**National Park Service**
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways**
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965

573-323-4236 phone
573-323-4140 fax

**Superintendent's Compendium**
Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:
Aug. 15, 2014
William N. Black, Superintendent

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## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Superintendent's Compendium Described

The Superintendent's Compendium is the summary of park specific rules implemented under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR). It serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of the park. The Superintendent's Compendium does not repeat regulations found in 36 CFR and other United States Code and CFR Titles, which are enforced without further elaboration at the park level.

The regulations contained in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, are the basic mechanism used by the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the park and to protect visitors and property within the park. Parts 1 through 6 are general regulations applicable to all areas of the National Park system, and Part 7 contains special regulations specific to individual parks. Each of these Parts has many sections and subsections articulating specific provisions. Within some of these Part 1-7 sections and subsections, the Superintendent is granted discretionary authority to develop local rules to be responsive to the needs of a specific park resource or activity, park plan, program, and/or special needs of the general public.

As an example, 36 CFR 1.5(a) *Closures and Public Use Limits* provides the Superintendent certain discretion in allowing or disallowing certain activities. The authority granted by the Section, however, requires the Superintendent to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act (6 USC Section 551), which requires public notice on actions with major impact on visitor use patterns, park resources or those that are highly controversial in nature.

Another example is 36 CFR 1.6 *Permits*, which allows the Superintendent to require a permit for certain uses and activities in the park. This Section, however, requires that a list of activities needing a permit (and a fee schedule for the various types of permits) be maintained by the park.

A final example is 36 CFR 2.1(c) (1) *Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources*, which provides the Superintendent the authority to designate certain fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells which may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. This activity can occur, however; only if a written determination shows that the allowed activity does not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

This Compendium should be used in conjunction with Title 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, to more fully

understand the regulations governing the use and enjoyment of all the areas of the National Park System.

A copy of Title 36 CFR, can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

The CFR is also available on the Internet at: http://www.access.gpo.gov.

**2. Laws and Policies Allowing the Superintendent to Develop This Compendium**

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted broad statutory authority under 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section § 1 *et.seq.* (Organic Act of 1916, as amended) to "…regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations…by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purposes of the said parks…which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment for future generations" (16 U.S.C. §1). In addition, the NPS Organic Act allows the NPS, through the Secretary of the Interior to "make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks, monuments, and reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service" (16 U.S.C. §3).

In 1970, Congress amended the NPS Organic Act to clarify its intentions as to the overall mission of the NPS. Through the General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 U.S.C. §§1a1-1a8), Congress brought all areas administered by the NPS into one National Park System and directed the NPS to manage all areas under its administration consistent with the Organic Act of 1916.

In 1978, Congress amended the General Authorities Act of 1970 and reasserted System-wide the high standard of protection defined in the original Organic Act by stating "Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System, as defined by Section 1 of this Title, shall be consistent with and founded in the purpose established by Section 1 of this Title, to the common benefit of all people of the United States."

16 U.S.C. §1c defines the National Park System as, "any areas of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes."

In addition to the above statutory authority, the Superintendent is guided by established NPS policy as found in the *NPS Management Policies* (2006). The Superintendent is also guided by more specific policies promulgated by the Director of the National Park Service, in the form of Director's Orders. As stated in the Management Policies, the primary responsibility of the NPS is to protect and preserve our national natural and cultural resources while providing for the enjoyment of these resources by visitor and other users, as long as use does not impair specific park resources or overall visitor experience. The appropriateness of any particular visitor use or recreational experience is resource-based and will vary from park to park; therefore, a use or activity that is appropriate in one park area may not be appropriate in another. The Superintendent is directed to analyze overall park use and determine if any particular use is appropriate. When conflict arises between use and resource protection, and the Superintendent has a reasonable basis to believe a resource is or would become impaired, and then the Superintendent is obliged to place limitations on public use.

## 3. Consistency of This Compendium with Applicable Federal Law and Requirements

The Superintendent's Compendium is not considered a significant rule requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866. In addition, this Compendium will not have a significant economic effect on a number of small entities nor impose a significant cost on any local, state or tribal government or private organization, and therefore does not fall under the requirements of either the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The actions and requirements described in this Compendium are found to be categorically excluded from further compliance with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in Department of the Interior (DOI) Guidelines 516 DM 6 and as such, an Environmental Assessment will not be prepared.

## 4. Development of the Requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium

As outlined above, the NPS has broad authority and responsibility to determine what types of uses and activities are appropriate in any particular National Park System area. The requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium are developed through an analysis and determination process. The decision criteria used during this process are:

- Is the use or activity consistent with the NPS Organic Act and NPS policy?
- Is the use or activity consistent and compatible with the park's enabling legislation, management objectives, and corresponding management plans?
- Will the use or activity damage the park's protected natural and cultural resources and other protected values?
- Will the use or activity disturb or be in conflict with wildlife, vegetation, and environmental protection actions and values?
- Will the use or activity conflict with or be incompatible with traditional park uses and activities?
- Will the use or activity compromise employee or public safety?

## 5. Applicability of the Compendium

The rules contained in this Compendium apply to all persons entering, using, visiting or otherwise present on federally owned lands, including submerged lands, and waters administered by the NPS within the legislative boundaries of the park. This includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including all navigable waters.

## 6. Enforcement of Compendium Requirements

NPS Law Enforcement Park Rangers enforce the requirements of the United State Code, 36 CFR, and this Superintendent's Compendium.

## 7. Penalties for Not Adhering to the Compendium Requirements

A person who violates any provision of the regulations found in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, or provisions of this Compendium, is subject to a fine as provided by law (18 U.S.C. 3571) up to $5,000 for individuals and $10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months (18 U.S.C. 3559), or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all court costs associated with any court proceedings. You may receive a list of fines associated with any particular provision by contacting the Chief Ranger at the park address found below.

**8. Comments on the Compendium**

The Compendium is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. The park welcomes comments about its program and activities at any time.

Written comments on the Compendium may be submitted to:

Superintendent
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965

**9. Effective Date of the Superintendent Compendium**

The Superintendent's Compendium is effective on the approval date listed on the first page of this document, and remains in effect until revised for a period up to one year.

