



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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Hazardous Flood Debris Pile Removed More Park Areas Open

Van Buren, MO – Ozark National Scenic Riverways staff were able to remove the dangerous debris wad of large trees, roots, and branches just below Keaton’s Landing on the Jacks Fork River using a large excavator.



Hard at Work



Before



After

The removal of this hazard allowed the Jacks Fork River District to Two Rivers to be **OPENED, INCLUDING THE ALLEY SPRING FLOATER ACCESS**. These areas remain **CLOSED**:

- Electric Loop at Alley Spring Campground
- Alley Spring Campground Boat Ramp

The continuing efforts of the park staff in the Upper Current River District have opened all areas between Baptist and Jerktail **EXCEPT:**

- Broadfoot

Floaters must portage around the Cedar Grove Low Water Bridge. **ATTEMPTING TO FLOAT OVER THE LOW WATER BRIDGE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!** A recent event involved 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 park maintenance employee, who was nearby, pulled the three individuals to safety.

Engineers have completed assessments of the Big Spring roadway culvert damage. Temporary road repairs will need to be accomplished before visitors can safely drive into the Big Spring area. **THUS, ACCESS TO BIG SPRING REMAINS CLOSED.**



Big Spring Roadway Culvert Damaged

Areas in the Lower Current District **OPEN** are:

- Visitor Contact Station in Van Buren (Open daily 8:00 – 4:30)
- Big Spring Cabins and the Big Spring Lodge, its walkways and parking lot
- Pin Oak
- Waymeyer
- Chilton Creek Boat Ramp

Due to road conditions getting to the park's outlying river accesses, the public is advised to drive carefully and use high clearance vehicles. River accesses are very soft and floaters are advised to use caution when launching.

Work is continuing to open more park areas and facilities.

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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