

**LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**OZARK - ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS**

**AMENDMENT 8**

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ozark - St. Francis National Forests is amended as follows:

1. **Corrects:** Management Area 9 - Wild and Scenic Rivers, Stream Classification for North Sylamore Creek: Drop the paragraph that reads "Segment A. From the head of Stewart Fork to Barkshed Recreation Area (5.9 miles) is classified wild. It is generally inaccessible, has little evidence of any timber harvest and appears essentially primitive."
2. **Corrects:** Page 4-22, Management Area 1 Wilderness, immediately after "6580 acres of the 66,800 Wilderness acres are in Wild and Scenic River corridors", replace next sentence with "Those components included in Management Area 1, Wilderness, shall be subject to the provisions of both the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In the case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts the more restrictive provisions shall apply".
3. **Corrects:** Page 4-32, Management Area 7 Special Interest Areas, immediately after "495 acres of the Special Interest Areas are in Wild and Scenic River corridors", replace next sentence with "Those components included in Management Area 7, Special Interest Areas, shall be subject to the Standards and Guidelines for both Management Area 7 and Management Area 9 - Wild and Scenic Rivers. In the case of conflict between the two Management Areas the more restrictive standards and guidelines shall apply".
4. **Replaces:** "Goals" and "Direction" with "Goal for All Wild and Scenic Rivers" and "Management Objectives".
5. **Adds:** "Outstandingly Remarkable Values".
6. **Replaces:** "Wild and Scenic River Management Requirements" (Table 4-18) and "Management Prescriptions, Activities, and Requirements" with "Standards and Guidelines".
7. **Delete:** Page iv under LIST of TABLES, delete Table 4-8a [sic, should be 4-18]; "Proposed and Probable Activities - Management Area 9".
8. **Replace:** Page 4-49, THE FOREST'S FUTURE CONDITION, Recreation, replace last sentence with: "The goal of Wild and Scenic River management is to provide recreation opportunities within the capability of the resources, to protect the free-flowing condition of the rivers and to preserve and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values for which each river was designated.

### GOAL FOR ALL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The goal of Wild and Scenic River management is to provide recreation opportunities within the capability of the resources, to protect the free flowing condition of the rivers and to preserve and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values for which each river was designated.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives for the Big Piney Creek Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values identified as SCENIC, RECREATIONAL, GEOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL, and FISH AND WILDLIFE.
- 2) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 3) Provide for plant and animal community diversity and maintain healthy functioning ecosystems as the foundation to sustaining long-term productivity. Maintain habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species inhabiting the Big Piney River corridor.
- 4) Recognize and respond to the socio-economic effects of management strategies. Recognize the varied needs of the public to be partners and to participate in managing the river corridors through awareness, interaction, and communication.
- 5) Emphasize user education and information. Establish new regulations only when other methods (e.g. personal contacts, information and education) are not effective, and ensure that any regulations established are enforceable.
- 6) Develop and maintain a working relationship with landowners along Big Piney Creek, local and state governments, private and commercial users, interested resource groups, and the Forest Service to help achieve the above goals in the Big Piney Creek corridor.

ALTERNATIVE 3

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

(continued)

The management objectives for the Buffalo Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values identified as SCENIC and WILDERNESS.
- 2) Foster the inherent biological richness of riparian and aquatic ecosystems and the biotic significance of riparian corridors as "connectors" between fragmented habitats.
- 3) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 4) Continue to work with the National Park Service in monitoring and protecting the ecological values (including water quality) of the Buffalo National River.
- 5) Forward "Leave No Trace" principles and backcountry ethics internally and externally.
- 6) Provide opportunities for backcountry and wilderness-dependent recreational experiences.

ALTERNATIVE 3

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

(continued)

The management objectives for the Hurricane Creek Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, free-flowing characteristics, and water quality.
- 2) Continue to provide a broad range of recreation experiences ranging from primitive wilderness settings to more managed outdoor recreation use. These experiences will provide outstanding opportunities to meet visitor needs for solitude as well as experiencing a diverse riverine system.
- 3) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 4) Provide for a healthy functional ecosystem which maintains the diverse plant and animal communities characteristic of this portion of the Big Piney/Arkansas watersheds.
- 5) Be responsive to the needs of the public in consonance with the outstandingly remarkable values identified. Provide for interpretation which encourages protection of river values and the reestablishment of the streamside forest.
- 6) Monitor unique botanical communities within the corridor; maintain and/or enhance population viability where feasible outside the wilderness portions of the corridor.

