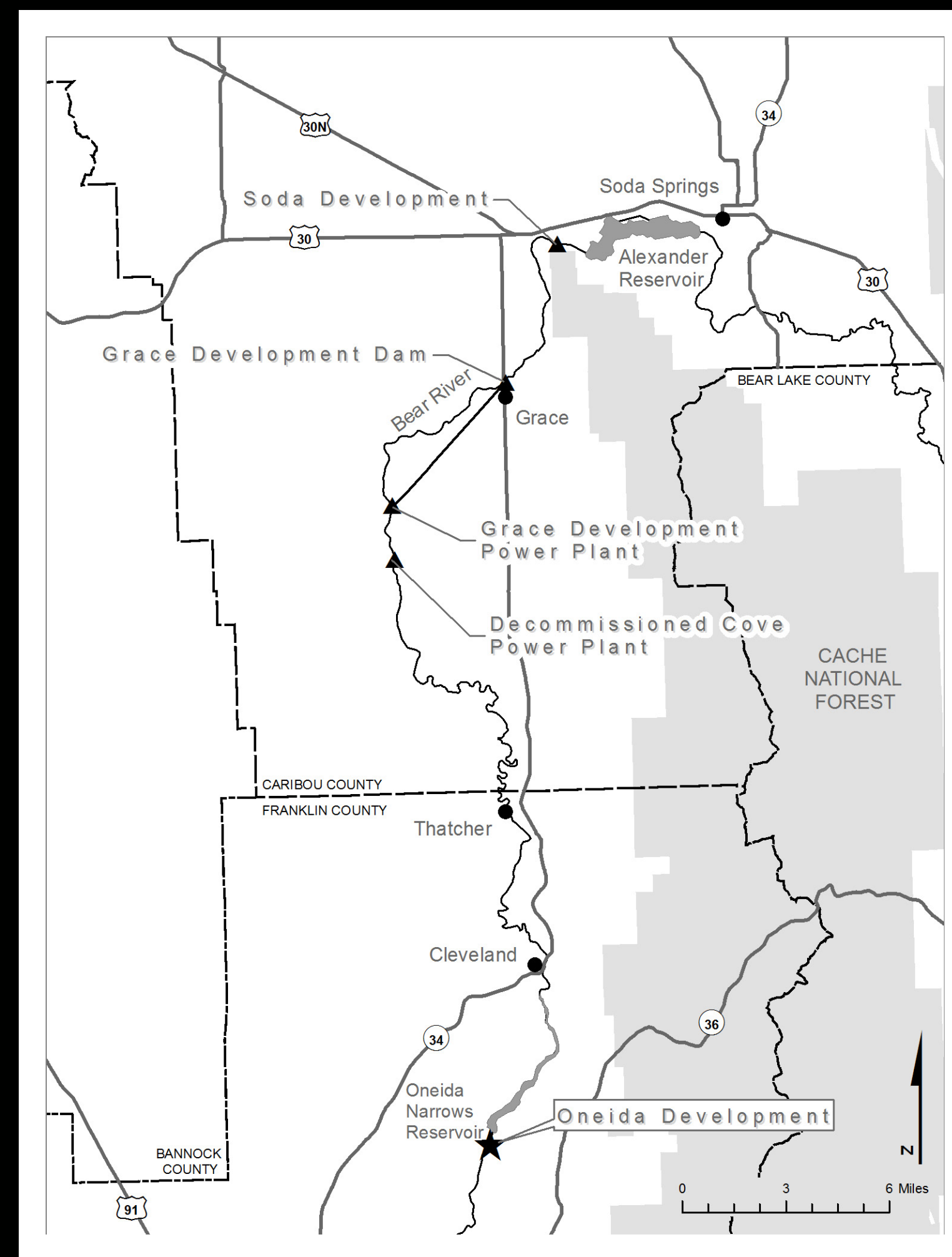


THE ONEIDA DEVELOPMENT

The Oneida hydroelectric development was Utah Power & Light Company's second hydroelectric project on the Bear River. The facility is now owned and operated by PacifiCorp.

Construction of the dam and power station began in 1913 and was completed in 1920. The dam created the 7-mile-long Oneida Narrows Reservoir. The reservoir is controlled by a high concrete dam and a low earthen dike. The concrete dam is 387 feet long and 110 feet tall. The intake structure, which channels water into a pair of buried steel penstocks (pipelines) and to the powerhouse, is near the eastern end of the earthen dike. The dike is 1,100 feet long and 40 feet tall, and is topped with a concrete wall that was installed in 1992 to provide additional flood protection. Water from the reservoir flows through the intake structure, into the penstocks, and through Francis-style turbines that turn the generators. From there, the water flows out of the powerhouse through an opening (known as the tailrace) and rejoins the Bear River downstream from the plant. The first of the three turbines that were ultimately installed in the powerhouse began operation in 1915 and provided 10,000 kilowatts of power-generating capacity. Today, the Oneida development can generate 30,000 kilowatts of sustainable electricity.



The Oneida Development in relation to other regional PacifiCorp facilities.

Construction and operation of the Oneida development required a substantial amount of manpower. Hundreds of workers lived in a construction camp on the west bench of the Bear River's. The camp contained machine shops and concrete plants as well as wood and milling facilities. Construction materials and supplies were hauled to the work site by rail or horse-drawn wagon. A 1.5-mile segment of the old rail line is visible in places along the river's west side. Most of the track has been removed, but the earthen grade and an occasional steel rail can still be seen.



Overview of the Oneida concrete dam showing overflow control gates.

Also located on the river's west bench is the Oneida development residential complex, a series of small bungalow cottages built in 1915 and 1930 to provide housing for the dam workers and their families.



The Oneida residential complex provided bungalow housing for workers and their families.

It had decorative landscaping, a terraced pond, fire hydrants, street-lights, chicken coops, a barn, and a school. With the automation of many plant operations, fewer workers are required and the residential complex has been abandoned.

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