

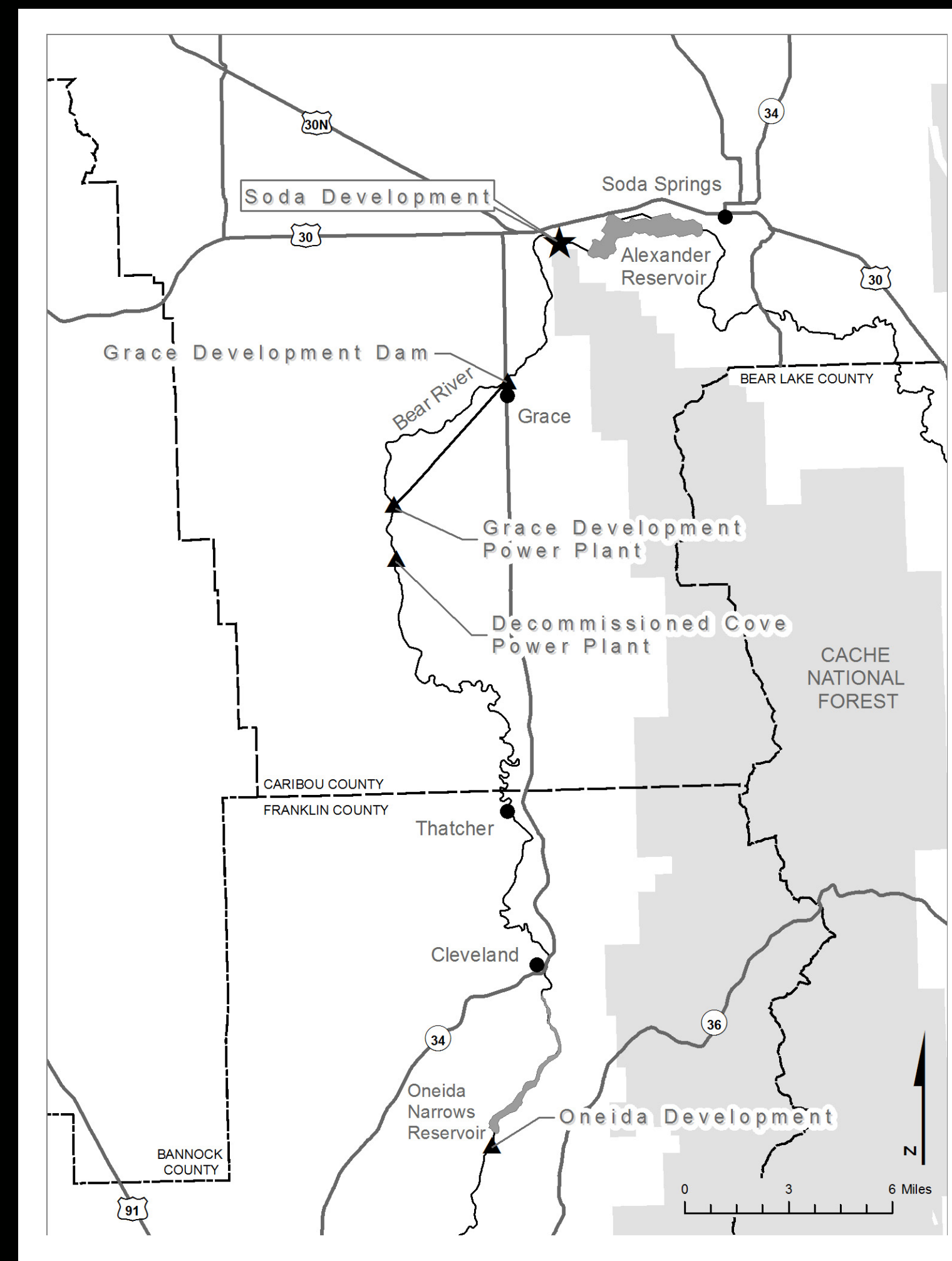
ALEXANDER RESERVOIR AND THE SODA DEVELOPMENT

Alexander Reservoir and the Soda Hydroelectric Power Development were the final hydroelectric facilities built by Utah Power & Light Company on the Bear River. The plants at Grace, Cove, Oneida and the Soda development together made up Utah Power & Light's Bear River Project, which still contributes tens of thousands of kilowatts of sustainable hydroelectricity to communities in southern Idaho and northern Utah.

Soda Dam was completed in 1923, creating a reservoir containing 12,500 acre-feet of water. The dam measures more than 430 feet long and has a 55-foot-long, 19-foot-tall section of earthen fill between its overflow spillway and left abutment. The rest of the dam is made of reinforced concrete. At nearly 105 feet high, it is one of the Bear River's tallest dams.

The three-story powerhouse was completed in 1924. Although the generating equipment has been upgraded over time, the plant itself remains much as it was when built in the 1920s. The powerhouse has two generating units capable of producing 14,000 kilowatts of power.

The Soda residential complex north of the powerhouse was also constructed in the 1920s. Its collection of bungalow cottages



The Soda development in relation to other regional PacifiCorp facilities.

reflects the style of employee housing provided at the time by Utah Power & Light at its other Bear River facilities. Many workers lived on-site with their families, and the residential complex included recreational facilities for children.

Dam and powerhouse construction required many tons of concrete, steel rebar, and lumber. Much of this was locally supplied and hauled to the site along a rail line through what is now the bottom of Alexander Reservoir. Some equipment was abandoned and covered by water upon the dam's completion. When the reservoir was drained in the 1970s for inspection, a small steam locomotive known as "the Dinkey" was discovered. The engine was pulled from the mud, restored at the Union Pacific Railroad Company shop in Omaha, Nebraska, and then returned to Soda Springs. The Dinkey is now on display at Thomas Corrigan Park.



The Bear River Valley with the Soda development at bottom right.



"The Dinkey," submerged at the bottom of Alexander Reservoir for decades, is now dry and on display in Soda Springs.

This sign was erected by PacifiCorp to recognize the importance of preserving the history of hydroelectric power and the communities we serve.