

**Van Buren Open House**  
Ozark National Scenic Riverways  
Public Comments on Preliminary Alternatives\*  
**June 22, 2009**

**Overview**

The public comments provided below were recorded on flip charts during the Van Buren Open House, held at the Van Buren Community Center on June 22, 2009. A total of 265 people attended (signed in). At this open house the public was invited to provide their comments on the preliminary alternatives for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways General Management Plan. Here is some information to help you understand what is shown on the transcribed flip charts:

- National Park Service employees have typed up this record from the original flipchart pages, and every effort was made to type everything as originally written. We apologize in advance if any mistakes were made in transcribing these notes from the original.
- At the meetings, most flip chart comments were recorded by National Park Service staff. The name or initials of the recorder(s) is usually noted at the top of the first page.
- There were four open house stations, each one labeled for one of the alternatives—No Action Alternative; Alternative A; Alternative B; Alternative C. There were usually two flip charts at each station. (Different labeling and numbering approaches were used by the recorders to distinguish between the two sets of flipchart notes.)
- Each flip chart page was numbered. Next to the number is a letter to identify at which station the comment was recorded (and sometimes which flipchart):
  - N, NA—No Action alternative station
  - A—alternative A station
  - B—alternative B station
  - C—alternative C station
- The recorders sometimes abbreviated words. Some of the common abbreviations are:
  - HP—horsepower
  - NPS—National Park Service
  - BS—Big Spring
  - VB—Van Buren
  - LE—law enforcement
  - JF—Jacks Fork
  - TR—Two Rivers
  - RS— Round Spring

**\*Note:** *Handwritten comments that were placed in the comment boxes at the open houses have been recorded into the comment database separately.*

**VAN BUREN**  
**Ann Van Huizen**

Comments:

NA-01

- Why are there no horse trails identified in any of the plans from Akers Ferry to North Boundary?
- Recognize and authorize all trails in use from Akers Ferry to North Boundary. There is no expense because we maintain them (horse riders). Concerned about losing business. Don't want to lose trail access.
- A lot of time donated to maintain those trails.

NA-02

- Recommend that all water patrol personnel that are qualified to retire, do so. Fill vacancies with people without jobs.
- Don't think there should be HP restrictions on either river – no scientific studies on the pollution created by the outboard.
- The newer outboards are low emissions. Have passed the Alaska governing body. From Johnson-Everude E-tec.

NA-03

- Open southern edge of Van Buren Gap to Big Springs. Change to no-limit. Large boats will go down river and relieve congestion in gap on Saturdays in summer.
- The boats that moor at Big Springs are not bothered by boats coming by because river has not changed.
- Hardship on owners of 40 HP if changed to 25 HP. People will have to sell.
- Clarify where wilderness will be and that it will not include the spring.
- Don't designate wilderness at Ozark. Too limited. Can't do anything.
- HP limits would limit some people with limitations from being able to enjoy the river.
- Jack's Ford is self regulating.

- Limitations after gigging
- In fairness, should have a set of alternatives with more HP options.
- Concern people get kicked off the river. Setting it up for a few to use the river.
- Who gave Missouri's authority to NPS to regulate the river?
- Keep regulating the HP at the pump.
- Provide more boat access, esp. at Waymeyer.

NA-05

- Provide electric hook-ups at Log Yard, Owl's Bend, Two Rivers.
- Better river access and no HP regulation.
- Would like to clean up old farms and put back in legumes and grasses for wildlife for hunting.
- Bring open fields back, clean them up. Maintain old roads that provide access to fields.
- Better maintain boat ramps.
- No action plan best with unlimited HP.
- Limit number of canoes and tubes.

NA-06

- No Action – Restriction of HP above Big Spring removed like it used to be.
- NPS should better maintain river accesses – roads to the rivers. Grade more often because hauling campers and boats.
- Need bigger trash receptacles at Log Yard.
- Leave the cabins along the river alone (scenic easement).
- Remove HP restrictions.
- Unblock roads around Blue Spring and Power Mill.

- Grubbs had more camping before.

NA-07

- Need a better boat ramp at Waymeyer. Too steep and not in good condition. Not very accessible.
- Would like to see HP limitation lifted from Big Spring upstream.
- Would like to see more permanent access provided at Pin Oak. It would relieve congestion.
- Leave it like it is. In off-season eliminate HP limits.
- Would like to see more NPS visibility in high use areas and not "hiding". Be out there and visible. Get out of the bushes and out of cammo.
- Educate the floaters why the boats run in the channels.

