



# Preliminary Alternatives



Dear Friends of Ozark National Scenic Riverways,

As most of you know, we have been working on a *General Management Plan / Wilderness Study* for Ozark National Scenic Riverways. This plan will establish the national riverways’ management direction and help guide our decisions for the next 15 to 20 years. We have learned a great deal and have been challenged and inspired by your thoughtful comments and willingness to share your feelings about this special place. Through this newsletter you have another opportunity to learn the latest in our thinking and provide your comments.

We appreciated hearing and reading your thoughts, ideas, hopes, and concerns for the future of the national riverways, which we summarized in *Newsletter #2* in summer 2007. Applying the ideas and comments we have received so far, we have developed some preliminary alternative visions for the future of the national riverways. These preliminary alternatives are presented in this newsletter. There is a “no-action” alternative (basically business as usual, which is required by law) and three “action” alternatives. The National Park Service’s preferred course of action, the preferred alternative, has not yet been identified. This alternative will be developed after we hear your reactions to this newsletter and include them as part of the analysis process. The preferred alternative could be one of the following alternatives, or it could be a combination of elements from any of the alternatives. The preferred alternative will be included in the *Draft General Management Plan / Wilderness Study*.

I encourage you to continue to be involved in the future of the national riverways by providing us with your comments. For more information about how to comment, please see the invitation that follows.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Reed E. Detring, Superintendent

## Invitation to Comment and Attend Public Open Houses

Please join us the week of June 22, 2009, for open houses on the preliminary alternatives. For your convenience, we have scheduled five identical open houses in Van Buren, Eminence, Salem, Columbia, and St. Louis. See the table below for specific dates, times, and locations. If you are unable to or prefer not to attend, you can still ask questions of or provide input to the planning team using the postage-paid comment form found inside the enclosed *Summary Newsletter and Comment Form*; the general management plan website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ozar> (or via the link on the national riverways website [www.nps.gov/ozar](http://www.nps.gov/ozar)); or by letter to: Superintendent, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, P.O. Box 490, Van Buren, Missouri 63965. Comments are welcome at any time, although comments received by July 31, 2009, will be most helpful.

City	Date	Time	Location
Van Buren	Monday, June 22	5:00 –8:00 p.m.	Van Buren Community Center, Intersection of Business 60 and D Highway Van Buren, Missouri 63965
Eminence	Tuesday, June 23	5:00 –8:00 p.m.	Eminence High School, new gym, College Avenue, off Hwy. 19 Eminence, Missouri 65466
Salem	Wednesday, June 24	5:00 –8:00 p.m.	Ozark Natural and Cultural Center, 202 South Main Street (Hwy. 19) Salem, Missouri 65560
Columbia	Thursday, June 25	3:30 –7:00 p.m.	Courtyard by Marriott-Columbia, MO, 3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd. Columbia, Missouri 65201
St. Louis	Friday, June 26	3:30 –7:00 p.m..	Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis-Clayton, 7750 Carondelet Ave. St. Louis, Missouri 63105

## What Is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) for Ozark National Scenic Riverways ensures that National Park Service (NPS) managers and stakeholders (interested individuals, agencies, groups, and other parties) share a clearly defined understanding of the resource conditions; opportunities for visitor experiences; and general kinds of management, access, and development that will best achieve the national riverways’ purpose. In keeping with the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, the management plan will be the basis for decision-making for the national riverways and will provide guidance for preserving the resources for the enjoyment of future generations. This comprehensive plan for national riverways management is developed by an interdisciplinary team in consultation with other NPS offices; federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; other interested parties; and the public.

Looking forward for 15 to 20 years, a general management plan focuses on what needs to be achieved over time, but not necessarily in the immediate future. For a park system unit like Ozark National Scenic Riverways, some needs may be beyond the reach of what can be accomplished within the federal budget. Changes in conditions, technology, and new types of partnerships may make what seems unrealistic today appear to be relatively modest 15 or 20 years from now. Conversely, other ambitious undertakings may never be realized because of competing demands for limited federal funds. Two of the basic functions of a general management plan are to communicate with the public about the difficult balance between public stewardship and public expense, and to explore alternative approaches to management that will provide good public value over the long term.

## Why Is a General Management Plan Needed at Ozark National Scenic Riverways?

Every national park system unit has been asked to prepare this kind of document since 1976 when Congress passed a law to that effect. Because of budget and staff shortfalls, the parks are scheduled for plans as money and people become available. The national riverways has been on the list for a number of years and has finally risen to the top. A new plan is needed because the last management plan was done in 1984 and many things have changed since then!



## What Are Alternatives, and Why Do We Develop Them?

Developing a vision for the future of a national park system unit is the primary role of a general management plan. Several possible visions for the park unit’s future (called alternatives) are developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. Evaluation of a set of alternatives enables the National Park Service and the public to compare the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action over another; evaluation also provides a sound approach to decision-making that is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The preliminary alternative concepts presented in this newsletter were developed by identifying different ways to address stakeholder issues, interests, and concerns within the context of the national riverways’ legislation, its identified purpose and significance statements, and other laws and policies. The alternatives help to examine ways to address the following questions:

- Are existing visitation patterns and activities appropriate and sustainable, or are changes needed to protect resources or protect different types of desired visitor experiences?
- What are the desired conditions for the national riverways’ natural and cultural resources, and what management strategies need to be implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of those conditions?

Once we have heard what you have to say about these preliminary concepts, the planning team will develop a *Draft General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement* that will describe the alternatives and their potential impacts in greater detail.

## Purpose and Significance Statements

The development of the planning alternatives was a process guided by an understanding of what is most important about Ozark National Scenic Riverways — its purpose and significance. The alternatives are different approaches to managing the national riverways; however, in all approaches the National Park Service is required to be true to the different purposes of the national riverways and ensure that its special qualities are protected for current and future generations.

### What Are the Purposes of the National Riverways?

- Preserve and protect in an unimpaired condition the unique scenic and natural values, processes, and unspoiled settings derived from the clean, free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork rivers and the springs and caves and their karst origins;
- Provide for and promote opportunities for the scientific and public understanding of the natural and cultural resources;
- Offer opportunities for understanding and appreciation of the human experience associated with the Ozark Highlands landscape;
- Provide for uses and enjoyment of the outdoor recreational opportunities consistent with the preservation of the national riverways resources.

### Why Is the National Riverways Significant?

- The impressive hydrogeologic character of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways’ karst landscape supports an amazing variety of natural features, including a world-class spring system that is unparalleled in North America. The national riverways features the largest spring in the national park system, six first-magnitude springs and spring complexes, and more than 350 other springs. The cave system is equally impressive with more than 338 recorded caves — one of the highest densities of any national park system unit.
- The national riverways contains 134 miles of clear, free-flowing, spring-fed rivers. These include the Jacks Fork and Current rivers, which are two of only three Outstanding National Resource Waters in Missouri.
- The ancient Ozark Highlands is an important center of biodiversity in North America, including more than 200 endemic species. The large variety of species found within Ozark National Scenic Riverways is due to the rich array of aquatic, terrestrial, and subterranean habitats concentrated within its river corridors.
- The national riverways features archeological sites, historic structures, objects, and landscapes that reflect more than 12,000 years of people living along, adapting to, and interacting with these Ozark Highland rivers.
- The complex and dynamic natural resources and systems of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways provide for outstanding, high-quality recreational experiences on and along free-flowing rivers.



## Wilderness in the Alternatives

In 1984 the National Park Service evaluated Ozark National Scenic Riverways for wilderness suitability. One of the areas recognized for its wilderness qualities was the Big Spring tract near the lower Current River and adjacent to Mark Twain National Forest. At that time there were nonconforming uses occurring there that prevented wilderness designation. In the final 1984 *General Management Plan*, the National Park Service committed to do a formal wilderness study should those conditions/uses change. In the early 1990s, the nonconforming uses at Big Spring were discontinued. The National Park Service is now moving forward with a wilderness study as part of this management plan.

In preliminary alternatives A and B, there is a draft proposal for designating an area of about 3,400 acres in the Big Spring area as wilderness. This proposal does not include any part of the Current River.

A variety of recreational uses, management actions, and even facilities are potentially allowed in wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and NPS policies. For each area, the National Park Service is required to determine which recreational activities would be appropriate. Potential activities and facilities *could include* the following:

- hunting and fishing
- nonmechanized recreational uses (e.g., hiking, picnicking, camping, horseback riding)
- guided interpretive walks and on-site presentations
- accommodations for the disabled (e.g., barrier-free trails and accessible camp-sites)
- trails, primitive campsites, pit toilets, and signs necessary for visitor safety or to protect wilderness resources
- emergency actions and equipment in life-threatening situations
- fire management activities (including fire suppression)
- preservation of historic structures
- scientific activities, research, and monitoring



The Wilderness Act also specifically *prohibits* certain uses and developments in wilderness areas, as follows:

- permanent improvements or human habitation
- structures (historic structures are excluded)
- permanent and temporary roads
- use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment (except for emergency purposes)
- other forms of mechanical transport (e.g., bicycles)
- commercial services (except for those necessary for recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area, such as guiding and outfitting)

## User Capacity

General management plans for national park system units, including the national riverways, are required to address user capacity management. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the type and level of use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of the park unit’s resources and visitor opportunities consistent with the purposes of the park unit.

Management zones, discussed later in the newsletter, provide the foundation for user capacity management decisions by identifying the desired conditions and visitor experiences for various areas of the national riverways. Once those zones are established, the staff then develops various strategies to ensure that those conditions and experiences are met. Determining user capacity does not necessarily involve identifying a “magic number” for visitor use, and it does not necessarily imply strict use limits. NPS managers could develop a variety of strategies to prevent conditions such as unnecessary damage to resources, diminished visitor enjoyment, displacement of visitors, or expensive repairs arising from use of an area.





# Preliminary Alternative Concepts

The following is a presentation of the preliminary alternative concepts, including visitor experiences and activities, interpretation and education, natural resources conditions, cultural resource conditions, facilities and visitor services, and possible wilderness designation for the national riverways.

- No-Action Alternative
- Alternative A
- Alternative B
- Alternative C



## No-Action Alternative

### Overview

The no-action alternative describes how Ozark National Scenic Riverways has been and continues to be managed. It reflects current resource conditions and trends, existing recreational opportunities, types of development, and levels of service. It also describes ongoing management issues, such as resource degradation and visitor conflicts. The primary purpose of describing the no-action alternative is to provide a baseline for comparing the other management alternatives.

The no-action alternative is a description of on-the-ground management conditions rather than a reiteration of existing planning documents for the national riverways. The 1984 *General Management Plan*, 1989 *River Use Management Plan*, and the 1992 “Statement of Management” all provide a basis for understanding the current management approach. However, these documents are not always an accurate reflection of adaptive management approaches taken by NPS staff to address unforeseen or emerging issues. The following briefly describes different aspects of the national riverways’ current management approach, as it is being implemented.