### ALTERNATIVE 3

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

(continued)

The management objectives for the Mulberry Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values identified as RECREATION and FISHERIES.
- 2) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 3) Provide plant and animal community diversity and maintain healthy functioning ecosystems as the foundation to sustaining long-term productivity. Maintain habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species inhabiting the Mulberry River corridor.
- 4) Recognize and respond to the socio-economic effects of management strategies. Recognize the varied needs of the public to be partners and to participate in managing the river corridors through awareness, interaction, and communication.
- 5) Emphasize user education and information. Establish new regulations only when other methods (e.g. personal contacts, information and education) are not effective, and ensure that any regulations established are enforceable.
- 6) Develop and maintain a working relationship with landowners along the Mulberry, local and state governments, private and commercial users, interested resource groups, and the Forest Service to help achieve the above goals in the Mulberry River corridor.
- 7.) Privately developed recreation opportunities are encouraged. Expansion of Federal recreation areas is discouraged without the participation of private partners.

### ALTERNATIVE 3

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

(continued)

The management objectives for North Sylamore Creek Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values identified as RECREATION, FISH AND WILDLIFE, and BOTANICAL.
- 2) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 3) Provide plant and animal community diversity and maintain healthy functioning ecosystems as the foundation to sustaining long-term productivity. Preserve habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species inhabiting the North Sylamore corridor.
- 4) Recognize and respond to the socio-economic effects of management strategies. Recognize the varied needs of the public to be partners and to participate in managing the river corridors through awareness, interaction, and communication.
- 5) Emphasize user education and information. Establish new regulations only when other methods (e.g. personal contacts, information and education) are not effective, and ensure that any regulations established are enforceable.
- 6) Develop and maintain a working relationship with landowners along North Sylamore Creek, local and state governments, private and commercial users, interested resource groups, and the Forest Service to help achieve the above goals in the North Sylamore Creek corridor.

ALTERNATIVE 3

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

(continued)

The management objectives for the Richland Creek Wild and Scenic River are:

- 1) Protect and/or enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, free-flowing characteristics, and water quality.
- 2) Encourage research and interpretation and protection of the fossiliferous limestone and exposed shales within the corridor.
- 3) Establish measurable indicators and standards for biophysical and social conditions, monitor effectively the condition of those indicators, and implement management policies and programs to prevent degradation of riparian resources and visitor experiences.
- 4) Provide for a healthy functional ecosystem which maintains the diverse plant and animal communities characteristic of this portion of the Buffalo/White River watershed.
- 5) Be responsive to the needs of the public in consonance with the outstandingly remarkable values identified. Provide for interpretation which encourages protection of river values and the reestablishment of the streamside environment.
- 6) Continue to provide a broad range of recreation experiences ranging from primitive wilderness settings to more managed outdoor recreation use.

### OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

The following outstandingly remarkable values along with the purposes of the Act and the other values such as free-flow, aesthetics, scenery, history, and archaeology are to be maintained protected and enhanced through the implementation of the Plan.

#### **BIG PINEY CREEK**

**Classification:** The 45.2 mile segment from its origin in section 27, township 13 north, range 23 west, to the Ozark National Forest boundary, has been classified as a "Scenic" river.

**Scenic.** The surrounding terrain is mostly characterized by highly varied and strongly dissected terrain with uneven, sharp ridges and/or cliffs with significant vertical relief, large unusual rock outcrops or formations, and slopes greater than 35%. The stream is clear and exhibits distinctive waterfalls, rapids, and still pools with reflecting qualities.

**Recreational.** Camping, swimming, canoeing, and fishing are the primary forms of recreation. Long Pool Recreation Area is extremely popular with residents of local communities and is a popular canoe launch and take-out location. Big Piney Creek is a popular whitewater river with Class I to Class III rapids. This river is one of the major smallmouth bass rivers in Arkansas.

