



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

For Immediate Release

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Large Excavator Arrives Today to Remove Hazardous Flood Debris Pile Jacks Fork River between Alley Spring Floater Access to below Keaton's Landing Remains Closed

Van Buren, MO – Ozark National Scenic Riverways will begin an assertive effort to remove the dangerous debris wad of large trees, roots, and branches just below Keaton's Landing on the Jacks Fork River when a large excavator arrives this afternoon. "The park will be focused on removing this hazard on Thursday", stated Jim Hummel, Incident Commander on the Flood Recovery Team. Until the removal, this debris pile is an extremely hazardous situation for floaters. The river's strong current drives floaters into the debris which can cause entanglements and swamping of water craft. Thus, the Jacks Fork River between Alley Spring floater access to just below Keaton's Landing remains **CLOSED**.



Much progress was made by the park staff often working beyond normal schedules to restore flood damaged facilities. Due to their efforts, **CEDAR GROVE ACCESS IS OPEN** along with the Upper

Current River District between Baptist and Williams. **SINKING CREEK ACCESS REMAINS CLOSED.**

Floaters must portage around the Cedar Grove Low Water Bridge. **ATTEMPTING TO FLOAT OVER THE LOW WATER BRIDGE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!** A recent event of visitors attempting to float over the bridge almost cost them their lives when their canoe overturned. One canoeist was sucked into a whirlpool and was swept into a flooded culvert underneath the roadway. The quick action of a park maintenance employee who was nearby pulled the three individuals to safety.



The Jacks Fork River District all the way to Alley Spring floater access is open **EXCEPT FOR THE TWO RIVERS ACCESS AND ALLEY SPRING CAMPGROUND AND BOAT LAUNCH.** Due to road conditions getting to the outlying Jacks Fork River accesses, the public is advised to drive carefully and use high clearance vehicles. The Powder Mill river access is very soft and floaters are advised to use caution when using this area.

The Lower Current River District facilities open are:

- Visitor Contact Station in Van Buren (Open daily 8:00 – 4:30)
- Big Spring Lodge, its walkway and parking lot

More park areas and facilities are anticipated to be open toward the end of the week.

For more information, phone (573) 323-4236 during daily business hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/ozar. 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.

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