### Visitor Experiences and Activities

Under current management, a wide variety of visitor experiences and recreational activities would continue to occur. River recreation primarily includes canoeing, kayaking, tubing, rafting, johnboating, and fishing, and different stretches of the river provide different boating experiences. The upper Current River is a high-density canoe use area due in part to the river’s shallow depth and narrow, winding course. The frequency of river access points along this stretch allows for float trips of one day or less. The lower Current River has much less canoe use than on the upper portion, and float trips are generally longer in duration. Motorboating is heaviest in this area due to the river’s deeper, wider channel. Jacks Fork is attractive to floaters year-round, with the upper portions having more use during higher flows in the spring. Boating use on the Jacks Fork is typically not as heavy as on the Current River.

Ten river-use management zones were established by the national riverways in 1989 to help ensure that overuse of the river does not occur. These zones set horsepower limits on motorboats and maximum numbers for canoes within the national riverways, excluding the Van Buren and Eminence gaps. Concessioners also have maximum daily limits on boat rentals to prevent crowding. Despite these management strategies, a frequent complaint is that there are far too many tubing, canoeing, rafting, and boating parties on the river. Another recurrent complaint is that there is too much lewd visitor behavior and the river is no longer family friendly. NPS managers are continuing to take steps to improve conditions for families.

Under this alternative, the variety of land-based recreational opportunities would continue to be offered to visitors, including hiking, horseback riding, hunting, picnicking, and camping. Horseback riding in the form of large trail ride events has grown substantially in recent years, especially along the Jacks Fork and Upper Current rivers. Primary issues include conflicts between equestrians and other users, water quality impacts from horse manure, and inadequate trails to accommodate current levels of use.

### Visitor Services and Facilities

Visitor orientation and information services would continue to be available at NPS headquarters in Van Buren, at the multiagency visitor center in Salem, and at a few contact points and ranger stations throughout the national riverways. Major recreation sites can be found at Akers, Pulltite, Round Spring, Alley Spring, Two Rivers, Powder Mill, and Big Spring. These areas include visitor facilities for day use and overnight camping. Existing visitor services would also continue, which might include equipment rentals, restrooms, and in some cases concession stores and food services. Developed campgrounds range in size from 55 to 220 campsites — the two largest are at Alley Spring and Big Spring. Rental cabins would also continue to be available at Big Spring. Smaller recreation sites with facilities for day and overnight use include

Cedargrove, Jerktail, Blue Spring, Log Yard, and Gooseneck. River access, primitive camping, restrooms, and parking would continue to be provided at various sites along the rivers.

There are 23 commercial operators that provide services to visitors. These businesses would continue to operate under their existing contracts to provide visitor support and river recreational services, such as canoe, tube, and raft rentals and shuttle services.

There are 347 miles of roads in the national riverways — 54 miles are paved, 123 miles are graded, and 147 miles are two-track dirt roads. Different segments of the road network are managed by the National Park Service or state or county agencies. The 72 miles of trails are designated for hiking and/or horseback riding. Management issues include resource impacts and visitor conflicts resulting from illegal off-road and all-terrain vehicle uses.

### Interpretation and Education

Under current management, a variety of interpretive and educational programs would continue to be provided for visitors. The goal of these programs is to ensure that visitors have all the information needed to fully enjoy and experience the national riverways through (1) promoting individual awareness about the facilities, features, and activities available to them, (2) interpreting the cultural and natural features of the area, and (3) educating visitors on the safe and proper use of national riverways resources.

### Natural Resource Management

Natural resource management would continue to preserve and protect the natural resources, processes, systems, and values of the national riverways in accordance with NPS policies. In particular, programs would emphasize protection of outstanding natural features, including sites that encompass geological, scientific, and ecological characteristics that warrant special protection. Examples include caves, springs, and other rare habitats that support threatened and endangered species. Ongoing programs also include the administration of scenic easements on privately owned tracts, collaborative management efforts on state-owned lands, and management of agricultural leases to preserve certain pastoral landscapes within the national riverways’ boundary.

Ongoing natural resource management issues include water quality degradation from recreational use (e.g., human waste from floaters, soil erosion from off-road vehicles, horse manure, and exhaust from motorboats); habitat fragmentation and trail proliferation from illegal off-road vehicles; the spread of nonnative invasive plant and animal species; visitor-related disturbances to wildlife; and land uses and activities that occur outside the boundary that impact national riverways resources, including water quality.

### Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resource management would continue to include efforts to preserve historic structures, archeological resources, and cultural landscapes in accordance with NPS policies. Cultural resource programs would also include adaptive reuse of some historic structures; management of some historic cemeteries (i.e., provide appropriate access); the study of Ozark folklore; and the preservation and cataloging of historic objects, documents, and other collections. Cultural resource management issues include the ongoing illegal removal of artifacts, vandalism of historic structures, and disturbance of archeological sites.

### Wilderness

Under the no-action alternative, the Big Spring tract would not be proposed for wilderness designation. This area would, however, continue to be protected from activities that would diminish its natural, primitive character.



## Alternative A

### Overview

Management would focus on creating visitor experiences and resource conditions that are reminiscent of those that occurred when the national riverways was established. Management would emphasize greater opportunities for traditional, nonmechanized forms of recreation and visitor experiences that are quieter, less crowded, and slower paced.

### Visitor Experiences and Activities

Visitors would have opportunities to float secluded stretches of the river where they would not experience the sights and sounds of motorized boats or vehicles. Along other stretches of the river, visitors would encounter low to moderate densities of lower horsepower motorboats that evoke the traditional johnboat river experience. Traditional, family-oriented recreation would also be emphasized, including activities such as guided float trips, gravel bar camping, and fishing. Motorized forms of recreation would be de-emphasized.

### Visitor Services and Facilities

Only a network of designated roads, trails, and river crossings would be retained to provide access for specific recreational activities and administrative purposes. Management would close roads and trails that have been illegally developed. Native vegetation impacted by these unauthorized routes would be rehabilitated. Commercial services might be limited or modified along different portions of the rivers to achieve desired visitor experiences and resource conditions.

### Interpretation and Education

Management would strive to enhance visitor awareness of the continuum of people’s cultural connections to the area that spans thousands of years. Living history programs would be emphasized to provide visitors with a better understanding of traditional, subsistence ways of life in the Ozarks. For example, an interpretive “float camp” would be developed to let visitors experience what river recreation was like in the past.

### Natural Resource Management

The natural resources would be maintained or restored to more pristine conditions that lack signs of substantial development or use. The emphasis would be on restoring degraded biological communities and improving the overall natural setting.

### Cultural Resource Management

Management would emphasize the protection and preservation of archeological resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes, including the restoration of select open fields to preserve pastoral scenes.

### Wilderness

The Big Spring tract would be proposed for wilderness designation. It would be managed under the primitive zone, with some additional special management restrictions to be consistent with the Wilderness Act.



## Alternative B

### Overview

Management would enhance opportunities to discover and learn about the national riverway’s natural wonders and Ozark heritage. NPS staff would strive to improve visitors’ connection to the natural, cultural, and scenic elements of the national riverways with the major goal of helping improve visitor appreciation of its resources.

### Visitor Experiences and Activities

A manageable mix of traditional recreational activities, such as floating, boating, and horseback riding, would still be provided. Also, a variety of both guided and self-guided activities would be offered to help visitors discover the array of both natural and cultural resource-based opportunities available and increase visitor awareness of the many special resources and values.

### Visitor Services and Facilities

Additional trails (some with universal accessibility) would be developed for visitors to access a network of “discovery sites.” A network of small learning centers, with educational and interpretive programs and exhibits, would be developed to better orient and inform visitors. Some of these facilities would include classrooms and might provide some limited quarters for visiting experts.

### Interpretation and Education

Self-guided interpretive opportunities would provide visitors with a sense of being the first to discover remote, hard-to-find places, such as an old cabin or a secluded spring. Guided opportunities would include ranger-led tours of special features, such as old settlements, caves and springs, and river environments. This would help reach visitors who are looking for different or additional activities to the traditional float trip. Resource management staff would develop opportunities for visitors and volunteers to engage in hands-on resource management projects. Learning center programs could provide more structured environmental education opportunities, especially for school groups.

### Natural Resource Management

The natural resources would be maintained or restored to more pristine conditions that lack signs of substantial development or use. Restoring degraded biological communities and improving the overall natural setting would be emphasized. A focused program of resource monitoring, research, and preservation projects would actively support and strengthen management capabilities and ensure accurate visitor information.

### Cultural Resource Management

Management would protect and preserve archeological resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes. Selected structures and sites may receive special management attention to support Ozark heritage educational programs. A focused program of resource monitoring, research, and preservation projects would actively support and strengthen management capabilities and ensure accurate visitor information.

### Wilderness

Under this alternative, the Big Spring Tract would be proposed for wilderness designation. It would be managed under the primitive zone, with some additional special management restrictions to be consistent with the Wilderness Act.





## Alternative C

### Overview

Management would primarily seek to provide a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences while maintaining the highly scenic natural setting and cultural resources.

### Visitor Experiences and Activities

Visitors would have opportunities to experience a diverse range of motorized and nonmotorized recreational activities in a variety of outdoor settings. Visitors would encounter more intensive management to ensure that greater levels and types of visitor use do not cause excessive impacts on national riverways resources or diminish public safety. Visitors would experience higher levels of social interaction, especially during the peak season. Opportunities for community and family gatherings would be emphasized.

### Visitor Services and Facilities

Additional facilities would be necessary to accommodate higher levels and different types of visitor use. There would be more types of designated camping opportunities, including primitive, semi-primitive, semi-developed, and developed sites. There would also be more boat ramps and trails for hiking and horseback riding.

### Interpretation and Education

Interpretive and educational opportunities would expand for visitors to connect with the natural and cultural resources while improving their outdoor recreation skills. The goal of such programs would be to encourage resource

stewardship and low-impact recreational uses. Example activities could include boating safety, safe hunting and fishing practices, and traditional Ozark lifeway skills.

### Natural Resource Management

Natural resources would be managed to provide high-quality scenery. There would be a higher tolerance for resource impacts in more heavily used areas. Impacted environments would be stabilized or restored to retain the natural settings. Monitoring efforts would be emphasized to track natural resource conditions so that unacceptable impacts from recreational activities do not occur.

### Cultural Resource Management

Management would protect and preserve archeological resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes. Opportunities would be expanded for visitors to access and experience historic structures and cultural landscapes throughout the national riverways. To accommodate more visitors, some historic structures and sites may require more intensive management actions to protect resource integrity. Efforts to track cultural resource conditions would be emphasized so that unacceptable conditions do not occur.

### Wilderness

There would be no proposal to designate the Big Spring tract as wilderness; however, it would be zoned as primitive to protect the area’s natural, primitive character.

## Management Zones

The NPS planning process requires that the planning alternatives propose management zones for areas within the national riverways boundary. For Ozark National Scenic Riverways, zones would be applied only to the Current and Jacks Fork rivers and those land areas for which the park has fee title ownership. Lands with timber or scenic easements are managed by the legal requirements of the easement and are not zoned. Private lands within the boundary are not zoned.

