

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 Public Involvement

On August 12, 2006, the ONSR sent out a public scoping letter notifying local, state, and federal representatives, interested agencies, and the general public of proposed actions to address the unauthorized off-road travel and subsequent natural and cultural resource damage. This letter was electronically posted on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website along with contact information on how to obtain more information or comment on the action. All responses were reviewed and filed in the administrative record kept at the ONSR headquarters in Van Buren, MO.

6.2 Agency Consultation

Ethnographic Review

An ethnographic tribal identity study has been completed for Ozark National Scenic Riverways by Dr. Maria Zedeno which identified those Native American tribes that have historic cultural affiliation with lands now included in the park. Native American groups having demonstrable affiliation to the region are:

- a. Cherokee Nation
- b. Keetoowah Band Cherokee
- c. Osage Nation
- d. Delaware Tribe
- e. Delaware Nation
- f. Eastern Shawnee Tribe
- g. Shawnee Tribe
- h. Absentee Tribe

In August 2003, Noel Poe, Superintendent of ONSR, and James E. Price, Ph.D., Archeologist, ONSR, consulted with leaders of these tribes in Oklahoma in compliance with Section 101(d)(6)(b) of the NHPA. No historic accounts or archeological evidence have been found associating these tribes with the subject tracts of land at Akers. In October 2006, Noel Poe, Superintendent of ONSR, Russ Runge, Deputy Superintendent of ONSR, and James E. Price, Ph.D., Archeologist, ONSR, consulted with leaders of the above tribes to request input on the development of the park's new General Management Plan.

Section 404 – Clean Water Act

A section 404 permit would not be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because there would not be any significant discharge of fill material into the Current River and there are no wetland areas that would be impacted as a result of the alternatives. The environmental assessment will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Section 7 – Endangered Species Act Compliance

In August 2006, a letter regarding the intended action was sent to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Field Officer in Missouri to obtain information on Threatened and Endangered species and habitat in the proposed action location. A response to our initial scoping letter was received on October 18, 2006.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR FLYING W VICINITY

7.0 REFERENCES

- Autry, Donald C. 1988. Plant Communities on Riparian Limestone Bluffs in Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. 159 p.
- Center for Agriculture, Resource and Environmental Systems (CARES). 2006. Interactive Map Room. University of Missouri – Columbia. <http://ims.missouri.edu> 1/2006
- Chastain, R.A., M.A. Struckhoff, K.W. Grabner, E.D. Stroh, H. He, D.R. Larsen, T.A. Nigh, and J. Drake. 2006 (in prep). Mapping Vegetation Communities in Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Final Technical Report to the National Park Service. USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center, Columbia, MO. 62 pp. plus appendices.
- Mayasich, J., D. Grandmaison, and C. Phillips. 2003. Eastern Hellbender Status Assessment Report. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 41 p.
- National Park Service. 1984. Ozark National Scenic Riverways, General Management Plan. Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Van Buren, MO.
- National Park Service. 2006. National Park Service Management Policies 2006. National Park Service, Department of the Interior.
- Nigh, T., Buck, C., Grabner, J., Kabrick, J., and D. Meinert. 2000. An ecological classification system for the Current River Hills Subsection. Missouri Department of Conservation.
- U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2006. Web Soil Survey. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
- U.S. Geological Survey. 2006. Surface Water Monitoring. Akers Ferry and Eminence gage data.

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following persons assisted with the preparation of this document:

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Noel Poe, Superintendent

Russ Runge, Deputy Superintendent

Martha Ruhe, Maintenance, Landscape Architect

Dr. James E. Price, Resource Management and Education, Acting Chief

Emily Kunz, Resource Management and Education, Biological Science Tech

Tim Breen, Resource Management and Education, Terrestrial Ecologist

Carl Frye, Maintenance, Motor Vehicle Operator

Mary Ficker, Law Enforcement, Akers Law Enforcement Ranger

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
FLYING W VICINITY**

APPENDIX

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR FLYING W VICINITY

Appendix 1: Public Scoping Letter



IN REPLY REFER TO:
D18 (xL76)

August 9, 2006

United States Department of the Interior

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

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR FLYING W VICINITY

Appendix 1: continued

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

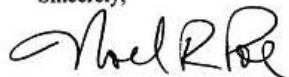
Parking lots, river access, roads and trails

- 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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
FLYING W VICINITY

Appendix 1: continued

Flying W Vicinity

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

August 2006