**10. Additional Information**

Some of the terms used in this Compendium may have specific meaning defined in 36 CFR 1.4 *Definitions*.

**11. Availability**

Copies of the Compendium are available at 404 Watercress Drive in Van Buren, Missouri. It may also be found at the park's website at http://www.nps.gov/ozar/index.htm.

## B. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR). Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

### I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

**(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:**

Visiting Hours:

- ONSR Headquarters - located at 404 Watercress Drive in Van Buren, Missouri. This facility is open Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout the year, except Federal holidays. In addition, the building is open seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

- Alley Spring Mill – open seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

weekend, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or as posted.

- Alley General Store – open seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or as posted.

- Developed campgrounds – all developed and backcountry campgrounds are open all year, unless otherwise posted. Traffic through campgrounds is restricted to campers only between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

*Determination: These operation periods are set to balance the needs of public access, visitor safety and protection of property.*

Public Use Limits:

- The Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are closed to floating during times of flooding when the water level exceeds two feet above the "average levels", and/or other times deemed unsafe by the District Ranger. Two exceptions are at Baptist access which closes with a one foot rise and at Cedargrove which closes when the water runs over the bridge curb. "Average levels" are based on an April 10, 2000, analysis of historical USGS data and Ranger observations. The "average levels" and closed levels are listed below:

| Current River | Average levels | Closed Level |
|---|---|---|
| Baptist Camp | 1.00' | 2.00' (+1.00' rise) |
| Cedargrove | 0.50' | runs over bridge curb |
| Akers Ferry | 2.00' | 4.00' |
| Pulltite | 2.20' | 4.20' |
| Round Spring Bridge | 3.24 ' | 5.24' |
| Two Rivers | 1.50' | 3.50' |
| Powder Mill Bridge | 4.00' | 6.00' |
| Van Buren Bridge | 3.00' | 5.00' |

| Jacks Fork River | Average levels | Closed Level |
|---|---|---|
| Highway 17 Bridge | 1.65' | 3.65' |
| Hwy.106 Bridge at Alley Spring | 3.30' | 5.30' |
| *Eminence Bridge* | *4.40'* | *6.40'* |

*Determination: Emergency river closures are established to protect the lives of park visitors and property during unsafe flooding conditions. In flood conditions, the river runs faster, carries debris, and is very treacherous. These are the minimum restrictions necessary to achieve such protection and prevent drowning.*

- The Round Spring Cavern is closed to visitation other than valid scientific research approved by the Superintendent and for educational tours led by a NPS guide. Public visitation requires payment of a fee and all visitors must be accompanied by a NPS employee or approved guide. Public visitation is permitted from May 1 through Labor Day each year and is on a user fee basis. The fee is set in comparison with similar facilities and tours in Missouri and Arkansas. Educational visits by schools and educational groups must have prior reservations, be accompanied by a NPS employee, and are not charged a fee. Tours should not exceed 15 persons. Tour schedules are posted on the park's website at http://www.nps.gov/ozar/index.htm and at the Round Spring Visitor Contact Station.

*Determination: Restricted public access into the Round Spring Cavern is to protect the fragile ecosystems and resources within the caves that would be lost due to unsupervised access, and to minimize negative impacts to endangered or threatened species.*

- Commercial guided horse rides are limited to no more than 25 horses per organized/guided ride, including guide(s), and any ride with more than 12 horses must have two guides. The total number of horses per day on organized/guided rides shall not exceed 150 per permit holder. Commercial operators are required to have a Commercial Use Authorization permit. For permit information refer to page 10 of this compendium.

  *Determination: Limitations are in place to avoid conflicts between riders and other trail users and to minimize damage to impacted areas.*

- The Sinking Creek gravel bar will be open to motor vehicle use from September 15 to March 31 of each year.

  *Determination: Access to the gravel bar is permitted within this timeframe to accommodate park visitors during gigging and trapping season.*

Closures:

- Any area closed by the Superintendent and identified with an official sign is prohibited to public access. This includes all park maintenance compounds, employee housing facilities, outbuildings and service roads that are only used for official business.

  The following maintenance areas are closed to the public:
  - Big Spring Maintenance Shop – Highway 103 south of Van Buren, Missouri
  - Shawnee Maintenance Shop – Highway 106 east of Eminence, Missouri
  - Powder Mill Maintenance Shop – Highway 106 east of Eminence, Missouri
  - Alley Spring Maintenance Shop – Highway 106 west of Eminence, Missouri
  - Round Spring Maintenance Shop – Highway 19 north of Eminence, Missouri
  - Pulltite Maintenance Shop – Highway EE north of Eminence, Missouri
  - Akers Maintenance Shop – Highway KK north of Eminence, Missouri

  *Determination: Areas may be temporarily closed for a variety of reasons including site restoration, protection of endangered or threatened animal and plant species, and protection of fragile cultural and/or historic sites. Maintenance compounds and other work areas are restricted from public access to protect government property from theft and vandalism and to prevent safety issues related to the operation of heavy machinery and power equipment.*

- All caves within the boundary of ONSR are closed with the exception of the Round Spring Cavern.

  - Round Spring Cavern – open for NPS lead tours from May 1 through Labor Day. Tours should not exceed 15 persons.

  *Determination: ONSR is mandated through its enabling legislation to "preserve" caves. Closures are established to protect the fragile ecosystems and resources within the caves and to minimize negative impacts upon any endangered or threatened resource. Cave ecosystems are unique and delicately balanced, with major changes possibly occurring from relatively slight disturbances. Geologic formations in some caves are quite fragile, easily damaged by vandalism or visitor overuse. Caves may contain unsuspected hazards to visitors unfamiliar to such alien environments, and the threat of serious injury or death from falls or drowning is always present.*

  *A serious disease of bats called White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) has been killing bats in the*

*United States. On April 19, 2010, Geomyces destructans (the fungus associated with WNS) was confirmed in Missouri. Due to WNS, the park is using an abundance of caution in managing activities that impact caves and bats. The Superintendent has determined that WNS is an imminent threat to the bats of ONSR. Every effort should be made to reduce human disturbance to bats and reduce the risk of possible human-borne transmission. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead federal agency in wildlife conservation has issued protocols that are designed to prevent the spread of the suspected causative agent of the syndrome. The Superintendent has determined the closure of all caves, including permit caves, to meet the National Park Service mission to conserve the wildlife in the parks for the enjoyment of future generations.*

- Springs – Entry is prohibited within all spring pools and spring branches on federally owned land within the boundaries of ONSR without a written permit from the Superintendent. The following exceptions are:

    - Big Spring Branch – Boating access from the Current River upstream to the boat dock at the Big Spring Lodge, on the Lower Current River.