Management zones tell how areas of the national riverways would be managed in the future. Management zones describe a range of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences and include statements about the appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and facilities in each zone. The management zones will provide primary guidance for decision-making at the national riverways and will form the core of the general management plan.

Management zones are combined in different ways to reflect the concept proposed for each alternative. The following seven preliminary management zones have been developed for Ozark National Scenic Riverways. As shown in the 11” X 17” management zones table insert, management zones provide a framework for further site-specific planning and management decisions on the use and the protection of resources (see following summary of the management zones).

Land-based management zones:

- developed
- resource-based recreation
- natural
- primitive

River-based management zones:

- nonmotorized
- mixed use (motorized and nonmotorized boats)
- seasonal mixed use



	Summary of Land-based Management Zones			
	Developed	Resource-based Recreation	Natural	Primitive <sup>1</sup>
<b>Zone Summary</b>	<p>Areas that support moderate to high levels of development and visitor services to accommodate concentrated visitor use and diverse recreational, educational, and interpretive opportunities.</p> <p>A majority of the administrative facilities for operations and maintenance would be in this zone.</p>	<p>Areas that support moderate levels of visitor use to accommodate a wide range of recreational, educational, and interpretive opportunities.</p> <p>Although some resource modifications could occur, natural and cultural resources would remain largely intact.</p>	<p>Areas that support the broader ecological integrity of the national riverways. Natural processes dominate, and only low-impact recreational activities would be allowed.</p> <p>Visitors would be immersed in nature, with opportunities to enjoy solitude and natural sights and sounds.</p>	<p>Areas that retain their wild, natural character. Natural resources and processes would be preserved to maintain their pristine conditions and ecological integrity.</p> <p>Opportunities would be provided for visitors to experience backcountry challenges and solitude.</p>
<b>Overall Natural Resource Condition</b>	<p>Natural resources would be managed to accommodate facilities for NPS operations and concentrated visitor use.</p> <p>The affects of developments and visitor use on the natural surroundings would be minimized through planning and design efforts.</p>	<p>Resources would be maintained in their natural condition, yet modified where necessary to provide distinct visitor opportunities and experiences.</p> <p>Modifications would be aesthetically blended with the environment as much as possible.</p>	<p>Ecological integrity would be maintained by preserving and restoring natural resources and processes through an integrated natural resource management approach.</p> <p>Emphasis would be placed on protecting outstanding natural features and habitats for rare and endangered species.</p>	<p>Natural systems and processes would function independent of human intervention.</p> <p>Natural conditions would only be restored when disturbed by human use.</p>
<b>Overall Cultural Resource Condition</b>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Selected cultural resources would provide distinct visitor opportunities and experiences, and would be the backdrop for interpretation, visitor use, and services where appropriate.</p>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Selected cultural resources would be preserved to reflect their period of significance, allowing people to experience these resources first-hand and learn about their associated stories and events.</p>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Selected cultural resources would be preserved or stabilized to provide opportunities for visitor use and education.</p>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Selected cultural resources would be preserved or stabilized to provide opportunities for visitors.</p>
<b>Overall Visitor Experience</b>	<p>Visitors would have opportunities to better understand the national riverways' significant resources and values; interact with other visitors and NPS staff; and recreate in a safe environment that is supported by a variety of visitor services.</p> <p>Visitors would experience a modified natural environment that is designed to accommodate moderately to highly concentrated visitor use levels.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone.</p>	<p>Visitors would have opportunities to participate in a range of recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities.</p> <p>Visitors would experience a mostly natural setting where some visitor services are available to accommodate moderate levels of use.</p> <p>A moderate to high density of visitors would be accommodated, especially at key access points and along trails during the peak season.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone.</p>	<p>Visitors would encounter intact natural resources, features, and systems for personal inspiration, education, and recreation.</p> <p>Experiences could include opportunities for solitude, contemplation, and self-reliance.</p> <p>Areas would be managed for low levels and densities of visitors, especially during the off-season.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone.</p>	<p>Visitors would be immersed in a primitive, wild setting with opportunities to experience backcountry challenges, solitude, and self-reliance.</p> <p>Visitors would have a sense of remoteness and isolation from the sights and sounds of other people.</p> <p>Areas would be managed for low levels and densities of visitors year-round.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone.</p>
<b>Types and Levels of Facilities</b>	<p>There could be a moderate to high level of facilities to meet visitor use and administrative needs.</p> <p>Facilities could include visitor centers, contact stations, museums, exhibits, developed campgrounds, cabins, lodges, restaurants, restrooms, picnic grounds, pavilions, kiosks, research stations, administrative buildings, maintenance shops, wastewater treatment plants, and storage areas.</p> <p>A medium to high density of road and trail networks would be provided for visitor access.</p>	<p>There could be a moderate level of facilities for the purpose of directing visitor use, enhancing recreational opportunities, and protecting resources.</p> <p>Facilities could include semi-developed and semi-primitive campsites, picnic grounds, vault-toilet restrooms, maintenance shops, and storage areas.</p> <p>A low to medium density of road and trail networks would be provided to ensure safe visitor access and protect resources.</p>	<p>Facilities would be limited to those essential for resource protection, research, monitoring, and basic visitor services.</p> <p>Facilities that are not consistent with the desired resource conditions could be removed or modified.</p> <p>Facilities could include semi-primitive and primitive campsites, pit toilets, and remote storage areas.</p> <p>A low density of road and trail networks would be provided to ensure that the natural setting and resources are protected.</p>	<p>Minimal developments would be allowed for the protection of natural resources and to allow for dispersed low-impact visitor use.</p> <p>Facilities that are not consistent with the desired resource conditions could be removed.</p> <p>Facilities could include a limited number of primitive campsites and trails.</p> <p>A low density of unpaved trails would be provided for visitor access.</p>
<b>Types and Levels of Service</b>	<p>A moderate to high level of visitor services would include orientation and interpretive programs, signs, wayside exhibits, commercial operations, convenience stores, restaurants, and shuttle services.</p>	<p>A moderate level of visitor services would be provided, such as orientation and interpretive programs, signs and wayside exhibits, and commercial services.</p>	<p>Low levels of visitor services would be provided, such as informational signs and wayside exhibits.</p>	<p>Directional signs would be provided at trailheads. Limited interpretive materials might be available to promote safe and responsible recreation.</p>

<sup>1</sup> If the Big Spring area is designated wilderness, some additional special management restrictions would also apply to this area.



	Summary of River-based Management Zones (Includes the rivers up to the ordinary high-water mark.)		
	Mixed-Use	Seasonal Mixed-Use	Nonmotorized
<b>Zone Concept</b>	<p>Sections of the river that support a mix of motorized and nonmotorized boating opportunities.</p> <p>Visitor encounters would typically be moderate to high, especially during peak use.</p> <p>The natural setting would predominate, but the sights and sounds of human activity would be prevalent.</p>	<p>Sections of the river that support a mix of nonmotorized and lower horsepower motorized boating opportunities during the low-use season (after Labor Day to Memorial Day). The rest of the year, only nonmotorized boating would be allowed.</p> <p>The natural setting would predominate, but the social setting would vary seasonally with the types of allowable activities and levels of use.</p>	<p>Sections of the river that accommodate year-round, nonmotorized boating opportunities.</p> <p>Visitors would experience an unaltered river system where natural sights and sounds would predominate, except during peak use when recreational activity would be more apparent.</p>
<b>Overall Natural Resource Condition</b>	<p>The natural resource conditions in the river corridor would be managed to ensure that the free-flowing clear, clean water of the river is not degraded.</p> <p>Resource conditions would be enhanced by regulating motorboat horsepower.</p>	<p>The natural resource conditions in the river corridor would be managed to ensure that the free-flowing clear, clean water of the river is not degraded.</p> <p>Resource conditions would be seasonally enhanced by limiting these portions of the river to nonmotorized boating only.</p>	<p>The natural resource conditions within the river corridor would be managed to ensure that the free-flowing clear, clean water of the river is not degraded.</p> <p>Resource conditions would be enhanced year-round by limiting these portions of the river to nonmotorized use.</p>
<b>Overall Cultural Resource Condition</b>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Cultural resources that are subject to bank erosion, slumping, subsidence, or other natural deterioration might be stabilized using best management practices.</p>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Cultural resources that are subject to bank erosion, slumping, subsidence, or other natural deterioration might be stabilized using best management practices.</p>	<p>Cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be protected and managed consistent with the <i>Secretary's Standards</i>.</p> <p>All other cultural resources would be evaluated to determine if they should be preserved, stabilized, restored, or left unmaintained.</p> <p>Cultural resources that are subject to bank erosion, slumping, subsidence, or other natural deterioration might be stabilized using best management practices.</p>
<b>Overall Visitor Experience</b>	<p>Visitors would have opportunities to engage in a diverse mix of motorized and nonmotorized boating experiences.</p> <p>Sights and sounds of recreational activities would be prevalent, with limited opportunities to experience natural sounds and solitude, especially at peak times of the year.</p> <p>These sections of the river would be managed to accommodate moderate levels of boaters during most of the year.</p> <p>No motorized wheeled vehicles would be allowed in or along the river, except at designated river fords. Horseback riding would be limited to designated river fords only.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone, including horsepower restrictions for boats.</p>	<p>Visitors would have the opportunity to float the river without the disruption of motorized boats during the peak season.</p> <p>During the off-season, visitors would have opportunities to engage in a mix of lower horsepower motorized and nonmotorized boating experiences.</p> <p>These sections of the river would be managed to accommodate low to moderate levels of boaters during most of the year, with periods of higher use allowed on weekends.</p> <p>No motorized wheeled vehicles would be allowed in or along the river, except at designated river fords. Horseback riding would be limited to designated river fords only.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone, including horsepower restrictions for boats.</p>	<p>Visitors would have the opportunity to float the river without disruptions from motorized boats year-round.</p> <p>During low periods of use, visitors would be able to experience the natural soundscape of the river.</p> <p>These sections of the river would be managed to accommodate low to moderate levels of boaters during most of the year.</p> <p>No motorized boats or wheeled vehicles would be allowed in or along the river. Horseback riding would be limited to designated river fords only.</p> <p>See the recreation activities table for a list of opportunities available to visitors in this zone.</p>
<b>Types and Levels of Facilities</b>	<p>Low to moderate levels of development could be provided to accommodate launching and retrieving motorized and nonmotorized boats on the river.</p> <p>Facilities could include developed boat launches, restrooms, picnic tables, and trash receptacles at designated river access points.</p> <p>Locating new developments or improvements in the floodplain would be avoided where possible.</p> <p>A low to moderate density of designated river access points and a low density of designated river fords would be provided.</p>	<p>Low to moderate levels of development could be provided to accommodate launching and retrieving motorized and nonmotorized boats on the river.</p> <p>Facilities could include developed boat launches, restrooms, picnic tables, and trash receptacles at designated river access points.</p> <p>Locating new developments or improvements in the floodplain would be avoided where possible.</p> <p>A low to moderate density of designated river access points and a low density of designated river fords would be provided.</p>	<p>Low levels of development could be provided to accommodate launching and retrieving nonmotorized boats on the river.</p> <p>Facilities could include semi-developed boat launches, restrooms, picnic tables, and trash receptacles at designated river access points.</p> <p>Locating new developments or improvements in the floodplain would be avoided.</p> <p>A low density of designated river access points would be provided. There would be no designated river fords.</p>
<b>Types and Levels of Service</b>	<p>Commercial shuttle services would be provided to boat launch areas. Orientation and interpretive signs and informational bulletin boards would be available.</p> <p>Visitors would have a moderate to high likelihood of encountering NPS staff.</p> <p>On the river, there would be moderate to high frequency of NPS patrols during the peak season.</p>	<p>Commercial shuttle services would be provided at boat launch areas. Orientation and interpretive signs and informational bulletin boards would also be available.</p> <p>Visitors would have a moderate to high likelihood of encountering NPS staff.</p> <p>On the river, there would be moderate to high frequency of NPS patrols during the peak season.</p>	<p>Commercial shuttle services would be available at boat launch areas. Orientation and interpretive signs and informational bulletin boards would also be available.</p> <p>Visitors would have a moderate to high likelihood of encountering NPS staff.</p> <p>On the river, there would be a low to moderate frequency of NPS patrols, except during the peak season when patrols would be more frequent.</p>