**Geological.** Mississippian and lower most Pennsylvanian rock exposures are very important to understanding the sedimentological history of the southern Ozark platform. These exposures, along with exposures of the Morrowan sequence create a structural window which is important in developing an understanding of these geological formations.

**Botanical.** Some plant species considered by the Arkansas Heritage Commission to be sensitive are located within the corridor of Big Piney Creek. One species, Alabama Snow wreath, is currently under study for Federal listing as a threatened and endangered species.

**Fish and Wildlife.** The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission considers this river to be outstanding for sport fisheries.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES (continued)

**BUFFALO RIVER**

**Classification:** The 6.4 mile segment from its origin in section 22, township 14 north, range 24 west, to the western boundary of the Upper Buffalo Wilderness has been classified as "Scenic". The 9.4 mile segment from the western boundary of the Upper Buffalo Wilderness to the Ozark National Forest boundary, has been classified as a "Wild" river.

**Wilderness.** Upper Buffalo Wilderness has a combination of values perceived as representing vestiges of primitive America as confirmed by wilderness designation in 1975. This wilderness is the only wilderness within the Ozark National Forest which is classified as a Class I Air Quality Area.

**Scenic.** The surrounding terrain is mostly characterized by highly varied and strongly dissected terrain with uneven, sharp ridges and/or cliffs with significant vertical relief greater than 35%. The stream is clear and exhibits rapids and still pools with reflecting qualities.

**HURRICANE CREEK**

**Classification:** The 11.8 mile segment from its origin in section 1, township 13 north, range 23 west, to the western boundary of private land bordering Hurricane Creek Wilderness has been classified as "Scenic". The 2.4 mile segment from the western boundary of the private land bordering the Hurricane Creek Wilderness to the Hurricane Creek Wilderness boundary, has been classified as "Wild". The 2.4 mile segment from the Hurricane Creek Wilderness boundary to its confluence with Big Piney Creek, has been classified as "Scenic".

**Botanical.** Bristle-Fern, which is listed as threatened by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, is located within the river corridor inside Hurricane Creek Wilderness.

**Wilderness.** Hurricane Creek Wilderness was designated by Congress in 1984. Since wilderness designation affects broad reaches of land (in this case 15,177 acres) and protects the broader watershed of which the river is a part, it has important complementary benefits. The area contains the Hurricane Natural Bridge and portions of the Ozark Highlands Trail.

**Scenic.** Topography within 1/4 mile on either side of Hurricane Creek and its side drainages is quite rugged and scenic. The stream is clear and exhibits interesting ripple-pool patterns meandering through richly diverse vegetation with dominant overstory of beech in some reaches.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES (continued)

**MULBERRY RIVER**

**Classification:** The 36.6 mile segment from its origin in section 32, township 13 north, range 23 west, to Big Eddy Hollow in section 3, township 11 north, range 27 west, has been classified as "Recreational". The 19.4 mile segment from Big Eddy Hollow to the Ozark National Forest boundary, has been classified as "Scenic".

**Recreational.** Canoeing, camping, swimming and fishing are the primary forms of recreation. There are several major public access points along its length which contribute to recreation use.

**Fish and Wildlife.** This river is recognized as one of the premier smallmouth fisheries in Arkansas. Fisheries values are outstanding.

**NORTH SYLAMORE CREEK**

**Classification:** The 14.5 mile segment from its origin in section 35, township 13 north, range 20 west, to its confluence with the White River has been classified as a "Scenic" river.

**Recreational.** Camping, swimming, and hiking are the primary forms of recreation. Blanchard Springs Recreation Complex attracts many visitors to the river area. Barkshed Recreation Area and Gunner Pool Recreation Area also are popular recreation sites. North Sylamore Hiking Trail parallels the river from Barkshed Recreation Area to its mouth.

**Fish and Wildlife.** North Sylamore Creek has exceptionally high productivity (pounds of biomass/acre), and supports a high diversity of fish species. It is a very productive smallmouth bass fishery. Endangered species of bats utilize the river corridor for foraging.