    - Cave Spring – The vehicle crossing at Cave Spring Branch to access the Hickory Landing area, on the Lower Current River.

    - Schaffer Spring – The vehicle crossing at Schaffer Spring Branch to access the Parker School area, on the Upper Current River.

*Determination: ONSR's enabling legislation mandates "preservation of springs" as a main purpose of the park. Prohibiting all activities and entry into springs will minimize negative impacts upon their sensitive ecosystems. Their stable year-round temperatures and distinctive water chemistry provide a unique environment for plants and animals not commonly found in the river. Watercress and other aquatic plants play a key role in the spring ecosystem by providing organic matter used by other plants and animals and habitat for aquatic insects. Dislodging aquatic plants and trampling delicate vegetation would damage and alter this ecosystem. Significant degradation of springs would occur if only a tiny percentage of visitors entered the springs.*

*Regulatory Note: ONSR is currently in the process of pursuing these closures through the Federal Register to have it published in Part 7, under §7.83.*

- Hunting – The following developed areas are closed to regular hunting and trapping:

    - Alley Spring – Highway 106 (former State park boundaries)
    - Big Spring – Highway 103 (former State park boundaries)
    - Round Spring – Highway 19 (former State park boundaries)

    -Portions of these areas may be open to hunting in coordination with the Missouri Department of Conservation.
    -Hunting is prohibited 300 yards from any developed area, which includes: buildings, administrative compounds, camping areas, hiking trails and public use facilities administered by ONSR.
    -It is prohibited to discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow, or shoot an arrow from a crossbow in the direction of any of the aforementioned areas.

*Determination: ONSR's enabling legislation permits hunting, trapping and fishing within the park in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws. In addition, the Superintendent*

*may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted, for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment and shall issue regulations after consultation with the Missouri Department of Conservation.*

- Jumping and/or Diving into the River

  Trees - It is prohibited to jump or dive into the Current or Jacks Fork Rivers from a tree.

  Rope Swings - The installation or use of rope swings or other similar devices from stationary objects, such as trees, with the purpose of descending one from land to water is also prohibited.

  *Determination: Repetitive climbing on and jumping from trees causes damage and stress to the trees and destroys vegetation. There have been many past incidents involving visitors who have been seriously injured and/or died due to a jumping or diving accident. Although this activity does not prohibit jumping from rocks or bluffs, it is highly discouraged due to safety risks involved.*

- Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of ONSR is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

  Unmanned aircraft - The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links.) This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g. model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

  *Determination: The usage of unmanned aircraft within the park boundaries poses a substantial threat to visitor safety and wildlife. The visual and sound disturbance caused by the use of an unmanned aircraft also detracts from the natural soundscape and aesthetic setting of the park, preventing visitors from benefiting from its primary purpose. Prohibiting unmanned aircrafts will avoid conflict among visitor use activities, while protecting the natural and cultural resources.*

**(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:**

- Rock Faces and Bluffs:

  - The installation and/or use of any permanent bolt, anchor, or chipped rock hold is prohibited.
  - Technical rock climbing and rappelling is not allowed in designated State natural areas.
  - Technical rock climbing and rappelling is not allowed on rock faces that are located above caves, spring pools, spring branches or trails.

  *Determination: These restrictions will prevent permanent damage to rock faces or bluffs. Technical climbing can cause rocks or debris to dislodge and fall below, which could cause injury and/or death to visitors who are below.*

*Regulatory Note: ONSR is currently in the process of pursuing these restrictions through the Federal Register to have it published in Part 7, under §7.83.*

**The following restrictions and/or conditions are in effect for the specific uses or activities noted:**

- Boats, rafts, tubes and/or canoes – The practice of lashing or tying together two or more vessels or float devices while underway on the Current River and tributaries thereof and the Jacks Fork River is prohibited.

  *Determination: Large flotillas can block and congest narrow river passages, making it difficult for other users to avoid obstacles. Because flotillas are not maneuverable, they pose safety problems and increase the chances of someone drowning if they fall off and become trapped underneath the mass float. Flotillas of vessels are a significant hazard to visitors and resources on the river.*

- Geo-caching – Park visitors participating in the practice of geo-caching are restricted to using "virtual" caches only. Virtual caches consist of providing GPS coordinates to existing points of interest, such as a geologic or cultural feature, wayside exhibit, or other object. Virtual caches do not involve a physical cache. Any other form of caching is prohibited.

  *Determination: Virtual caching provides a significant recreational and educational value to visitors, including opportunities for a growing number of families to experience appropriate outdoor adventures in parks. Allowing this use doesn't impact the protection of park resources.*

- Segways

  - Segways are defined as: a two, non-tandem, wheeled device, gyroscopically stabilized, designed to transport only one person, with an electronic propulsion system, whose maximum speed on a paved level surface is less than 20 mph.
  - Shall be considered as a motorized wheelchair when operated by a mobility impaired person and may be operated throughout the park on trails and paths open to wheelchair use.
  - Operators will be required to travel at a speed no faster than a walking pace in any area of the park for visitor safety.
  - Operators traveling on a sidewalk, trail, or other pedestrian accessible area of the park shall have the rights and duties of a pedestrian, shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with pedestrians, and shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

  *Determination: Segways are adopted as a mode of conveyance by people with disabilities and allowing such use provides access for a mobility impaired person and gives them the same opportunities as other visitors to enjoy park experiences. Operator restrictions are required to enhance the safety of the general public and the Segway operator.*

## II. <u>36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT</u>

**(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:**

- §1.5(d) The following activities relate to Public Use Limits:
  - Activities within all spring pools and spring branches, with the exception of boating access to lower portion of the Big Spring Branch up to the Big Spring Lodge, the

Cave Spring Branch vehicle crossing near Hickory Landing and the Schaffer Spring Branch vehicle crossing near Parker Ford.

- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (the taking of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)

- §2.10(a) Camping in a non-designated area

- §2.23(b) The following special recreation activities (per 36 CFR Part 71):
    - Entry into Round Spring Cavern. Individuals entering the cave must abide by the permit conditions.

- §2.50(a) Conducting a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and/or similar events

- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views
    - Written applications for permits must be submitted to the Superintendent within a reasonable time frame prior to the date desired for the event; processing usually requires ten business days. The activity may not conflict with any scheduled NPS function or program. Groups of 25 or fewer people are not required to obtain a permit.

    - The following areas have been designated as available for public assemblies: The Burr Oak picnic area at Alley Spring, the CCC exhibit area near the Big Spring Lodge, and the Round Spring cave parking lot (maps attached).

- *§2.52(c)* Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
    - The following areas have been designated for the sale or distribution of printed materials in association with public assemblies and other First Amendment activities: The Burr Oak picnic area at Alley Spring, the CCC exhibit area near the Big Spring Lodge at Big Spring, and the Round Spring cave parking lot (maps attached). Groups of 25 or fewer people are not required to obtain a permit.

- §2.60(b) Livestock use

- §2.61(a) Residing on federal lands

- §2.62 Memorialization:
  (a) Erection of monuments (requires approval from Regional Director).
  (b) Scattering ashes from human cremation.

- §5.1 Advertisements – Display, posting, or distribution

- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to a special regulation.)

- §5.5 Commercial Photography/Filming:
    - Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews; other than bona fide newsreel or news television.
    - (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.

- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc.

- Part 7 Special Regulations
  Scuba Diving, 7.83 (b) – The Superintendent may issue written permits for scuba diving in springs as long as the permit applicant is engaged in a scientific or educational investigation.

**Permit Information:**

Special regulations, restrictions and fees may apply when applying for a permit.

Information regarding permits is available at park headquarters during normal business hours at (573) 323-4236, or can be found on the park's website under Fees and Reservations. Written requests can be mailed to the following address:

Superintendent
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965.

Permits may be denied/terminated based on 36 CFR.6(a), (d), (e), (g)(1), (g)(2), (h)

*Federal law and agency policy require that certain activities that fall outside the scope of normal visitation be managed through the issuance of a permit. Permits may only be issued if the activity is in keeping with the purpose of the park and will not result in damage to the resource or conflict with other park users.*

## III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

***(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:***

- Park wide, with the exception of any privately owned property within the boundary.
- Firewood must be used in the park where it is collected.

**(c)(1), (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts and berries may be possessed by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:**

apples (1 bushel)
blackberries (4 gal)
black cherries (4 gal)
deerberries (4 gal)
dewberries (4 gal)
elderberries (4 gal)
grapes (1 bushel)
hackberries (4 gal)
hazel nuts (1/2 bushel)
hickory nuts (1 bushel)
horse chestnuts (1 bushel)
mushrooms (1/2 bushel)
pawpaw fruit (1/2 bushel)
pears (1 bushel)
peaches (1 bushel)
persimmons (1/2 bushel)
plums (1/2 bushel)
prickly pear fruit (1/2 bushel)
raspberries (4 gal)
red mulberries (4 gal)
rose hips (4 gal)
serviceberries (4 gal)
strawberries (4 gal)
sumac berries (4 gal)
walnuts- black (1 bushel)

*Determination: The gathering of fruits, berries and nuts, in these small portions, will not affect park wildlife, the reproduction potential of these species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.*

**36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:**

- Lawfully taken wildlife may be transported through the park in accordance with Missouri State Wildlife Code, 3 CSR 10-4.135.
- Any carcass must be properly tagged.

**(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:**

- Park wide - In accordance with the Missouri State Wildlife Code 3 CSR 10-7.405, viewing wildlife with the aid of an artificial light, headlight, infrared light/beam or spotlight is prohibited with the exception of when using the light with the aid of dogs to tree raccoons.

***36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS***

***(a)(2)(i) Weapons, traps or nets may only be carried, possessed or used at the following designated times and locations:***

*In accordance with Missouri State Law, except as otherwise prohibited by applicable Federal Law.*

*Firearms are prohibited in facilities owned or leased by the federal government where federal employees are regularly present for performing their duties. These facilities are posted with signs informing the public that firearms are prohibited in these buildings.*

***36 CFR §2.10 - CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE***

(a) **The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:**

- Camping is allowed at the designated campsites listed below:
  - Developed campsites are defined as front-country campgrounds. In addition to the basic amenities listed below, developed sites might include: showers, RV dump stations, electric hook-ups, reservation systems and campground hosts.
  - Back-country campsites are defined as having some basic amenities. Basic amenities include: restrooms, tables, fire grills and lantern posts.
  - Primitive campsites are defined as having few or no amenities. Camping in a non-designated primitive site requires a special use permit, subject to the approval of the Superintendent (example: hunting camps, special events, scientific research).