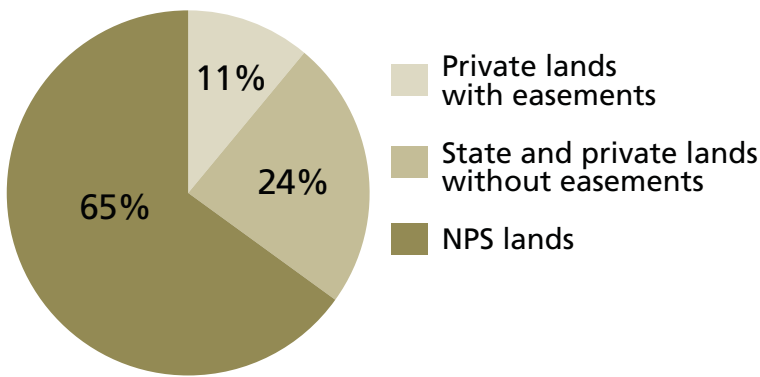
Management Zone Mapping

For each of the action alternatives — A, B, and C — a set of maps has been prepared showing the application of the zones based on the alternative concepts. The maps are divided by north and south segments of the Current River and the Jacks Fork River.

There are no proposed management zone maps for the no-action alternative. There were some management zones developed for the 1984 *General Management Plan*; however, these are not presented because the NPS approach to zoning has changed significantly and an updated management zoning approach is required. Also, different from the 1984 plan, this planning effort will not apply any management zones to easements or private lands.

As the following pie chart shows, the national riverways has fee title ownership to approximately 65% of the lands within the boundary. The management zones are applied to these lands only.

Land Ownership within Park Boundary



Recreational Activities by Management Zone

The chart below is a quick reference showing the activities people currently enjoy at the national riverways and the management zone in which they could be enjoyed.

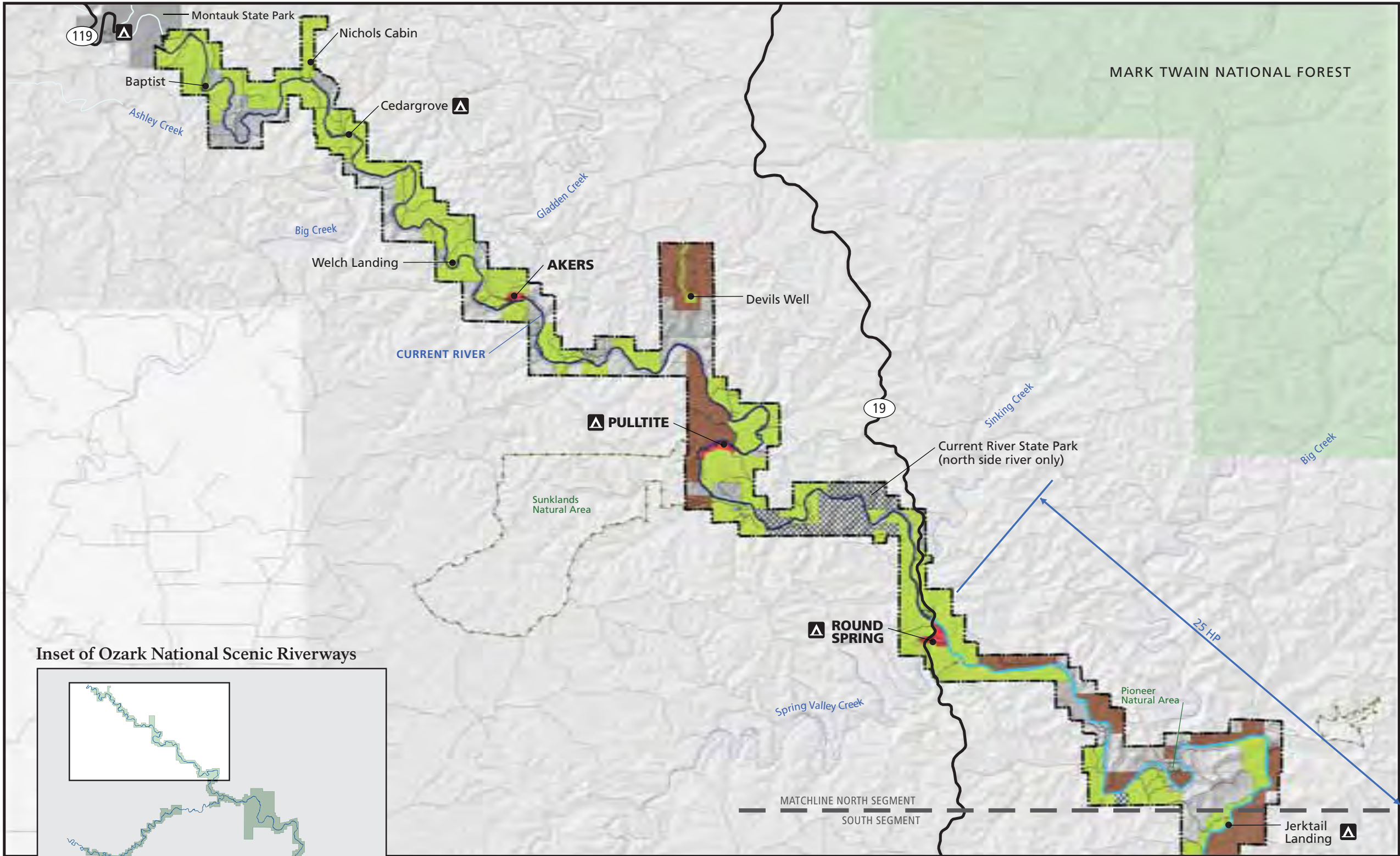
	Developed	Resource-Based Recreation	Natural	Primitive	Mixed-use River	Seasonal** Mixed-use River	Nonmotorized River
TYPES OF ACTIVITIES							
Picnicking	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Camping, amenities provided	•	•					
Camping, no amenities			•	•			
Camping on gravel bars					•	•	•
Lodging	•						
Hiking	•	•	•	•			
Horseback riding		on designated trails	on designated trails		at designated fords	at designated fords	at designated fords
Bicycling on roads	•	•	•				
Scenic viewing/ nature observation	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Interpretive talks, demonstrations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hunting and trapping		•	•	•	•	•	•
Fishing***					•	•	•
Caving	guided	•	•	•	•	•	•
Swimming					•	•	•
Canoeing, kayaking, rafting, tubing					•	•	•
Motorized boating					25 or 40 hp limits* (see maps)	10 or 25 hp limits* (see maps)	

Note: ATVs are allowed only on designated roads per state law.

• Indicates activity is appropriate in zone identified.  
\* HP-horsepower is measured at the boat engine's powerhead.  
\*\* Seasonal motorized boating would be allowed after Labor Day to Memorial Day.  
\*\*\*Fishing is not allowed in springs.



NOTE:  
The following maps are designed, through fold-out pages, to allow readers to compare alternatives for each river segment.



- LEGEND**
- Highway
  - Road
  - Streams
  - Ozark Trail
  - Lakes
  - River Outside Park
  - Cities
  - Park Boundary
  - State Natural Area
  - National Forest
  - State Land\*
  - Scenic Easement
  - Private Ownership
  - Camping

- Management Zones**
- Developed
  - Resource-based Recreation
  - Natural
  - Primitive
  - Mixed-Use River
  - Seasonal Mixed-Use River
  - Nonmotorized River
  - Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Sunklands and Angeline conservation areas

