

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
Land and Resource Management Plan

AMENDMENT #2
April 1987

CHAPTER 2. ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

Page 2-2 Wild and Scenic Rivers--Correct the third sentence to show that all NRI rivers and streams identified in EIS Table 2-18 are eligible for study. Delete the last sentence and substitute "Table 4-17 (in this amendment) shows Forest Service responsibility for river studies (rivers, streams or segments)".

CHAPTER 4. FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Page 4-5 Wild and Scenic Rivers--Delete the existing paragraph and substitute the following:

Management prescriptions for river corridors identified in the NRI, or otherwise identified for study, provide protection in the following ways--

- Prevent modification of the free-flowing characteristics to the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions of the identified rivers.
- Protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the identified rivers.
- Permit no management or development of the identified river and its 1/4 mile corridor which modifies eligibility or classification. (i.e., classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational.)

The river assessment follows a three-step process--

- Eligibility determination
- Potential classification (wild, scenic, recreational)
- Suitability determination

All rivers identified in the NRI and by the Wild and Scenic ID Team are eligible based on criteria in Section 1(b) and 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Appendix C, Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation, p. C-1, FEIS).

Potential river classification is based on river and adjacent land conditions existing at the time of the study. The Act specifies three classification categories for eligible rivers. The guidelines provide further definition of the criteria for classification of each segment.

Wild river areas are defined by the Act as--

--"Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America."

Scenic river areas are defined as--

"Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads."

Recreational river areas are defined as--

"Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past."

Table 4-17 summarizes the study responsibility, potential classification and river mileage and replaces that information in FEIS Table C-1.

Table 4-18 describes Interim Management Requirements for each category.

River suitability studies on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests are scheduled for completion in 1989. The Forest will conduct these studies concurrently.

All potential classifications and segment lengths are tentative and subject to change in the EIS and suitability study for each stream.

Buffalo River - Since only 15.8 miles of the river are on National Forest lands and 134.2 miles are on National Park Service lands, the National Park Service is recommended to be the lead agency responsible for suitability study; however, the Forest will study the segments within the National Forest Proclamation Boundary.

Segments on National Forest are classified as follows:

Segment A. That section of the river from its head to the Upper Buffalo Wilderness (National Forest) (6.4 miles) is classified scenic. This is due to the accessibility by roads reaching and crossing the river; and longer stretches of inconspicuous roads in the river corridor.

Segment B. The section of the river through the Upper Buffalo Wilderness (N.F.) (9.4 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means and routes used are primarily roads abandoned and closed in 1976. Although the impact is present, effects on the natural processes are ecologically insignificant and appear primitive.

Little Buffalo. The Little Buffalo is not on the National Forest; therefore, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

East Fork of Little Buffalo. The East Fork is primarily on National Forest and is classified as follows:

Segment A. Beginning at the headwaters down-stream to the middle of Section 24 (2.4 miles) is classified scenic. This is due to the accessibility by roads reaching and crossing the river; and longer stretches of inconspicuous roads in the river corridor.

Segment B. From the middle of Section 24 downstream to the Forest boundary (4.3 miles) is classified wild. Access is limited to a few roads leading to the boundary of the river area.

Illinois Bayou. From Bayou Bluff Campground downstream to the Forest Boundary (4.4 miles) is designated recreational. It is accessible by one State highway. Shorelines include the community of Retta and timber harvest, adversely affecting the natural appearance. The remainder of the Illinois Bayou is outside of the National Forest Boundary; therefore, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study for the segment south of the Forest Boundary.

Illinois Bayou, North Fork. The entire river from head to mouth (22.6 miles) is scenic due to long stretches of inconspicuous roads reaching and crossing the stream corridor.

Illinois Bayou, East Fork. Segment A. From the head, downstream 3.2 miles is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means, and there is little evidence of human activity.

Segment B. From the East Fork Wilderness boundary upstream 1.4 miles is classified scenic due to a road, FDR 1301, in the river corridor and crossing the river.

Segment C. The entire section through the wilderness (5.5 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means along old roads closed in 1986. While the impacts are present, effects on the natural process are ecologically insignificant.

Segment D. From the wilderness boundary to Bayou Bluff (4.8 miles) is classified scenic due to short stretches of inconspicuous roads reaching and crossing the stream.

Illinois Bayou, Middle Fork. Segment A. From the head to Reeves Branch (6.5 miles) is classified wild. Access is limited to a few roads leading to the boundary of the river area.

Segment B. Running from Reeves Branch to Penhook Hollow (12 miles) is classified scenic due to roads reaching the stream and long stretches of inconspicuous roads within the corridor.