**Botanical.** Several plant species listed as sensitive by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission are located along the river corridor, with the largest concentrations being within Clifty Canyon Botanical Area [which is outside the boundaries of the river corridor]. Some of these species are under consideration for Federal listing as threatened or endangered but not enough information on the species is known at this time. [In 1996, the Fish and Wildlife Service changed criteria for considering species for listing. No current sensitive plants are being considered for Federal listing as threatened or endangered]

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES (continued)

**RICHLAND CREEK**

**Classification:** The 7.8 mile segment from its origin in section 35, township 13 north, range 20 west, to the western boundary of Richland Creek Wilderness has been classified as "Scenic". The 5.3 mile segment through the Richland Creek Wilderness, has been classified as "Wild". The 3.4 mile segment from the eastern boundary of the wilderness to the northern boundary of section 32, township 14 north, range 18 west, has been classified as "Scenic".

**Recreational.** Camping, kayaking, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, swimming, and fishing are the primary forms of recreation. Richland is heavily used during the summer months. Richland Creek contains swimming and fishing holes that are popular with local residents.

**Wilderness.** Richland Creek Wilderness was designated by Congress in 1984. Since wilderness designation affects broad reaches of land, the broader watershed of which the river is a part, it has important complementary benefits.

**Geological.** The exposed bedrock of the river displays geological formations which are very important to understanding the stratigraphic synthesis of North Arkansas. Exposed fossiliferous limestones and shales seem to represent some of the youngest Mississippian age rocks in North America.

## STANDARDS [S] AND GUIDELINES [G]

The Standards [S] and Guidelines [G] state the bounds or constraints within which all practices will be carried out in achieving the planned goals and objectives for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Note: Where river segments are within Special Interest Areas or Wilderness, the more restrictive Management Area (MA) standards and guidelines are to be followed.

Unless otherwise noted in the following Standards and Guidelines, refer to the Forestwide standards and guidelines (Management Area Direction) outlined in the Forest Plan. Not all aspects of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are reflected in these Standards and Guidelines. The Act should be used in conjunction with this management direction.

### RANGE MANAGEMENT

#### Wild Segment

Same as Management Area 1- Wilderness.

#### Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] Issue no new grazing permits.
- [G] Phase out woodland allotments that no longer meet NFMA and Forest Plan guidelines.
- [G] Maintain existing open fields, haylands, and improved pastures that are compatible with river values.
- [G] Any field may have a riparian buffer, where needed, that is not mown or grazed.

### RECREATION MANAGEMENT

#### Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness, in addition;

- [S] Apply LAC standards based on indicators selected for river segment classification.

#### Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] Developed recreation areas will be managed in accordance with forestwide "Developed Recreation Areas" standards.
- [S] Facility development reflects ROS classification.
- [S] Extend LAC standards for scenic segments adjoining Wilderness.

### TRAILS

#### Wild Segments

- [S] Trails allowed in the corridor for resource protection.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES [S] or [G] (continued)

Scenic Segments

- [S] New motorized trails will be prohibited within the corridor.
- [G] New non-motorized trails are permitted if they meet objectives for the Wild and Scenic River and the specified outstandingly remarkable values.

Recreational Segments

- [G] New motorized and/or non-motorized trails may be allowed if they meet objectives for the Wild and Scenic River and the specified outstandingly remarkable values.

SCENERY MANAGEMENT

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness.

Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] The Visual Quality Objective is Retention.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness

Scenic Segments

- [S] Lands within the corridor will not be managed for timber production.
- [G] Vegetation management activities may be used to enhance the outstandingly remarkable values with an emphasis on aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features.
- [G] Comply with the intent given in the management objectives specific for each river.
- [G] Correct impact or salvage material resulting from a catastrophic natural or human-caused disaster if necessary to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values.
- [G] Remove invasive, non-indigenous vegetation when appropriate for protecting river values.
- [G] Remove hazards for visitor safety using ROS guidelines (from "paved to primitive" settings).
- [G] Incidental or downed fuelwood may be removed for campfires.

