



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
404 Watercress Drive
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, Missouri 63965

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (xL76)

August 9, 2006

Greetings:

The National Park Service (NPS) seeks your input on the proposed rehabilitation of the Flying W site (a.k.a. Sam Steelman Hole Primitive Area and Vogel Tract). Following you will find information on this proposed action. We ask that you take a few moments to read this information and consider the impacts and benefits associated. If inclined, please respond to this proposed action by **August 30, 2006** via the methods listed below.

Flying W is located north of Akers at the terminus of County Road 2-3006 in Shannon County, Missouri, within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) in south-central Missouri (see attached map). Access is via County Road 2-3006 (known locally as the Flying W Road) to the east and via private land and a river ford crossing to the west.

Flying W is a high-use recreational area that is being used for various activities including canoeing, swimming, horse back riding, hiking, fishing, picnicking, and camping. These activities need to be evaluated and managed based on their appropriateness at this site and to limit conflicts between the various user groups. An increase in public use and a lack of defined roads and parking areas has led to unauthorized off-road travel. Soil erosion and an increasing number of trails are having a tremendously negative impact on the natural and cultural resources of the area, resulting in a loss of integrity for qualities on which the park was founded. The unmanaged appearance of the area that does not show a park presence contributes to unacceptable behaviors by large crowds of visitors.

The purpose of this proposal is to rehabilitate and protect the natural and cultural resources impacted by visitor use that is not being managed. The park's goal in rehabilitating the area is to protect resources while providing for a quality recreational experience and providing access to the Current River. Through planning, the park intends to:

- Identify necessary modifications and management to protect resources
- Reduce or eliminate resource damage
- Rehabilitate environmentally degraded and user impacted areas
- Redesign river access, river fords, picnic facilities, roads, and parking areas

As set forth in the 1984 General Management Plan (GMP) and Development Concept Plan (DCP), rehabilitation in primitive areas can be accomplished through temporary closure and site restoration "where such camping and on-road or off-road use has caused environmental degradation." Park staff are in the process of developing rehabilitation alternatives that meet the purpose and needs identified above and are harmonious with the management plans outlined in the GMP and DCP. This area is identified in the GMP and Environmental Assessment as a primitive site, under the name of Vogel Tract for the family that owned the Flying W Ranch. Rehabilitation actions being considered are identified below.

Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources

- No additional protection of the natural and/or cultural resources OR
- Close and rehabilitate roads and trails created through off-road travel AND/OR
- Install barriers (fences, boulders, etc.) around severely damaged areas AND/OR
- Close and rehabilitate highly eroded areas AND/OR
- Install bulletin boards and other educational signs

Picnic Facilities

- No addition or improvement to existing facilities OR
- Designate day use and overnight camping areas AND/OR
- Add picnic tables, trash cans, etc. as necessary AND/OR
- Install a vault toilet

Parking lots, river access, roads and trails

- No change to the current state of parking areas, roads, trails or river access OR
- Modify road system and add one or more parking areas AND/OR
- Designate specific access point(s) to the Current River

The park needs to consider a range of reasonable alternatives that address the impacts to resources while providing recreational experiences at Flying W. Public participation ensures the NPS fully understands and considers the public's interest as part of their national heritage, cultural traditions, and community surroundings. Please visit the National Park Service **Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)** Web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>) or submit written comments by **August 30, 2006**, to: Superintendent, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, P.O. Box 490, Van Buren, Missouri 63965.

Thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to collaborating with you on this project and others.

Sincerely,



Noel R. Poe
Superintendent

Enclosure