NA-08

- Have concessioners and NPS teach floaters about how boats have to operate.
- Boaters help save canoers.
- They keep river clean.
- Need electric hookups at the Schoolyard.
- Need a concrete boat ramp into Log Yard.
- Leave like it is and open up the Gap between Big Spring to the bridge to no limits.
- Have rangers at Landing give river safety.
- Increase restrictions on concessioners (# of canoes, tubes, etc.). Also, need a tax that would fund emergency situations.

NA-09

- Want No Action and eliminate HP restriction between Big Spring and Van Buren.
- No Action – river is beautiful as is.
- Keep HP at 40 at the jet.

- Put more fines on littering.
- Canoers need a crash course on both parties that use the river.
- Every canoe, tube, raft, etc., need an identifying number.
- Want the No Action. Don't want more restrictions.

NA-10

- Landowner on river wants no more restrictions and can't understand the 700 yd. HP restriction right above Big Spring.
- Leave the HP limitation at the bottom of the jet. Things are working as is. Both rivers – Current and Jack's Ford.
- Why are motor boaters being singled out?
- 40 HP motors limit # of people. Limits performance. Churns up sand and silt.
- Keep current HP rules and remove restrictions. Still do learning centers.
- Remove the ½ mile stretch on the upper end of Big Spring.

NA-11

- Remove the HP restrictions from Round Spring to Big Spring to relieve the congestion.
- Get rid of restrictions.
- Be consistent in 4-wheel requirement and boat limits.
- Get rid of HP restriction at upper end of Big Spring. Rest – if not broken don't fix it.
- There is a 5000 acre Wildlife Refuge at Big Spring been that way for a long time. No hunting there. Don't want to open area to hunting with Wilderness designation.
- If eliminate trail rides in Shannon County, the economic impacts would be far reaching – other states and counties impacted.

NA-12

- If eliminate boats and motors, there would be a big economic impact. People would go elsewhere.

- All the boats & access areas are very important for medical rescue.
- Train canoers to know how to respond to boats. Educate them that boats have to use certain chutes.
- If go to props, there will be more damage to ecosystem and shoals. They are more dangerous because props can cut.
- Props can kill wildlife. Jets are safer for wildlife.
- Trappers will be impacted and won't be able to get to places. Issue of humane treatment to trapped animals.

NA-13

- Jet boats are the safest boat, proven by research. There's been only one fatal death by a jet boat in Missouri ever. Safest recreational vehicle according to State of Missouri, Water Patrol (Dale Counts).
- Campground on Jacks Fork called Keatons – NPS closed in 2008 and it was a primitive campground right on the river. Was only campground between Eminence and Alley. Want to be able to have access to river in this stretch.
- Want free camping in primitive campgrounds like Shawnee Creek. Used to be free.

NA-14

- We need NPS to honor all fords and the access roads to the fords. Helps for emergency access. In general want access for public and no closures.
  - Dale Counts
  - Mark Slaton
  - Shawn Counts
  - Vic Elliott
  - Mike Elliott
  - Mike Rector
- No changes to current horsepower regulations.
- More visible rangers not as much covert operations.
- All open accesses to grave sites for handicap and elderly individuals.

NA-15

- Leave boat regs as is. Doing so encourages park/river use by both local and non-local river users.
- Need more river accesses. Existing roads and crossings should not be closed.
- Consideration of visitor's investments (boats, camping gear, etc.) should have some bearing on proposed rule changes.

COMMENTS

**Van Buren**  
**G. Moss, L. Gregory, M. Towery**

NA-101

- Open 40 hp limit area between Gap & Big Spring (Reduce parking problem at Big Spring)
- Larger boats are safer than small 14ft ect boats.
- HP regulation will concentrate boats below Gooseneck and in VB Gap.
- Current HP Regulations have created concentration of larger boats in Gap Areas & below Big Spring.
- Why is there no less restrictions alternatives.
- Limit the number of tubes by putting a permit on each tube. Number to identify floaters.
- Improve boat ramps in lower current (below Big Spring) and add ramp above Waymeyer.

NA-102

- No Action – with opening 40 hp limit area from Big Spring to Gap.
- Support 'No Action' because change will put more pressure on Doniphan.
- Eliminate HP restriction between Big Spring and Van Buren – convenient for boaters and will eliminate congestion at B.S and V.B.
- Opposed to B.S Wilderness/refuge designation. NPS should explain that the Big Spring refuge is presently closed to vehicle traffic and ATV use. It is also not closed to hunting with the exception of managed hunts.
- Need a useable boat ramp up stream from Waymeyer with adequate parking. This would help separate boaters from floaters.
- Open HP restricted area between Big Spring and Van Buren...convenient for boaters and would lessen parking problems at B.S.