| Campsite Name: | Type of Camp: | Location: |
|---|---|---|
| Akers Group Sites | Developed | Upper Current |
| Pulltite | Developed | Upper Current |
| Round Spring | Developed | Upper Current |
| Alley Spring | Developed | Jacks Fork |
| Two Rivers | Developed | Current |
| Big Spring | Developed | Lower Current |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cedargrove | Back-country | Upper Current |
| Sinking Creek | Back-country | Upper Current |
| Blue Spring | Back-country | Jacks Fork |
| Rymers | Back-country | Jacks Fork |
| Bay Creek | Back-country | Jacks Fork |
| Shawnee Creek | Back-country | Jacks Fork |
| Two Rivers (gravel bar sites) | Back-country | Current |
| Powder Mill | Back-country | Middle Current |
| Log Yard | Back-country | Middle Current |
| Pin Oak | Back-country | Lower Current |
| Big Tree | Back-country | Lower Current |
| Cedar Spring | Back-country | Lower Current |
| Grubbs | Back-country | Lower Current |
| Gooseneck (Hawes) | Back-country | Lower Current |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parker Ford | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Big Creek | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Welch | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Akers West | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Banks Ford | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Lipp's Hole | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Pot Hole | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Grassy | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Jerktail | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Sutton Creek | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Broadfoot | Primitive | Upper Current |
| Martin's Landing | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Martin Bluff | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Goose Bay | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Ozark Trail | Primitive | Current River Section |
| Roberts Field | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Beal | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Ant Hole | Primitive | Middle Current |
| Clubhouse | Primitive | Lower Current |
| Lost Man Ridge | Primitive | Cave Spring area |
| Panther Spring | Primitive | Lower Current |
| Bluff View | Primitive | Jacks Fork |
| Baptizing Hole | Primitive | Jacks Fork |
| Bachers | Primitive | Jacks Fork |
| Old Trail Ride | Primitive | Jacks Fork |

Camping – General Information

- Camping reservations can be made through www.Recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 for the following developed campgrounds: Akers (group campsites only), Pulltite, Round Spring, Alley Spring, Two Rivers (cluster campsites only), and Big Spring. All other campsites are available on a first come – first served basis.

- Campers utilizing the first come – first served basis, must register and pay for their campsite at the self-service pay stations in each area, prior to camping.

- Camping refunds are not issued through the park; however, refunds may be available through the reservation website at www.Recreation.gov.

- Camping stays are limited to 14 days in any 30-day period at any camping area, with said period to commence the date the site is occupied. All camping equipment, including vehicles, must be removed from the camping area at the end of such 14-day period.

- Camping equipment, including vehicles, campers and trailers, must not be left unattended for longer than 24 hours.

- Campsites are limited to a maximum of 6 (people), 2 tents, and 2 vehicles; unless otherwise posted.

- Cluster group campsites are limited to parties comprised of 7 – 25 campers per site.

- Regular group campsites are limited to parties comprised of 15 to 45 campers per site.

- Checkout time for leaving campsites is at noon.

- ATVs and UTVs are permitted to operate when in compliance with Missouri State laws.

- Camping inside caves or within 50 feet of the mouth of caves is prohibited.

- Camping within 50 feet of any river access or landing is prohibited.

- Campers may not hold or reserve campsites for friends or family members, unless the site is paid for and occupied. In addition, campers are not allowed to set-up unattended tents, campers, or RVs in a campsite with the intention of holding the site 24 hours prior to camping.

***(b)(3) Camping within 25 feet of a fire hydrant or main road, or within 100 feet of a flowing stream, river or body of water is authorized only in the following areas, under the conditions noted:***

- Drive-in camping along the river is allowed in designated sites.
- Gravel bar camping is allowed by visitors who float-in by motorized or non-motorized vessels, as long as the locations are one-half mile away from any designated camping area.

***36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING***

Conditions for Picnicking:

- Picnicking is allowed on gravel bars. However, picnicking on scenic easement property is not allowed beyond 300 feet from the water's edge.
- The following picnic shelters can be reserved in advance: Big Spring area (Big Spring and Peavine), Alley Spring area (Alley Spring and Burr Oak), and Round Spring area (Round Spring). Otherwise, if the pavilion is not reserved for the day, it is available on a first-come first-served basis. All picnic pavilion reservations are made thru www.Recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.
- The following picnic shelters cannot be reserved on www.Recreation.gov, but are available on a first-come first-served basis: Big Spring area (Chubb Hollow), Round Spring area (CCC), and Pulltite area (Pulltite).

***36 CFR §2.13 – FIRES***

***(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:***

Designated Areas:

- Campfires are permitted at designated campsites and must be contained in the provided metal fire ring.
- Campfires are permitted on gravel bars under conditions listed in section (b).
- Cooking fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and must be contained in the provided metal grills, or in a portable grill or stove brought to the park by an individual.
- Fires are prohibited in caves and within 50 feet of the mouth of caves.
- Fires are prohibited within 50 feet of designated river accesses/landings, except during gigging season.
- Fires are discouraged along the Ozark Trail.

Established Conditions for Fires:

- The burning of tires, metal, aluminum, plastic, glass or any other type of hazardous material is prohibited.
- Use existing fire rings, if one does not exist build a mound fire.
- During periods of elevated fire danger; open fires will be restricted or prohibited in accordance with the park's Fire Management Plan. The park will also coordinate fire restrictions with appropriate Federal, State and local fire agencies. Notice of any fire restriction will be posted at all visitor contact stations, landings, and other major public use facilities.
- Firewood can be obtained locally or collected from dead and down wood within the park. All firewood should be burned and not left on site to help minimize the introduction of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other non-native insect pests into the park.
- Moving or relocating receptacles (fire rings and grills) is prohibited.

***(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:***

- The hanging of lanterns on trees or tree limbs is prohibited.
- The operation of camp stoves on top of plastic coated tables is prohibited.

***(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:***

- All campfires and cook-fires will be extinguished and free of litter before any site is left unattended.
- Burn all wood to ash and ensure fire is extinguished by soaking with water. Scatter unused wood as naturally as possible.

***36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION and REFUSE***

***(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization, or carryout of human body waste have been established as follows:***

- Where a toilet facility is not available human waste must be buried at least 6 inches underground and a minimum of 100 feet from any water body, trail or other developed facility.

***36 CFR §2.15 – PETS***

***(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are closed to the possession of pets:***

- In all public buildings and historic structures, except for certified service animals who accompany persons with disabilities per the American Disability Act.
- Dogs are prohibited from designated horse trails.

*Determination: Per 36 CFR 2.15, dogs are not allowed to be off-leash and therefore should not be with park visitors who are riding on horses.*

***(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:***

- Pet excrement must be immediately collected and disposed of in the nearest trash receptacle.

***(b) The use of dogs in support of hunting must be in accordance with Federal and State laws and the following conditions:***

- Dogs used for hunting must be collared or tagged with the owner's name and telephone number.
- Dogs are only allowed off leash when actively engaged in legal hunting activities and according to State laws.