Inset of Ozark National Scenic Riverways

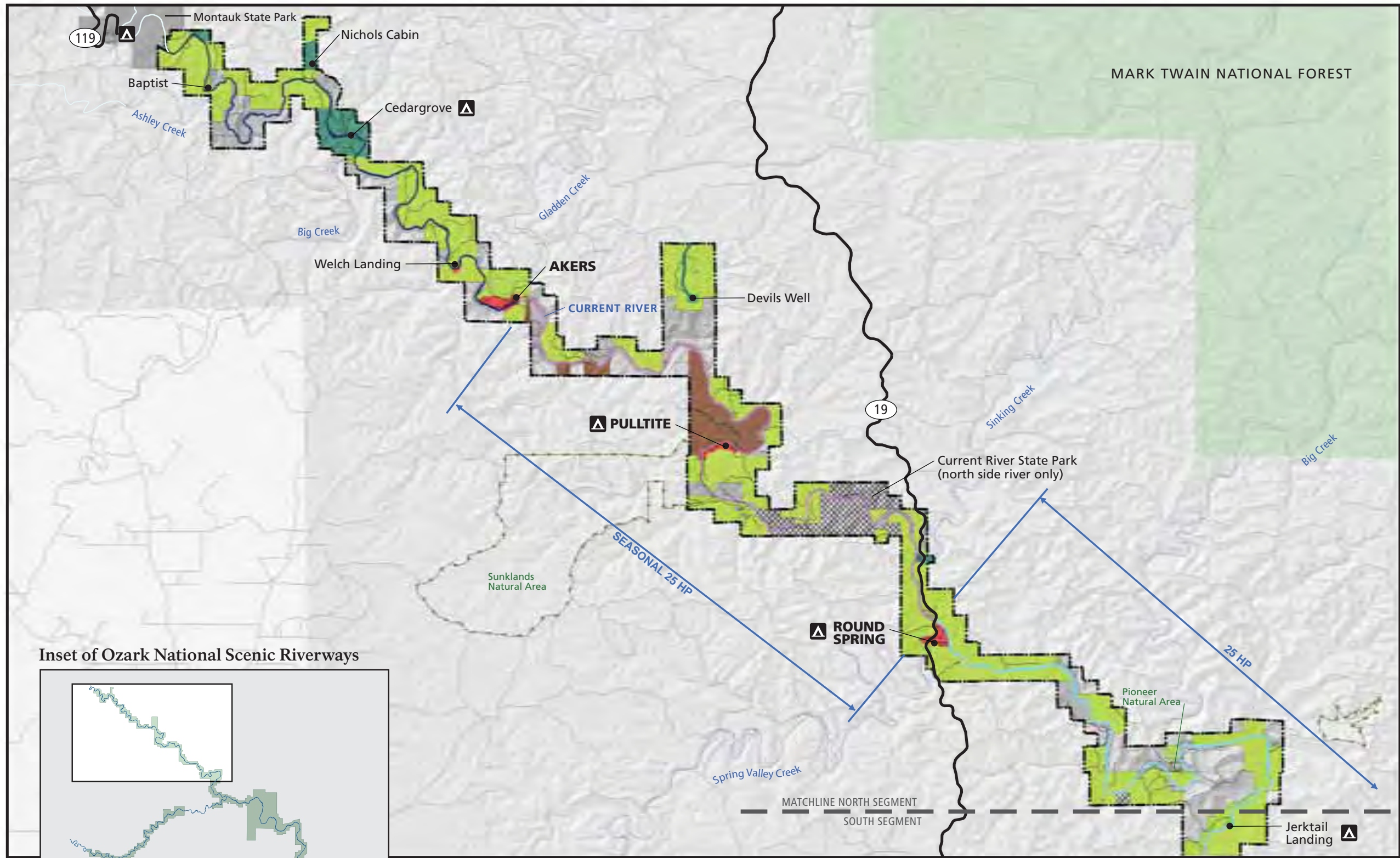


0 6,000 12,000 18,000 Feet

## Alternative A Upper Current - North Segment

Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
Mar 2009 / DSC / 614 / 20,042





**LEGEND**

- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

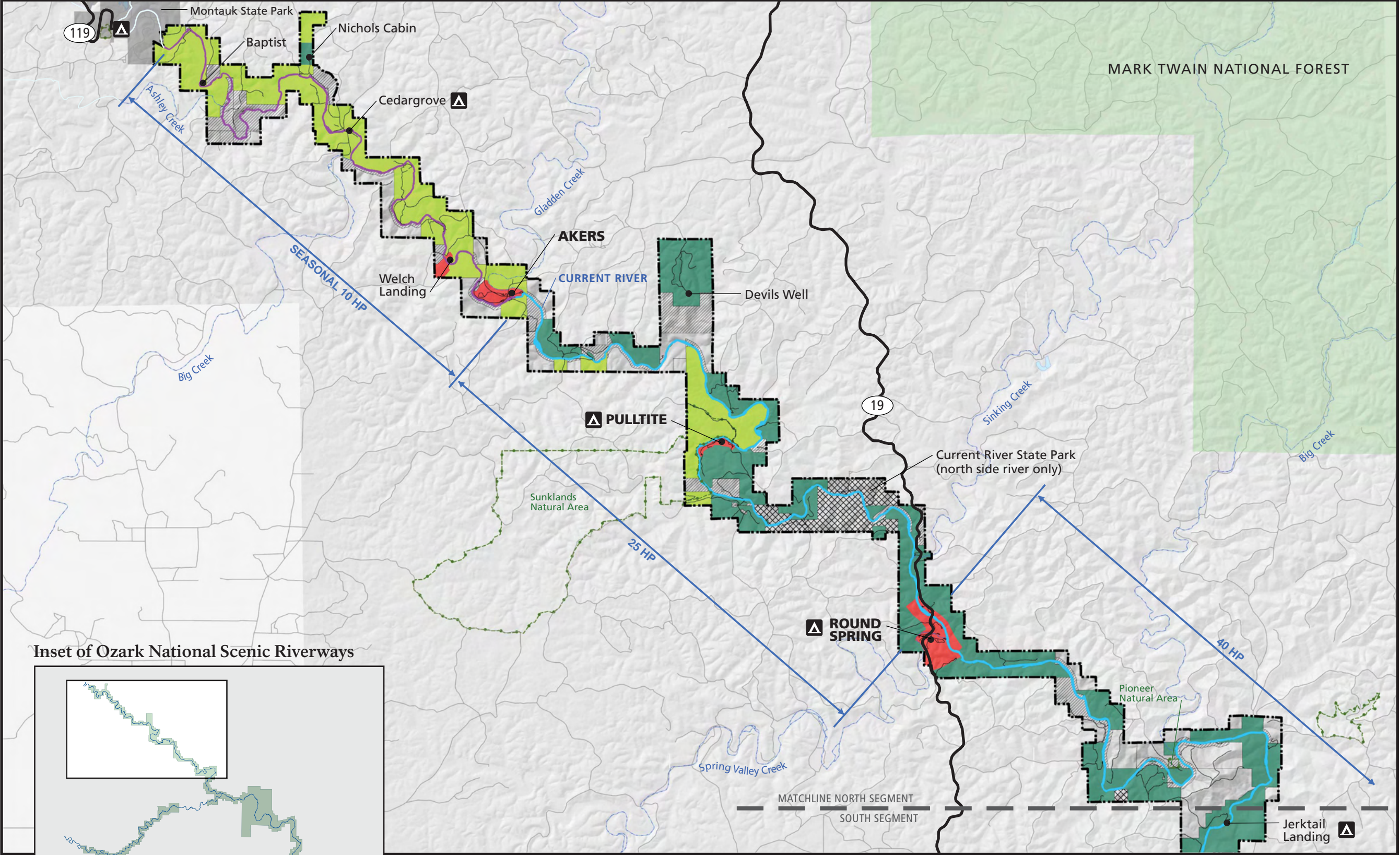
**Management Zones**

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Sunklands and Angeline conservation areas

**Alternative B**  
**Upper Current - North Segment**  
Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
Mar 2009 / DSC / 614 / 20,043





LEGEND

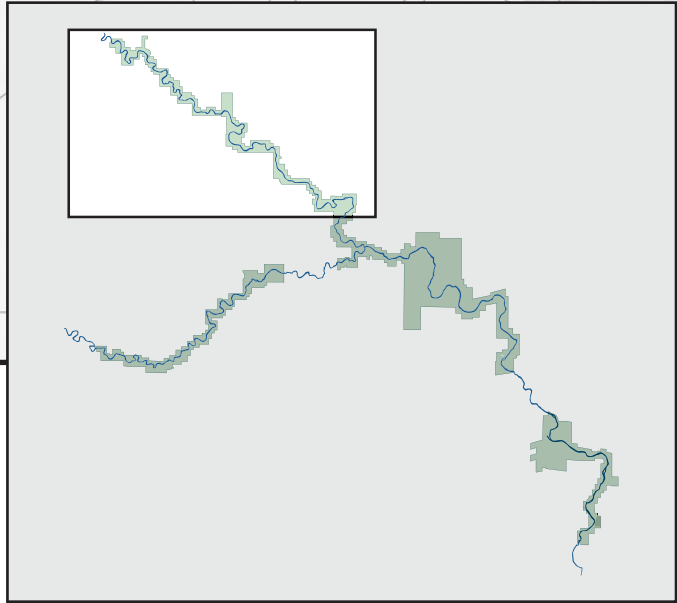
- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

Management Zones

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Sunklands and Angeline conservation areas

Inset of Ozark National Scenic Riverways

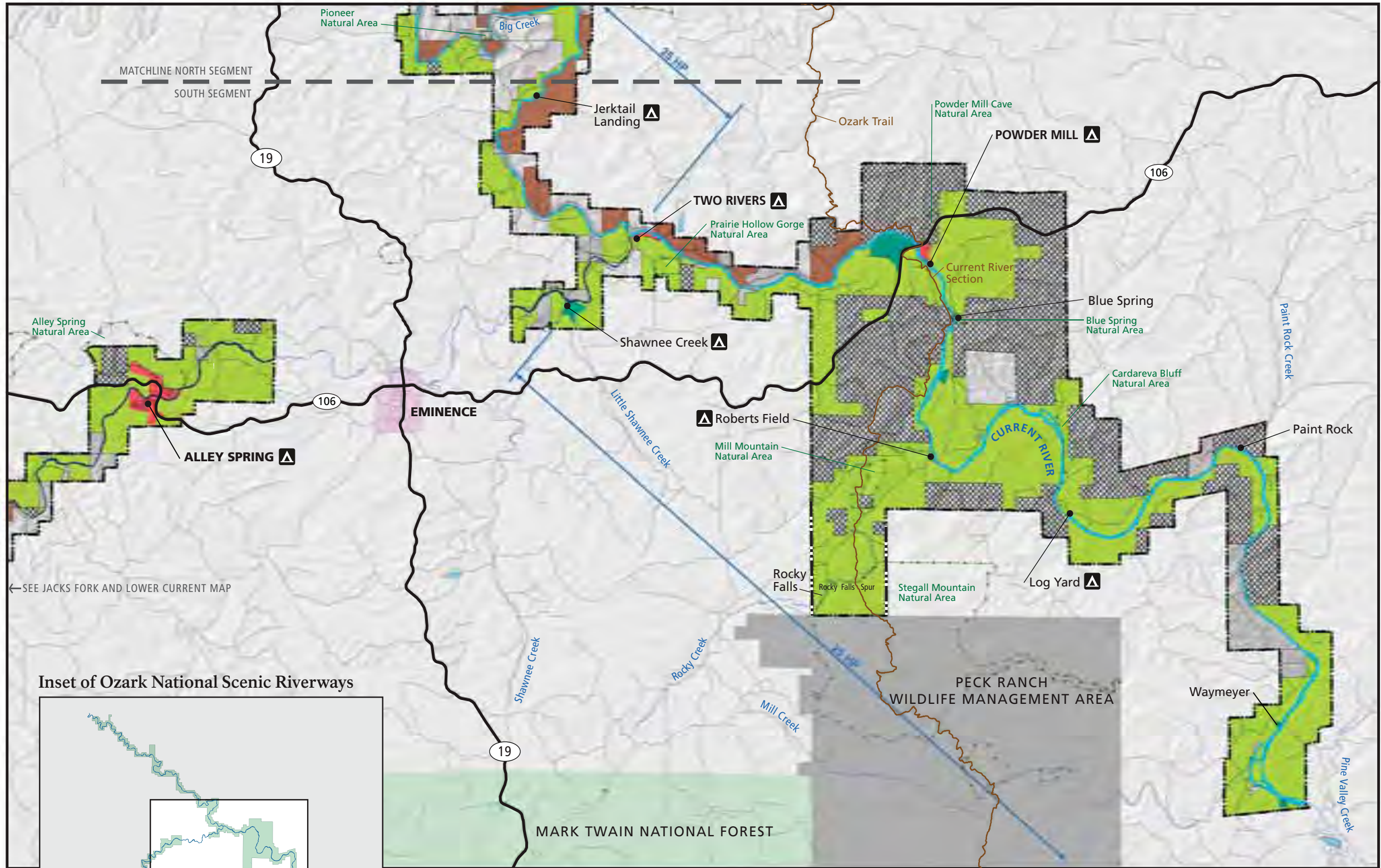


Alternative C  
Upper Current - North Segment

Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
June 2009 / DSC / 614 / 20,044A



