



## The Effects of Off- Road Vehicles

What would you prefer to see when you visit Ozark National Scenic Riverways?



### Negative Effects of Off- Road Vehicles

- ◆ Damage to native vegetation and increase in soil erosion.
- ◆ Damage to sensitive riparian areas and river banks.
- ◆ Creation of roads into undisturbed areas, which can promote the illegal taking, harassment and stress of wildlife.
- ◆ Increase of motor vehicle accidents and visitor injuries.
- ◆ Trespass and/or damage to adjacent private property bordering the park boundary.
- ◆ Spread of invasive weeds.
- ◆ Destruction of significant archeological and historical sites.
- ◆ Addition of sediments and contaminants to waterways, which can negatively affect habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
- ◆ Depriving others of the serenity and enjoyment of nature.
- ◆ Degradation of ONSR's scenic and unique natural areas.



Invasive Spotted Knapweed

### How is the Park Combating This Issue?

Illegal traces and trails are spread throughout the 80,000 acres of the park. Once an illegal trace is made, the footprint often encourages additional illegal traffic. Park employees are currently closing illegal traces by installing carsonite posts, gates, cables and boulders at the entrances.

Closure will reduce further damage while allowing the negatively impacted areas to rehabilitate. Park visitors can help by staying on designated routes and avoiding closed areas. Violators are subject to fines and/or property seizure.

### Where Can I Drive?

Legally licensed vehicles must remain on designated park roads, county roads and state highways when operating within the park. Park roads open to the public are posted with brown, NPS road number signs. Most off- road vehicles are not street legal and are prohibited from operating on any road inside the park boundary. All-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles are only permitted

on unpaved county roads within the park. We all share the privilege of enjoying our public lands and water. We also share the responsibility to protect those resources. It is up to us to make the difference. Please join us as we continue to protect and preserve Ozark National Scenic Riverways for future generations.