***(e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:***

- In accordance with the Park Housing Management Plan.

***36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS***

***(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed only on the following trails, routes, or areas:***

- State and County unpaved roads
- Two Rivers Loop horse trail
- Jerktail Loop horse trail
- Shawnee Loop horse trail
- Broadfoot Loop horse trail

***(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:***

- Horse or mule driven wagons are permitted on unpaved county and State roads.
- Rivers may be crossed with horses only at designated horse trail crossings. Bathing or lingering horses in the waters of the park is prohibited.
- Tying horses directly to trees is prohibited. Cross tying to opposite trees is permitted.

***36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING***

***(a) The following portions of the park, and all or portions of said buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking as noted:***

- Smoking in any park owned or leased building, vehicle, vessel or shared government residence is prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited in the backcountry during posted fire bans.

***36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY***

***(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:***

- Visitors are authorized to leave vehicles unattended, in excess of 24 hours, in designated parking areas only while engaged in park activities such as: overnight floating or hiking trips. Property owners should contact park headquarters at (573) 323-4236 to advise the location where the motor vehicles will be left unattended and the duration of their trip. Parking is limited to seven days.

***36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES***

***(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities,***

***equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:***

Daily Site Use Fee Areas:

- Camping fee (per party per night)
  - Family sites in developed areas, non-electric $14.00
  - Family sites in developed areas, electric $17.00
  - Family sites at Powder Mill Campground $12.00
  - Group sites $50 -100.00 (depending on site)
  - Cluster sites $30.00
  - Back-country sites $5.00
  - Recreation.gov reservation fee, per day $3.00
  - Pavilions $30.00

Camping fees are collected from April 15 – October 15. In the off-season, fees may be reduced or not collected due to changes in: janitorial services, water lines, and the winterization of buildings.

***36 CFR §2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES***

***(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:***

- Alley Mill
- Alley Store
- Story's Creek School House
- Any park owned or leased building, vehicle or vessel. This does not pertain to picnic pavilions or housing units in the park. Note that concession operations at Alley Spring, Round Springs, Pulltite and Two Rivers are currently permitted to sell alcohol in cans or plastic containers.

Determination: Park buildings are places of business and use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages is deemed inappropriate. These restrictions are necessary to protect visitors, park resources, to avoid visitor use conflicts and ensure safe and orderly operation of visitor use facilities***.***

**36 CFR §3.8 – BOATING OPERATIONS**

**(h) The following areas/sites are designated for the launching or recovery of vessels using a trailer:**

- Designated launch sites are identified through the following park documents: The 1991 Roads & Trails Study, the 1989 River Use Management Plan and the 1981 General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan. This list does not include all usable access sites, or those on private or State lands.

  Current River Launch Sites:
  - Baptist
  - Cedar Grove
  - Akers
  - Pulltite
  - Sinking Creek (seasonal)
  - Round Springs (Upper & Lower)
  - Jerktail

- Two Rivers
- Powder Mill
- Roberts Field (Rocky Creek)
- Log Yard
- Chilton Creek
- Big Spring
- Hickory
- Gooseneck (Hawes)

Jacks Fork River Launch Sites:

- Buck Hollow
- Blue Spring
- Bay Creek
- Alley Spring
- Shawnee Creek

**36 CFR §3.17 – SWIMMING AND BATHING**

**(a)(2) The following restrictions apply to all swimming and bathing activities:**

- Swimming or bathing is not permitted within 50 feet of any boat launching area, while in use.

*Determination: These restrictions are necessary to protect visitors, park resources, to avoid visitor use conflicts and ensure safe and orderly operation of visitor use facilities***.**

***36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES***

***(a) Park roads, open for travel by a motor vehicle, are those indicated below, and/or as indicated in the following publication or document:***

- 1991 Roads & Trails Study – Copies of maps from this document are available by contacting park headquarters at (573) 323-4236**.**

***36 CFR §7.83 SPECIAL REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS***

**(a) - Restrictions for Motorized Vessels**

- (1) On waters situated within the boundaries of ONSR, the use of a motorized vessel is limited to a vessel equipped with an outboard motor only. Inboards and personal watercraft are prohibited.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, horsepower ratings on a particular motor will be based upon the prevailing industry standard of power output at the propeller shaft as established by the manufacturer.
- (3) The use of a motorized vessel is allowed as follows:
  - (i) Above the Big Spring landing on the Current River and below Alley Spring on the Jacks Fork River with an outboard motor not to exceed 40 horsepower.
  - (ii) Above Round Spring on the Current River and above Alley Spring (at the Hwy 106 bridge) on the Jacks Fork River with an outboard motor not to exceed 25 horsepower.
  - (iii) Above Akers Ferry on the Current River from May 1 to September 15 with an outboard motor not to exceed 10 horsepower.
  - (iv) Above Bay Creek on the Jacks Fork River from March 1 to the Saturday before Memorial Day with an outboard motor not to exceed 10 horsepower.
- (4) Operating a motorized vessel other than as allowed in §7.83(a) is prohibited.

**(b) - Scuba Diving**

- Scuba diving is prohibited within all springs and spring branches on Federally-owned land within the boundaries of ONSR, without a written permit from the Superintendent.
- (2) Permits. The Superintendent may issue written permits for Scuba diving in springs within the boundaries of ONSR; provided that the permit applicant will be engaged in scientific or educational investigations which will have demonstrable value to the National Park Service in its management or understanding of Riverways resources.

**(c) - Commercial Activities**

The activities listed herein constitute commercial activities which are prohibited within the boundaries of ONSR, except in accordance with the provisions of a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States. The National Park Service reserves the right to limit the number of such permits, contracts, or other written agreements, when, in the judgment of the NPS, such limitation is necessary in the interest of visitor enjoyment, public safety, or preservation or protection of the resources or values of the Riverways.