Segment C. The section from Penhook Hollow to Bayou Bluff (2.9 miles) is classified as recreational due to long stretches of conspicuous, parallel road and numerous access points.

Kings River. This stream is intermittent on National Forest and was not classified. Since the remainder of the River is outside the Forest Boundary, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

Mulberry River. Segment A. From the head to Redding Campground (30.8 miles) is classified scenic. Roads occasionally reach or bridge the river. FDR 1003/ST 215 parallels the river with only short stretches of conspicuous road. There is some evidence of past and on-going agricultural and timber harvesting activities in the river corridor but the shorelines and the immediate areas appear largely undeveloped. There are several small communities in the corridor.

Segment B. From Redding Campground to Big Eddy Creek (5.8 miles) is classified as recreational. There are long stretches of conspicuous road, numerous access points, a gravel pit, and numerous structures.

Segment C. The segment from Big Eddy Creek to the Forest boundary (19.4 miles) is classified scenic due to accessibility in places by roads; and including long stretches of inconspicuous roads within the river corridor.

Segment D. Since the remainder of the Mulberry River is outside the Forest boundary (6.3 miles) to mouth; the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study on this segment.

Big Piney Creek. Segment A. From the headwaters to the center of Section 24 below Indian Creek, 34.1 miles, is classified scenic. It is accessible in places by roads reaching the stream including long stretches of inconspicuous roads. This segment also includes numerous private tracts with developed pastures.

Segment B. From the lower terminus of Segment A downstream 3.9 miles to the most northerly private tract within the Wainscott Bottoms Special Interest Area, is classified wild. This segment is generally inaccessible by road with a few roads leading to the boundary.

Segment C. From Wainscott Bottoms downstream to the Forest Boundary (7.2 miles) is classified scenic. It is accessible in places by roads, includes short stretches of conspicuous roads, evidence of timber harvest and a swimming beach, picnic area, campground and canoe launch site.

Segment D. Since the remainder of the river is outside the Forest Boundary (downstream to Lake Dardanelle, 13.4 miles); the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study on this segment.

Richland Creek. Segment A. The section from the headwaters to the wilderness boundary (7.8 miles) is classified scenic due to the accessibility by roads reaching the creek.

Segment B. The section through the wilderness (5.3 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means and routes used are old roads that were closed in 1986 or were little used. While the impacts are present, effects on the natural process are ecologically insignificant.

Segment C. The section from the junction of Falling Water Creek to the Forest Boundary (9.6 miles) is classified scenic due to roads reaching the creek; and longer stretches of inconspicuous roads in the river corridor.

Segment D. Since this segment from the Forest Boundary to the mouth of Falling Water Creek is outside the Forest Boundary, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

Falling Water Creek. Segment A. From the headwaters to the wilderness boundary, (3.5 miles) is classified recreational. The entire section has a conspicuous parallel Forest road with two bridge crossings. Other roads ford the creek in three locations.

Segment B. This section (7.1 miles) is entirely within the Richland Creek Wilderness but is classified scenic due to the long stretch of inconspicuous Forest Road 1205 within the creek corridor. This road right-of-way borders the wilderness.

North Sylamore Creek. Segment A. From the head of Stewart Fork to Barkshed Picnic Area (5.9 miles) is classified wild. It is generally inaccessible, has little evidence of any timber harvest and appears essentially primitive.

Segment B. From Barkshed to the mouth (14.5 miles) is designated scenic due to roads reaching and crossing the creek, and short stretches of conspicuous roads. Blanchard Springs Caverns is outside the 1/4 mile corridor under consideration; but campgrounds at Gurner Pool and North Sylamore are within the corridor.

Cole Fork Branch. This is a tributary to Segment A of North Sylamore Creek (5.5 miles) and is classified wild for the same reasons.

War Eagle Creek. This stream is intermittent on National Forest and was not classified. Since the remainder of the stream is outside the Forest Boundary, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

Upper White River. Of the 48 miles of river, only 10.7 miles border the National Forest. This section is classified as recreational due to the long stretch of conspicuous State highway parallel to the river. Since the river lies outside the Forest Boundary, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

Lee Creek. In Oklahoma, Lee Creek is designated a State Scenic River. However, legislation enacted March 21, 1986, deleted this classification below the 420 foot contour. From the headwaters in Washington County, AR, downstream 26 miles to the State line was added to the Registry of Arkansas Scenic Rivers in 1986. The registry identifies streams with outstanding values that merit study for possible inclusion in the Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers System. Of the 36 miles inventoried in Arkansas only around 7 miles flow through National Forest lands within the Forest Boundary. Because so little of this stream is on the National Forest land, the State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study.

