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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

February 11, 2010 For Immediate Release Dena Matteson 573-323-8234 ext. 21

Ozark Riverways Plans to Conduct Prescribed Burns

Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) is planning to conduct several prescribed burns this spring. The burns will be carefully planned and monitored by the Fire Management staff at ONSR and will be conducted beginning in February and ending in April. The ignition and timing of these prescribed burns is dependent on the weather and fuels meeting the parameters of the burn prescription. During prescribed burns, park operations will continue as usual, though foot and vehicle travel near these projects may be restricted during prescribed fire operations, for public safety reasons.

Prescribed burning has a variety of purposes, including the reduction of fuel accumulations near developed areas, which helps reduce the threat of unplanned wildland fires in and around ONSR. Prescribed burning benefits native species and habitats in a variety of ways. Native species are adapted to fire, and in many cases actually depend on fire in order to thrive. Managed fires help restore native habitats such as glades and savannas, which can suffer from the encroachment of woody species. Prescribed burning also improves the structure of forests and woodlands. Deer, turkeys, collared lizards and other species benefit from the use of fire to maintain or improve the habitat they depend on.

Several prescribed burn units are currently planned for treatment this spring. Booming Shoals prescribed burn unit encompasses 1150 acres and is located east of Powder Mill. Alley Spring Glade prescribed burn unit contains 265 acres and is located northwest of Alley Spring. The Mill Mountain prescribed burn unit contains 700 acres and is located near Klepzig Mill, off State Highway NN. The Russell Mountain prescribed burn unit encompasses 300 acres and is located northwest of Logyard. The Campbell Point/Beaver Pond prescribed burn unit is 600 acres and is located across the Current River from Big Spring. The Chilton prescribed burn unit is 1300 acres and the Partney prescribed burn unit is 100 acres. Both of these units are located south of Big Spring, off State Highway Z.

For more information on the park's burn plans and policies, contact Fire Communication and Education Specialist Dena Matteson at 573-323-8234, ext. 21.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people. For more information visit, www.nps.gov/ozar

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