- (1) The sale or rental of any goods or equipment to a member or members of the public which is undertaken in the course of an ongoing or regular commercial enterprise.
- (2) The performance of any service or activity for a member or members of the public in exchange for monetary or other valuable consideration.
- (3) The delivery or retrieval within the boundaries of ONSR of watercraft or associated boating equipment which has been rented or sold to a member or members of the public at a location not within the Riverways, when such delivery or retrieval is performed by a principal, employee or agent of the commercial enterprise offering the equipment for rental or sale and when these services are performed as an integral part, necessary complement, or routine adjunct of or to the rental transaction, whether or not any charge, either separately or in combination with any other charge, is made for these services.
- (4) The performance, by a principal, employee, or agent of a commercial enterprise, within the boundaries of ONSR and any other service or activity for which a fee, charge or other compensation is not collected, but which is an integral part, necessary complement, or routine adjunct of or to any commercial transaction undertaken by that enterprise for which monetary or other valuable consideration is charged or collected, even though such transaction in initiated, performed, or concluded outside the boundaries of the Riverways.
- (5) The solicitation of any business, employment, occupation, profession, trade, work or undertaking, which is engaged in with some continuity, regularity or permanency for any livelihood, gain, benefit, advantage, or profit.

**(d) - Fishing**

- (2) Digging for worms or other bait is prohibited throughout the boundaries of ONSR.

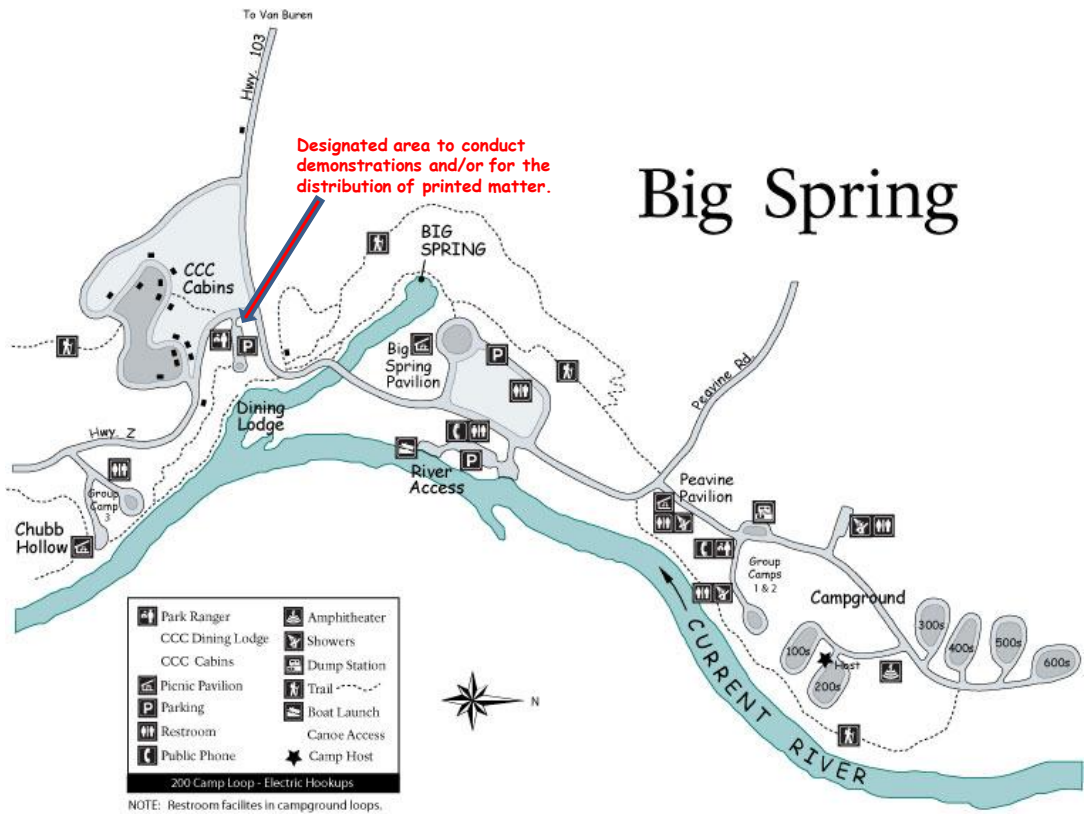
**(e) - Frogs, Turtles, and Crayfish**

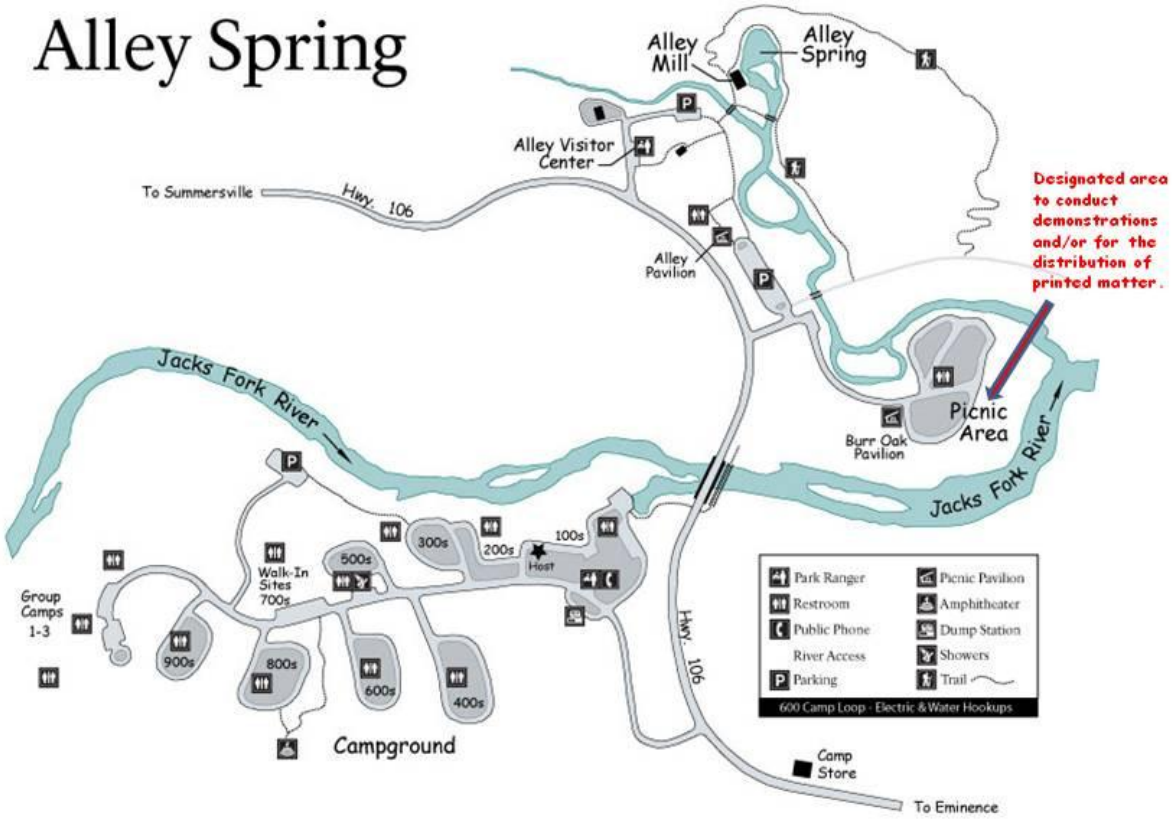
- (1) The taking of frogs, turtles and crayfish is authorized in accordance with the Missouri State Wildlife Code.