← Open here



LEGEND

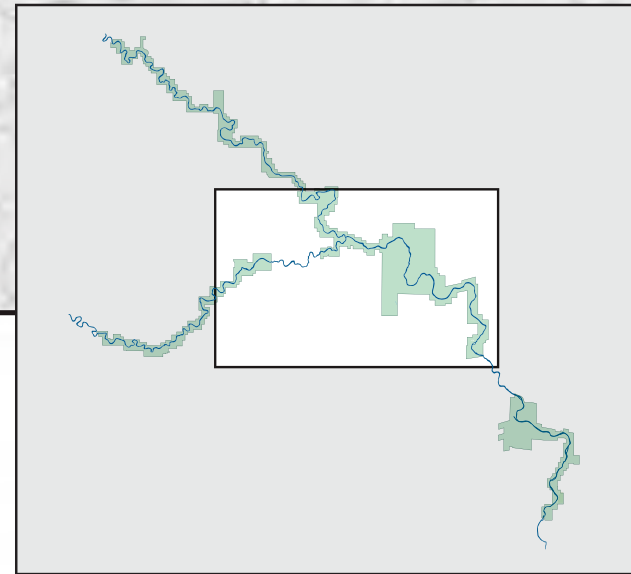
- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

Management Zones

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Rocky Creek, Current River, and Angeline (on Jacks Fork) conservation areas

Inset of Ozark National Scenic Riverways

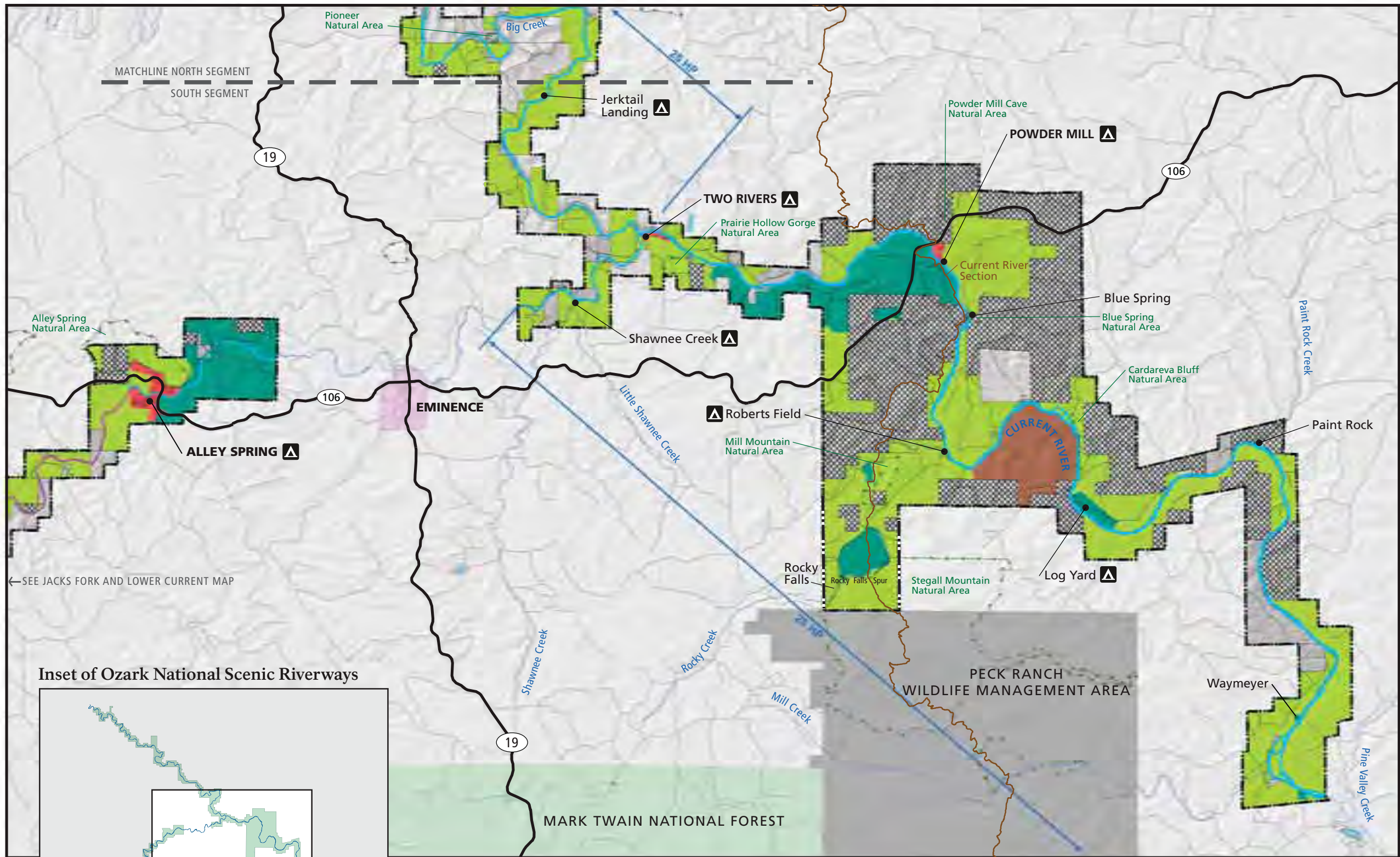


0 6,000 12,000 18,000 Feet

Alternative A  
Upper Current - South Segment

Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
Mar 2009 / DSC 614 / 20,045





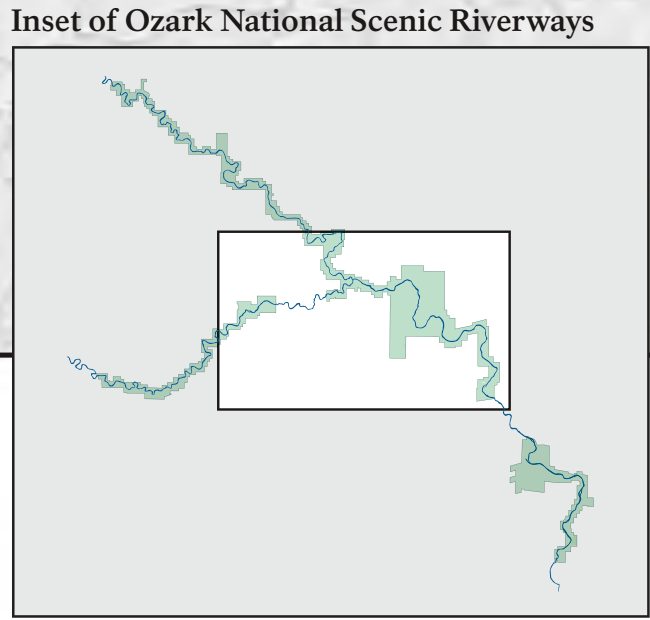
**LEGEND**

- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

**Management Zones**

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

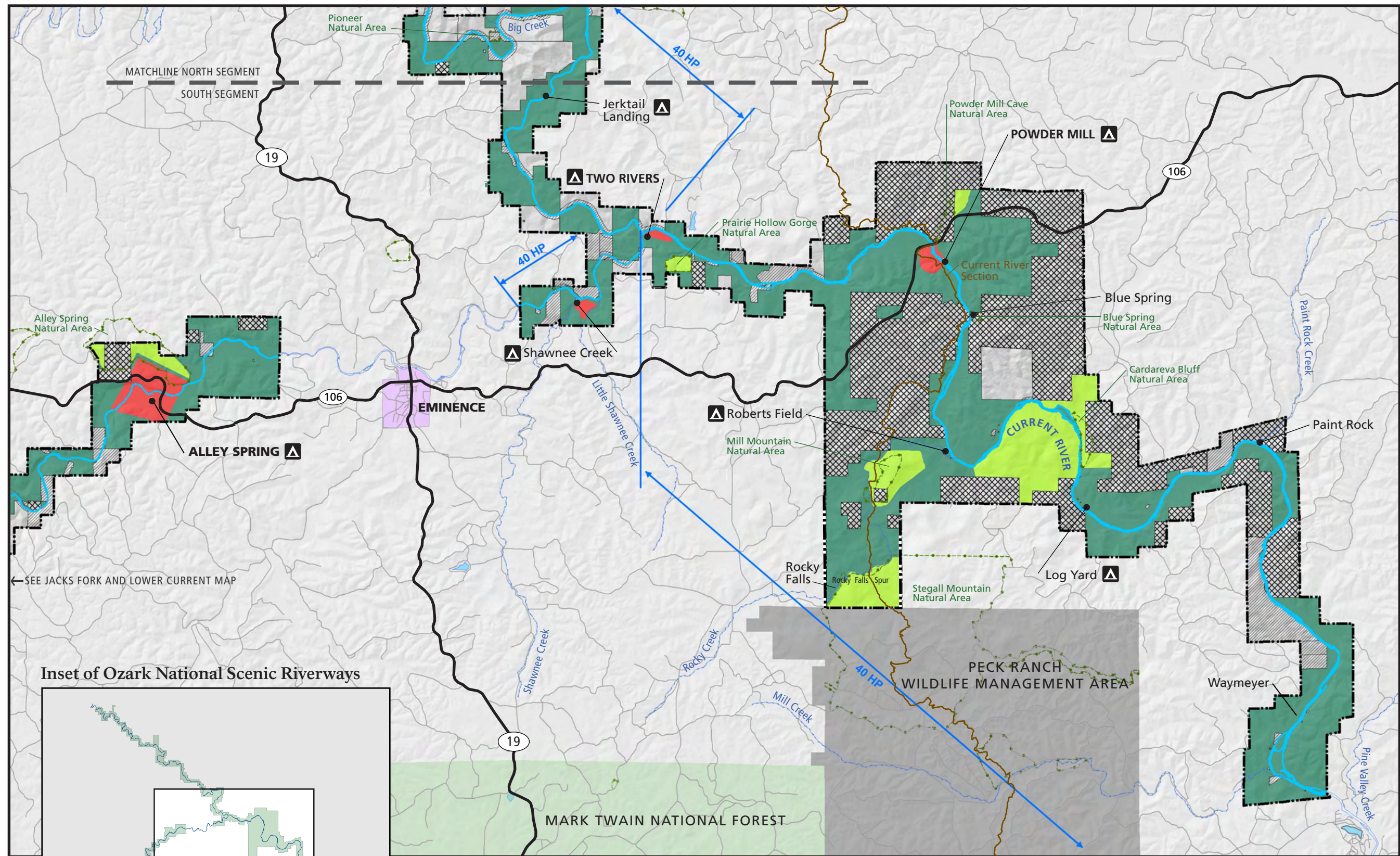
\*Includes Rocky Creek, Current River, and Angeline (on Jacks Fork) conservation areas



