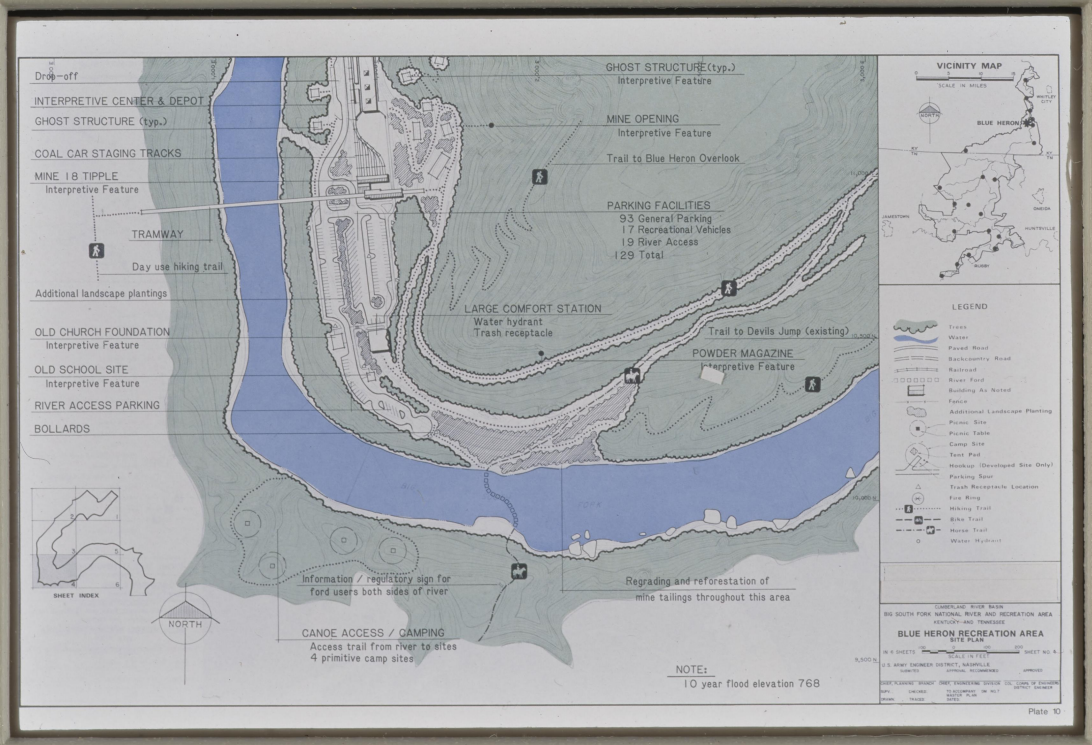

Drop-off
INTERPRETIVE CENTER & DEPOT
GHOST STRUCTURE (typ.)
COAL CAR STAGING TRACKS
MINE 18 TIPPLE
Interpretive Feature
TRAMWAY
Day use hiking trail
Additional landscape plantings
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Trash receptacle
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Information / regulatory sign for
ford users both sides of river
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mine tailings throughout this area
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Access trail from river to sites
4 primitive camp sites
NORTH
SHEET INDEX
NOTE:
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BLUE HERON
LEGEND
Trees
Water
Paved Road
Backcountry Road
Railroad
River Ford
Building As Noted
Fence
Additional Landscape Planting
Picnic Site
Picnic Table
Camp Site
Tent Pad
Hookup (Developed Site Only)
Parking Spur
Trash Receptacle Location
Fire Ring
Hiking Trail
Bike Trail
Horse Trail
Water Hydrant
CUMBERLAND RIVER BASIN
BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA
KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE
BLUE HERON RECREATION AREA
SITE PLAN
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NASHVILLE
Plate 10

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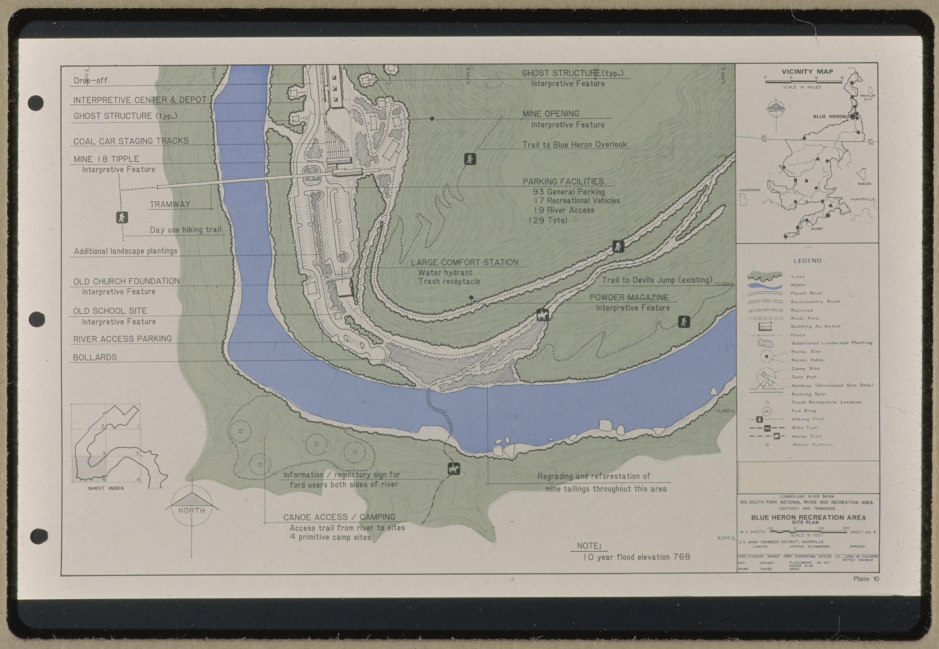
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TRAMWAY
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CANOE ACCESS / CAMPING
Access trail from river to sites
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Regrading and reforestation of
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NOTE:
10 year flood elevation 768
VICINITY MAP
LEGEND
BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA
BLUE HERON RECREATION AREA
Plate 10



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3



THIS SIDE
TOWARD SCREEN
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MAY 89



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STONE PHOTO

DUPLICATE





STONE PHOTO

DUPLICATE



STONE PHOTO
DUPLICATE



STONE PHOTO
SUPERCRAFT

S&H INC



BLUE HERON

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BLUE HERON

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May/18/94