Segment A. From the Forest Boundary south to the center of Sec. 3, T12 R31W (4.5 miles) is classified recreational. This segment includes Devil's Den State Park, a low dam, State Highway 74, bridge crossings and parallel roads within the river corridor.

Segment B. From Sec. 3 in Segment A to the Forest Boundary (OK) (14.4 miles) is classified scenic. This is accessible in places by roads, and long stretches of inconspicuous roads lie within the river corridor.

L'Anguille River Only 7 tenths of a mile border National Forest on one side with a total of 71 miles inventoried. This 7 tenths mile is classified scenic due to inconspicuous roads and hardwood plantations. The State is the logical agency to conduct the suitability study because so little of the river joins the Forest.

This amendment does not change the multiple use goals or objectives in the Forest Plan, but--

--Clarifies that all National River Inventory (NRI) Rivers on the Forests are eligible for study.

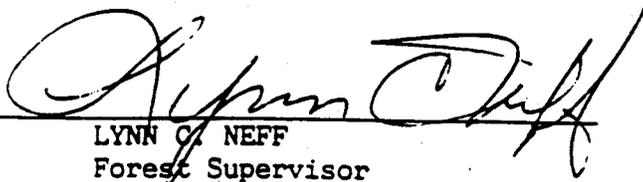
--Determines potential classification of NRI River segments on the Forests.

--Establishes management requirements on the Forests to protect river values pending study.

--Revises the schedule for river studies displayed in Forest Plan Table 7-2.

Based on analysis of these changes, I have determined that this amendment to the Ozark-St. Francis Land and Resources Management Plan will have no significant effect on the human environment and is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA.

This decision to amend the Forest Plan is subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18. Any Notice of Appeal with accompanying Statement of Reasons must be submitted within 45 days from the date of this decision.


LYNN C. NEFF
Forest Supervisor

6/5/87
DATE

Table 4-17

SUMMARY OF STUDY RESPONSIBILITY.
 POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION FOR CLASSIFIED STREAMS.
 AND UNCLASSIFIED MILEAGE OUTSIDE FOREST BOUNDARY

RIVER/STREAM	RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDY		MILES OF STREAM WITHIN FOREST B'DRY			MILES OUTSIDE FOREST B'DRY
	FOREST SERVICE	OTHER AGENCY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL	UNCLASSIFIED
Buffalo River	X ^{4/}	X ^{1/}	9.4	6.4	---	134.2
Little Buffalo East Fork.		X ^{5/}	---	---	---	21.2
Little Buffalo	X		4.3	2.4	---	2.0
Illinois Bayou	X	X ^{1/}	---	---	6.8	19.8
Illinois Bayou North Fork	X		---	22.6	---	.0
Illinois Bayou East Fork	X		8.7 ^{2/}	6.2	---	.0
Illinois Bayou Middle Fork	X		6.5 ^{3/}	12.0	2.9	.0
Kings River		X ^{5/}	---	---	---	90.0
Mulberry River	X	X ^{1/}	---	50.2	5.8	6.3
Big Piney Creek	X	X ^{1/}	3.9	41.3	---	3.4
Richland Creek	X	X ^{1/}	5.3	17.4	---	5.9
Falling Water Creek	X		---	7.1	3.5	.0
North Sylamore Creek	X		5.9	14.5	---	.0
Cole Fork Branch	X		5.5	---	---	.0
War Eagle Creek		X ^{5/}	---	---	---	65.0
Upper White River		X ^{6/}	---	---	10.7 (0.9)	37.3
Lee Creek		X ^{6/}	---	14.4 (5.2)	4.5 (1.8)	30.1
L'Anguille River		X	---	---	0.7	70.3

1/ Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission is the logical agency to study that segment outside the Forest Boundary

2/ Includes 0.4 miles outside Forest Boundary

3/ Includes 1.9 miles outside Forest Boundary

4/ Forest Service will only study that part of the River in the National Forest Boundary.

5/ Entire river is outside National Forest Boundary. Arkansas Natural & Scenic Rivers Commission is the logical agency to study this river.

6/ Miles in () are adjacent to National Forest land, the remainder joins private lands. Arkansas Natural & Scenic Rivers Commission is the logical agency to study this stream.