0 6,000 12,000 18,000 Feet

**Alternative B**  
**Upper Current - South Segment**  
Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
Mar 2009 / DSC / 614 / 20,046





LEGEND

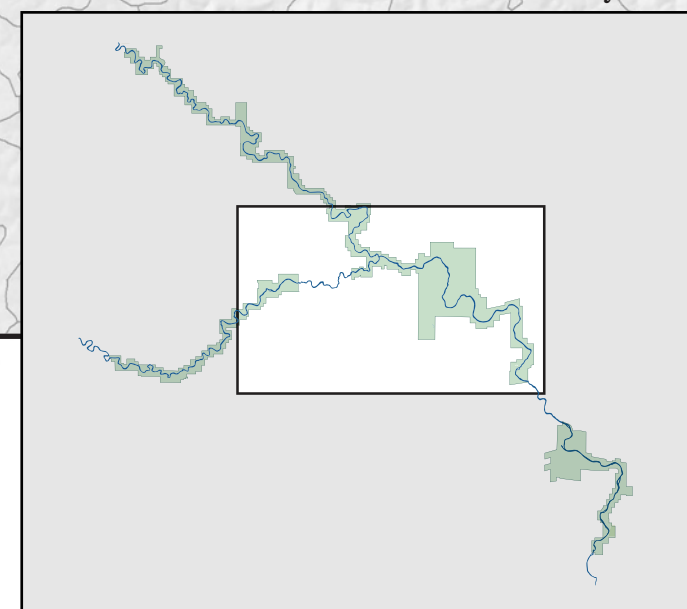
- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

Management Zones

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Rocky Creek, Current River, and Angeline (on Jacks Fork) conservation areas

Inset of Ozark National Scenic Riverways

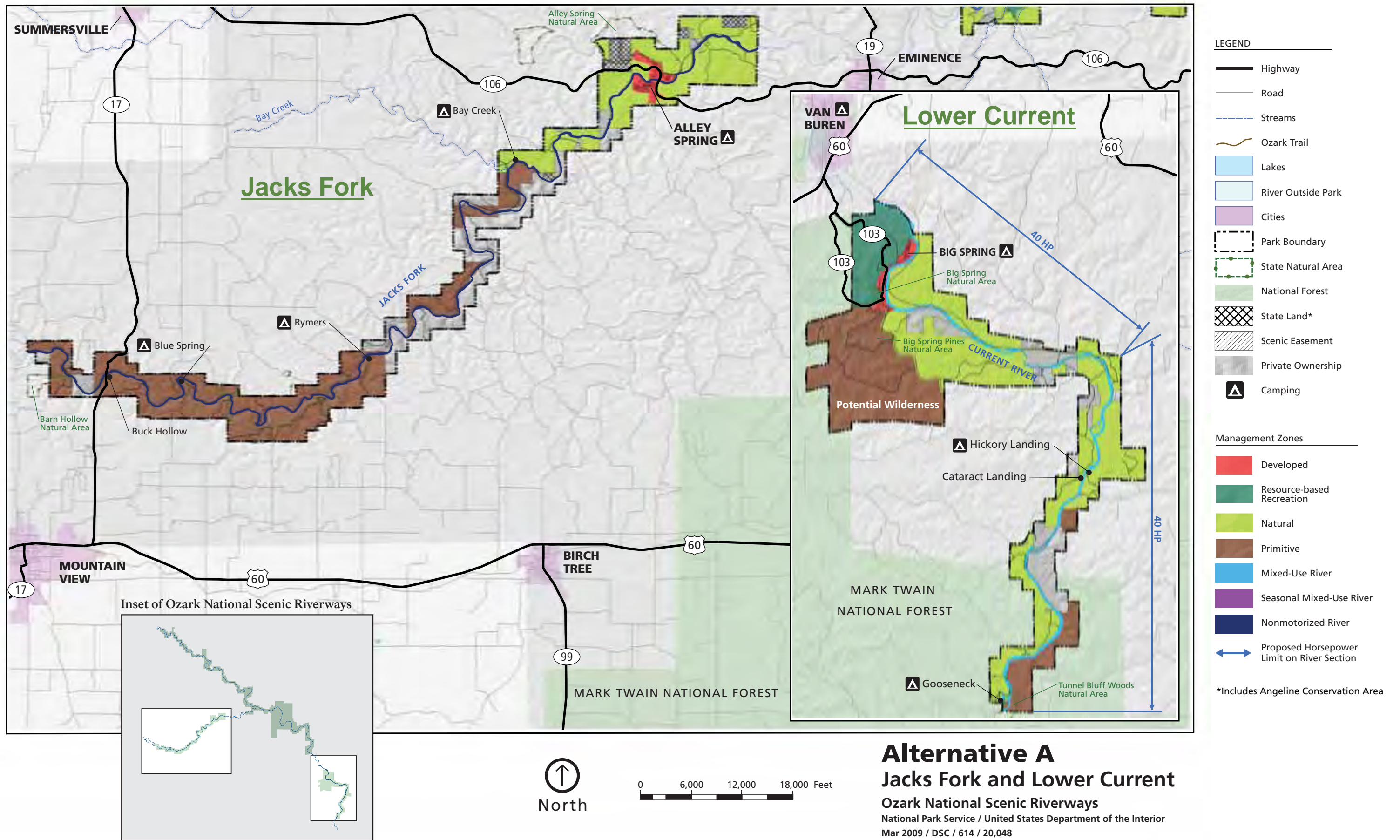


0 6,000 12,000 18,000 Feet

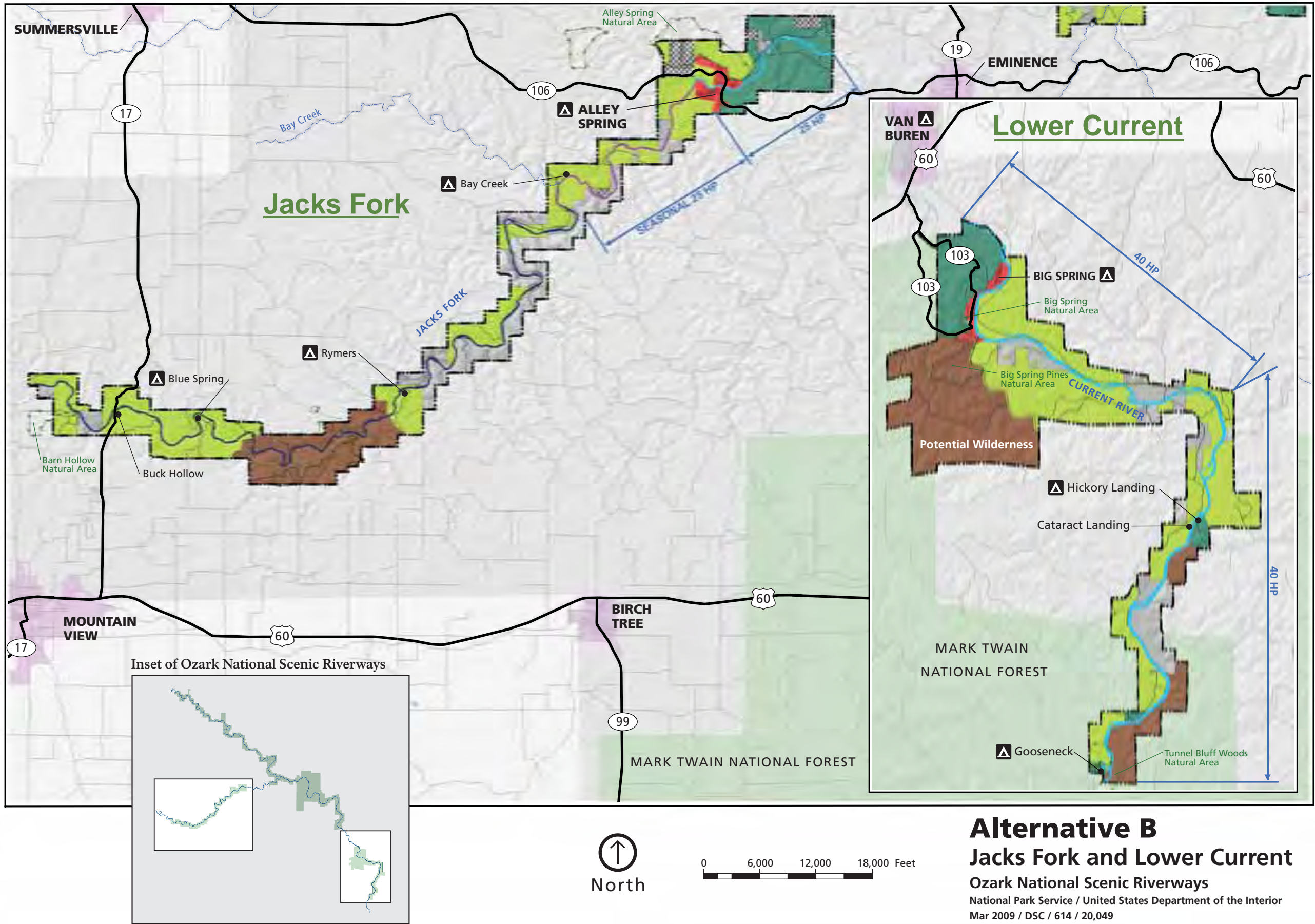
Alternative C  
Upper Current - South Segment

Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
National Park Service / United States Department of the Interior  
June 2009 / DSC / 614 / 20,047A