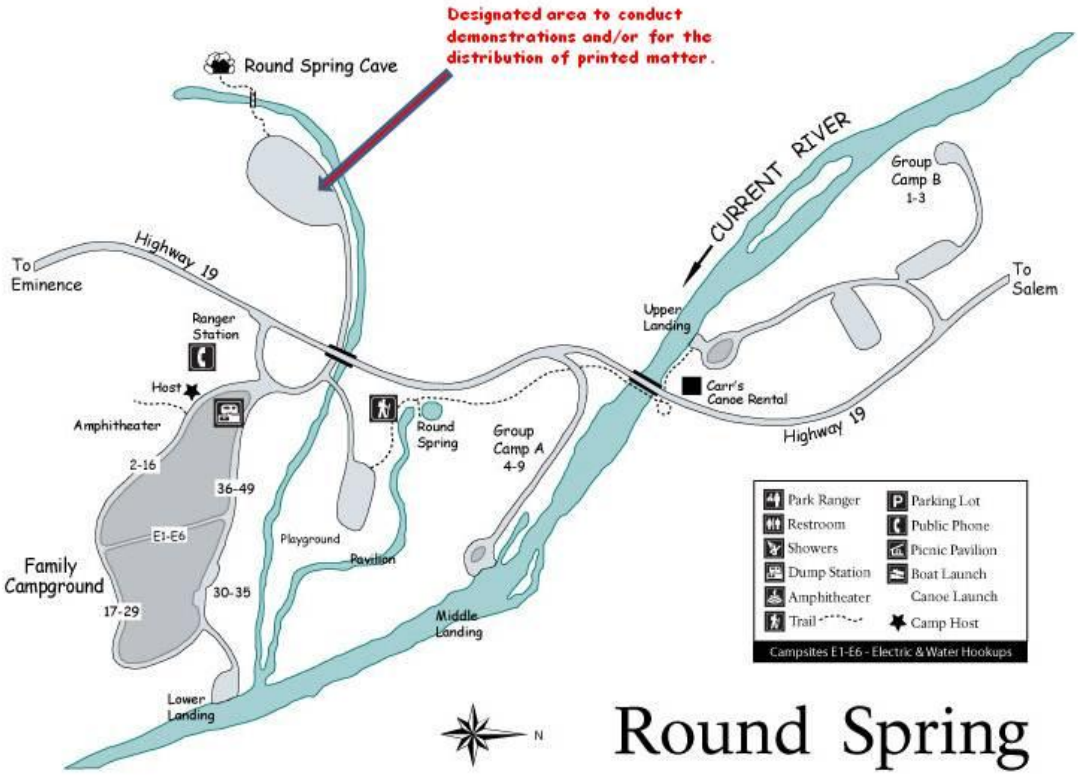
***-END-***

**Appendix A**

**(Park Maps)**


Big Spring
Designated area to conduct demonstrations and/or for the distribution of printed matter.
To Van Buren
Hwy. 103
CCC Cabins
BIG SPRING
Big Spring Pavilion
Dining Lodge
Hwy. Z
Group Camp 3
Chubb Hollow
River Access
Peavine Rd.
Peavine Pavilion
Group Camps 1 & 2
Campground
100s
200s
300s
400s
500s
600s
Host
CURRENT RIVER
N
Park Ranger
CCC Dining Lodge
CCC Cabins
Picnic Pavilion
Parking
Restroom
Public Phone
Amphitheater
Showers
Dump Station
Trail
Boat Launch
Canoe Access
Camp Host
200 Camp Loop - Electric Hookups
NOTE: Restroom facilites in campground loops.


Alley Spring
Alley Mill
Alley Spring
Alley Visitor Center
To Summersville
Hwy. 106
Alley Pavilion
Designated area to conduct demonstrations and/or for the distribution of printed matter.
Jacks Fork River
Picnic Area
Burr Oak Pavilion
Jacks Fork River
Group Camps 1-3
Walk-In Sites 700s
500s
300s
200s
100s
Host
900s
800s
600s
400s
Campground
Hwy. 106
Park Ranger
Restroom
Public Phone
River Access
Parking
Picnic Pavilion
Amphitheater
Dump Station
Showers
Trail
600 Camp Loop - Electric & Water Hookups
Camp Store
To Eminence


Designated area to conduct demonstrations and/or for the distribution of printed matter.
Round Spring Cave
CURRENT RIVER
Group Camp B 1-3
To Eminence
Highway 19
To Salem
Ranger Station
Upper Landing
Host
Carr's Canoe Rental
Amphitheater
Round Spring
Group Camp A 4-9
Highway 19
2-16
36-49
E1-E6
Playground
Pavilion
Family Campground
30-35
17-29
Middle Landing
Lower Landing
Park Ranger
Restroom
Showers
Dump Station
Amphitheater
Trail
Parking Lot
Public Phone
Picnic Pavilion
Boat Launch
Canoe Launch
Camp Host
Campsites E1-E6 - Electric & Water Hookups
N
Round Spring