Table 4-18

INTERIM MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
TIMBER Activities	Lands within the established boundary are unavailable and therefore unsuitable for timber management. Cutting individual trees or small tree groups is permitted to enhance the primitive recreation experience, provide a safe experience or protect the environment, unless precluded by other land classification.	<p>Timber management activities are <u>subordinate</u> to scenic and recreational values.</p> <p>Lands within the corridor will not be managed for timber product sustained yield.</p> <p>Tree cutting to improve residual stand vigor and or appearance, or to salvage and replace decadent, diseased, insect infested, fire damaged, wind or ice thrown stands with younger, healthier trees is permitted.</p> <p>A wide range of silvicultural practices is available for these purposes provided that no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment occurs.</p> <p>Use the following timber cutting methods to achieve the appropriate river corridor objective--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Intermediate thinnings in both pine and hardwood stands. --Group selection harvest cuttings in hardwood stands. --Small shelterwood cuttings in hardwood stands (10 acre maximum size.) --Small seedtree cuttings in pine stands (20 acre maximum size.) <p>Minimize tree cutting effects on streams by--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Prohibiting mechanized skidders within vegetative filter strips defined under <u>Water, Soil and Air</u>, p 4-14. --Using animals or cable winching to remove logs from this zone. --Establishing stream disposal zones where all tops are removed for an appropriate distance, and then lopped to be within two feet of the ground for an additional distance sufficient to make them unnoticeable when viewed from the stream. 	SAME AS SCENIC

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
TIMBER (continued)			
Activities		Minimize cultural treatment effects on streams by -- --Using hand cutting tools and appropriate herbicide application only. --Felling all residual stems not required for wildlife habitat purposes. --Using prescribed burning only where it appropriately maintains or improves scenic or recreational value.	SAME AS SCENIC (continued)
Visual Quality Objectives	Timber activities outside the boundary but within the stream user's view will follow the Visual Quality Objective guidelines for the area being treated.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
FLOOD CONTROL, HYDROELECTRIC POWER & WATER SUPPLY	Prohibit all new water supply dams, flood control dams, hydroelectric power facilities, levees or other major diversions in the channel or river corridor.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
SOIL & WATER IMPROVEMENTS	Soil and Water Improvements-- Limit stream channel & bank improvements to protection of life, property and outstandingly remarkable values. Use native materials (grass, shrubs, trees, rock, etc.) for any soil and water rehabilitation work. The objective is to make the site blend with the surrounding area.	SAME AS WILD Materials, however, may be removed. A rock crusher may be set up temporarily to facilitate material removal	SAME AS SCENIC
MINING	Prohibit new mineral leasing and development within 1/4 mile of the river. Allow existing mineral activity to continue subject to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior regulations.	Prohibit common variety minerals and mining claim operations within the designated 1/4 mile river corridor. Outside the corridor, allow surface occupancy for mineral exploration and/or mining that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Allow existing	SAME AS SCENIC

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
MINING (continued)	Conduct existing mineral activity to minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Permit reasonable access.	mineral operations to continue subject to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior regulations prescribed to protect rivers in the National system.	SAME AS SCENIC (continued)
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	Permit no roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel within 1/4 mile of the river bank.	Maintain or reconstruct existing roads serving private land and those authorized for National Forest Management. Manage existing National Forest roads and proposed new construction to protect and enhance the river corridor.	See Roads p. 4-19. Parallel roads or railroads, bridges and access points are compatible with this classification
AGRICULTURE (FORAGE)	Issue no new grazing permits. Maintain existing improved pastures, but do not establish new ones.	SAME AS WILD	Maintain existing improved pastures. Expand existing pastures or create new pastures where they don't conflict with the purpose of recreational designation.
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Construct trails to the river only at widely spaced key access points. Simple comfort convenience facilities are allowed in the river area. Locate developed areas such as parking lots and large campgrounds outside the river area. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is preservation.	Moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Trails are allowed for user convenience. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is retention.	Campgrounds, trails, picnic areas and other related facilities are maintained and/or established in close proximity to the river. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is retention.
STRUCTURES	New structures are not allowed except in rare instance to achieve management objectives.	SAME AS WILD	Small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures are allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.
UTILITIES	Discourage new transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. Where no reasonable alternative exists,	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
UTILITIES (continued)	facilities to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, evaluate the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife values in the site selection.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
MOTORIZED TRAVEL	Prohibit internal combustion engines used for powering vehicles or water craft.	Motorized travel on land or water is permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.	Motorized travel on land or water is either permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls are usually similar to surrounding lands and waters.
WILDLIFE AND FISH	Conduct no wildlife or fish habitat improvements; instead allow wildlife species to reach populations associated with a "natural environment." Handle special requirements for threatened, endangered and sensitive species on a case by case basis according to established guidelines.	Conduct no new wildlife or fish habitat improvements. Maintain existing wildlife and fish habitat improvements that do not conflict with the objectives for Scenic classification.	Provide habitat attracting wildlife and fisheries compatible with human activity. See general Forest-wide goals F.P. 4-6 through 4-7. For threatened, endangered or sensitive species direction, see F.P. 4-7 and 4-8.