**LEGEND**

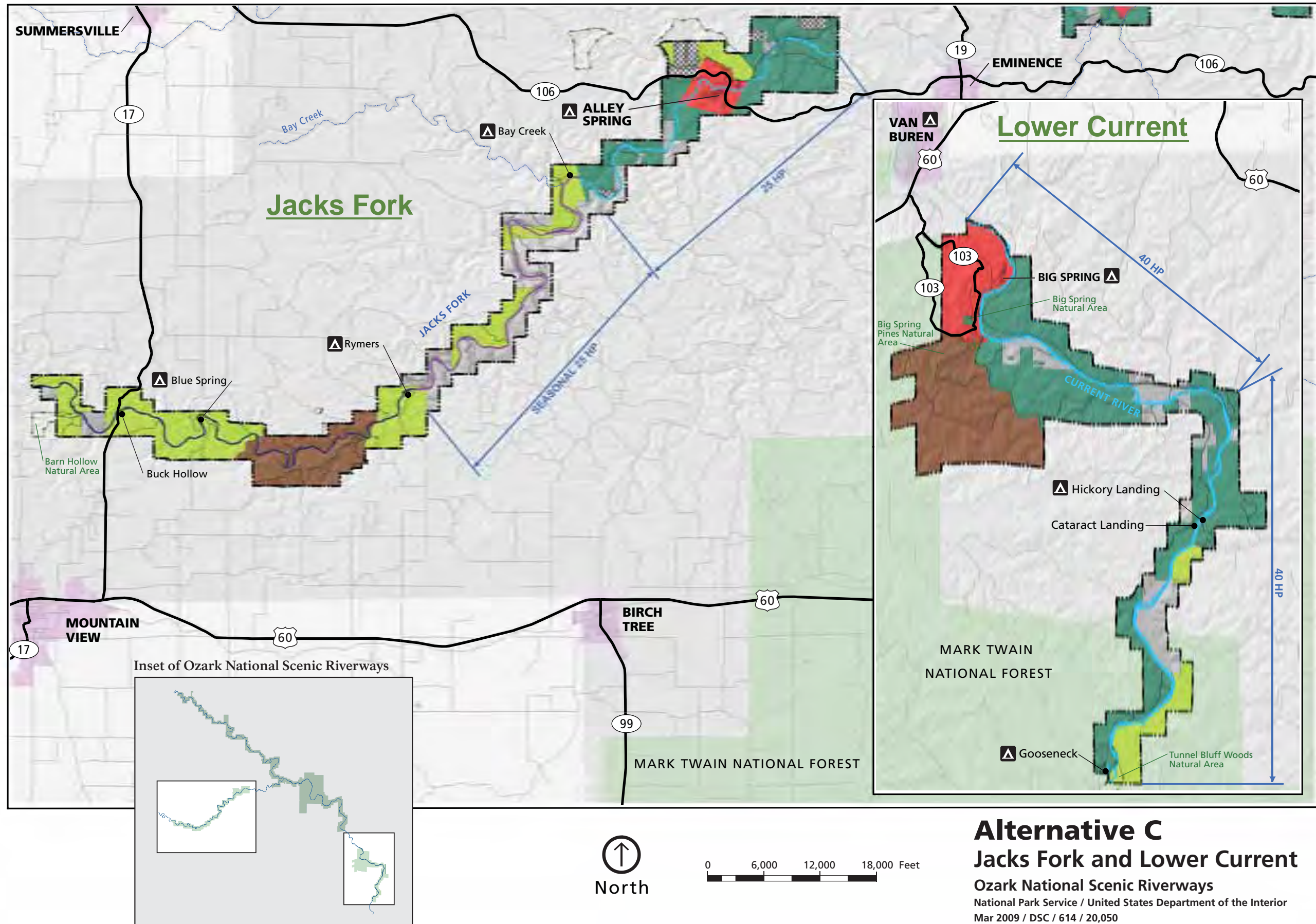
- Highway
- Road
- Streams
- Ozark Trail
- Lakes
- River Outside Park
- Cities
- Park Boundary
- State Natural Area
- National Forest
- State Land\*
- Scenic Easement
- Private Ownership
- Camping

**Management Zones**

- Developed
- Resource-based Recreation
- Natural
- Primitive
- Mixed-Use River
- Seasonal Mixed-Use River
- Nonmotorized River
- Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section

\*Includes Angeline Conservation Area





- LEGEND**
- Highway
  - Road
  - Streams
  - Ozark Trail
  - Lakes
  - River Outside Park
  - Cities
  - Park Boundary
  - State Natural Area
  - National Forest
  - State Land\*
  - Scenic Easement
  - Private Ownership
  - ▲ Camping
- Management Zones**
- Developed
  - Resource-based Recreation
  - Natural
  - Primitive
  - Mixed-Use River
  - Seasonal Mixed-Use River
  - Nonmotorized River
  - Proposed Horsepower Limit on River Section
- \*Includes Angeline Conservation Area

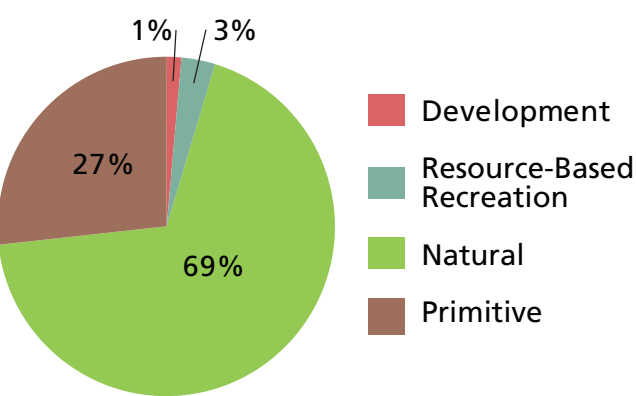


Distribution of Zones by Alternative

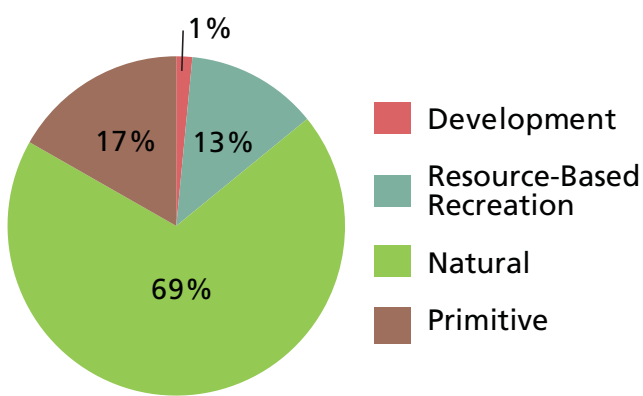
The following pie charts compare the relative distribution of the land-based and river-based zones by alternative.

Land-based Management Zones

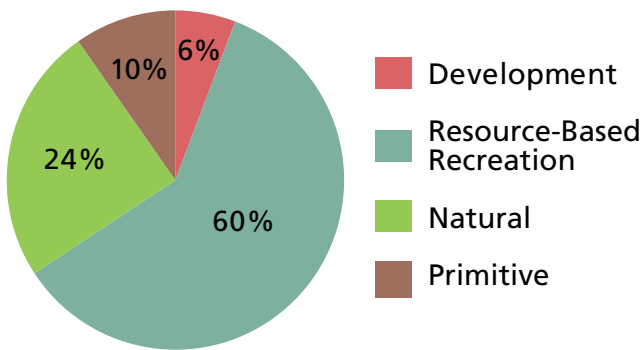
Alternative A



Alternative B

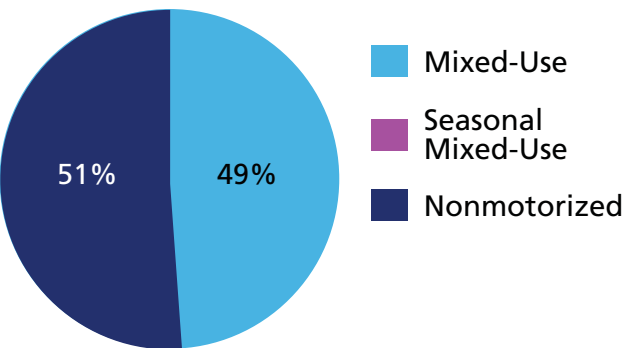


Alternative C

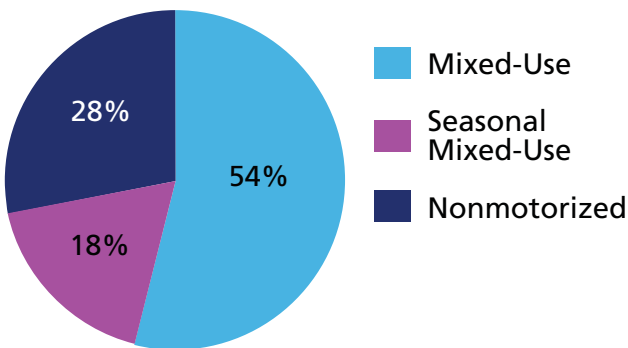


River-based Management Zones

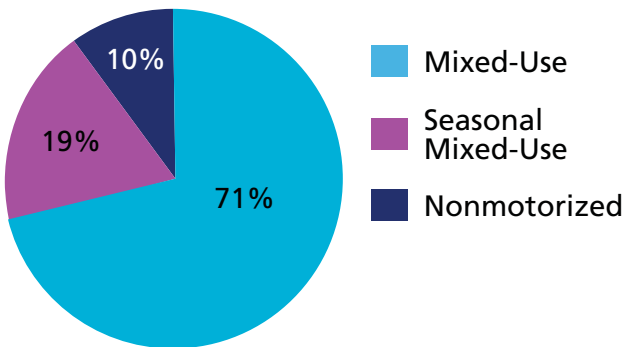
Alternative A



Alternative B



Alternative C





The Planning Process Schedule

STEP AND TIMEFRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS
1 Completed	<b>Initiate Project</b> The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project’s scope, customizes the planning process, and begins to establish contacts with participants.	
2 Completed	<b>Define Planning Context and Foundation</b> The planning team examines and reaffirms the purpose and significance of the national riverways, and determines the primary issues and concerns for the management plan. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	<i>Newsletter #1</i> , Summer 2006, solicited public comments and concerns about the national riverways’ future. Public meetings were held in Van Buren, Eminence, Poplar Bluff, Salem, and St. Louis.  <i>Newsletter #2</i> , Summer 2007, provided a summary of the public’s comments and concerns. It also described actions taken to respond to concerns about inappropriate visitor behaviors.
3 (We are here) Fall 2007 to Fall 2009	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</b> Using staff and public input from step 2 above, the planning team identifies a range of reasonable alternatives for the future of the national riverways, presents preliminary alternatives to the public, analyzes public reactions, and selects a preferred alternative.	Read this newsletter ( <i>Newsletter #3</i> ) and send us your ideas and comments. Attend public meetings to provide additional input.
4 Winter 2010 to Summer 2011	<b>Prepare and Publish the <i>Draft General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement</i></b> A draft plan will be published and distributed to the public. The draft document will describe the alternatives and their impacts.	Read the draft plan and send us your ideas and comments via mail or the Internet. Attend public meetings and the wilderness study hearing(s) to provide more input.
5 Fall 2011 to Fall 2012	<b>Revise Draft Plan and Publish the <i>Final General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement</i></b> The team will analyze public comments on the draft document, prepare responses to substantive comments, and make appropriate revisions to the draft document. The final document will then be distributed to the public	Read the final document.
6 Winter 2012 and beyond	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> A “Record of Decision” will be issued to adopt the approved management plan. The approved plan will then be implemented as funding allows. The findings of the wilderness study will be transmitted, as appropriate, to the NPS director, secretary of the interior, president, and Congress.	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan. You will have opportunities to comment on future implementation projects.



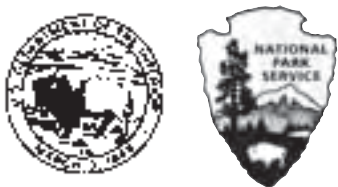


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DENVER SERVICE CENTER - VAN HUIZEN  
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY  
PO Box 25287  
DENVER CO 80225-0287

---

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PERMIT NO. G-83



**Ozark National Scenic Riverways • Missouri**  
General Management Plan / Wilderness Study  
Newsletter #3 • Spring / Summer 2009

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Thank You for Your Interest in Ozark National Scenic Riverways.**