Recreational Segment

- [S] Lands within the corridor will not be managed for timber production.
- [G] Vegetation management activities may be used to enhance the outstandingly remarkable values with an emphasis on aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features.
- [G] Comply with the intent given in the management objectives specific for each river.
- [G] Correct impact or salvage material resulting from a catastrophic natural or human-caused disaster is permitted if values are not adversely affected.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES [S] or [G] (continued)

- [G] Remove invasive, non-indigenous vegetation when appropriate for protecting river values.
- [G] Remove hazards for visitor safety using ROS guidelines (from "paved to primitive" settings).
- [G] Incidental or downed fuelwood may be removed for campfires.

WATERSHED AND SOILS MANAGEMENT

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness, in addition;

- [S] Prohibit all new water supply dams, flood control dams, hydroelectric power facilities, levees or other major diversions in the channel or river corridor.
- [S] Use LAC standards to monitor water quality.

Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] Prohibit all new water supply dams, flood control dams, hydroelectric power facilities, levees or other major diversion in the channel or river corridor.
- [S] Prohibit removal of mineral materials as per state regulations for extraordinary resource waters.
- [S] Use LAC standards to monitor water quality on streams with "Wild" segments.
- [G] Limit stream channel and bank improvements to protection of life, property, and outstandingly remarkable values. Use materials for rehabilitation work that meet the ROS classification.

WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness.

Scenic Segments

- [S] Ensure new wildlife or fish habitat improvements contribute to maintaining or improving the outstandingly remarkable values.
- [G] Maintain existing wildlife and fish habitat improvements that do not conflict with the objectives for that river segment.

Recreational Segments

- [G] Provide habitat attracting wildlife and fisheries compatible with human activity.
- [G] Maintain existing wildlife and fish habitat improvements that do not conflict with the objectives for that river segment.

SPECIAL USES

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness, in addition;

- [S] Prohibit new transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, rights-of-way.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES [S] or [G] (continued)

Scenic Segments

- [S] Prohibit motorized events within the corridor.
- [S] Permits shall not be issued for activities on National Forest Lands that are inconsistent with the management goals for the river corridor.
- [G] New transmission lines, gas lines, and water lines should be placed within already existing rights-of-way. Where a reasonable alternative exists, the proposed route is to be located to best protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

Recreation Segment

- [G] Motorized events may be allowed within the corridor.
- [S] Permits shall not be issued for activities on National Forest Lands that are inconsistent with the management goals for the river corridor.
- [G] New transmission lines, gas lines, and water lines should be placed within already existing rights-of-way. Where a reasonable alternative exists, the proposed route is to be located to best protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness, in addition;

- [S] Complete withdrawal from mineral entry of federal lands within one-fourth mile of the bank of any river designated for management under the "Wild" category of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] Prohibit common variety minerals and mining claim operations within the designated river corridor.
- [S] Prohibit surface occupancy for new oil and gas leases.
- [G] Allow existing mineral operations to continue subject to Secretary of Agriculture regulations prescribed to protect rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness.

Scenic Segments

- [G] Prescribed burns may be used to achieve a desired future condition if this enhances the outstandingly remarkable values while protecting water quality.
- [G] Limit hot burns in riparian areas.

Recreation Segment

- [G] Prescribed burns may be used to achieve a desired future condition if this enhances values, while protecting water quality.
- [G] Limit hot burns in riparian area.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES [S] or [G] (continued)

LAND OWNERSHIP

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [G] Provide assistance to private landowners to encourage practices that enhance Wild and Scenic River goals and objectives.

Land Acquisition:

- [S] Acquire desirable tracts within the corridor only from willing-sellers, when the opportunity exists.

TRANSPORTATION/ACCESS

Wild Segments

Same as Management Area 1 - Wilderness.

Scenic and Recreational Segments

- [S] Use minimal tool rule when doing maintenance on roads within Scenic segments that are within the Wilderness. Apply only the minimum tools, equipment, device, force, regulation, or practice that will bring the desired result.
- [S] Motorized vehicles may only cross at designated crossings. They may not travel up and down the river channel.
- [G] 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.