- HP regulations should stay as is. Change would create financial hardship on boat owners.
- Support No Change in HP regulations.
- If regulations remain as is...need stricter enforcement
- If regs remain unchanged they should be more effectively enforced.

**Van Buren – 6/22/09 SM**

A-1

- Should not be an Alt A harm Shannon, Carter, + \_\_\_\_\_ county economies. HP limits should not be imposed on the rivers. No scientific proof that boats, tubes or canoes have harmed the river ecosystem.
- The river changes yearly, and humans have nothing to do with it.
- The lack of maintenance (not cutting trees) causes environmental damage. Tons of earth & gravel go into the river when the trees fall.

A-2

- Should dredge for gravel to maintain gravel levels.
- Stopped dredging (taking care of) the river when the Park Service came in.
- Why don't families camp at Big Spring Camp anymore? Private campgrounds on river stay booked year round – because they are on the river.

A-3

- Less covert law enforcement – more visible presence. Out on the gravel bars –educating-out of the weeds.
- What evidence supports the statements on pg 1 of GMP?
- Can NPS provide scientific evidence for these statements.
- Don't think adding regs. is a solution.
- Enforce regs that currently exist.
- Upper Jacks Fork – lots of trash, disrespect for river ways, lack of law enforcement – only one ranger.

A-4

- Lack of education – build fires at base of trees.
- No place for people to put their trash – but containers won't work unless park workers are there to empty them.

- Rangers spread to thin. For examples, spot between 17 & Prongs used as a put-in regularly, no one to enforce regs.
- Pro-A for Upper Stretch. Would like to see law enforcement to enforce the primitive regs.
- Communication between NPS and Electric Comps when clearing lines on park land.

A-5

- No horses in the water. Ok on trails away from water. No water crossings. It really messes up the water. Muddy; pollutes w/waste. Disrupts uses by floaters and canoers.
- Non-motorized boats anywhere on Jacks Fork and Current.
- River conditions have gotten worse over the last 40 years because of overuse by horses and motorized boats.

A-6

- If all boats are taken out(restricted from) of areas with canoes and tubes, people in distress will have no one to rely on to rescue them.
- Horsepower should be rated at the jet. Can't afford to buy new ones and won't be able to sell the ones we have now.

**VAN BUREN**  
**M. Ruhe**

A-1

- I want everything left just like it is. As long as I can put in at Waymeyer and go up river. Camp on a gravel bar and eat a watermelon on the bank of the river.
- We need to do some work on the boat launch at Waymeyer. Hard to put in.
- Do not limit the hp on the motors whatsoever!
- 40 hp(jet) from Watercress boat ramp up river at least to Two Rivers.
- Eliminate gap at Big Spring. That would then allow any horsepower up river – to Watercress.
- Eliminate 40 hp section (btw. Big Spring and V.B. gap) this would help economy and reduce over crowding at Big Spring.
- I would rather see the 'No-Action'
- Problem with closing. NPS has given tacit approval to use the past 25-30 years. But some do need to be closed. Replace mile for mile closed traces with trails.
- Eliminate little Gap btw. Big Spring and boundary so that anything can run up to Watercress.
- Fisherman says 40 hp – whole river. Answer: go back to props.
- There are really few problems btw boaters and canoers. We can work together.
- Canoeists need better understanding of how hp and jet operated outboards work.
- No to Alt A!!! No Action or no hp limitation on ONSR at all.

A-2

- Prefer No Action – leave the hp (40 at the pump)
- Feel like motor boaters are being singled out.

- Need increased presence of MO Water patrol and LE(NPS) Ranger – would result in resolving conflicts btw motorized and non-motorized.
- Take Alt A off the consideration. It takes me and how I use the river – takes my right and my friends' rights away.
- I am a floater and a boater – I have no problems with boaters. I love that it's a hot spot. I want no restrictions on motors. Unfair that only 370 comments out of 1.8 million visitors – not a representative cross-section. For No Action.
- I would like to see more river access points (more than Two Rivers & Big Spring) No hp limits anywhere!
- No Action is the best action. Once regs start just a short step to property confiscation.
- I am a land owner(on river), a boater and a floater – regulating hp above Big Spring for 700 yds needs to be rescinded.
- Boats cause no erosion than seasonal flooding.
- Lift all hp regs.
- Support No Action
- Limit # tubes. Number the tubes (ID)

A-3

- Any further regulations is treading on our traditions/heritage. Many citizens live here in order to enjoy freedom on the river.
- No to A – modernize don't go backwards!
- 25 hp not as safe as larger boats that need 40 horse motors 17'-42" boat is more likely to turn over than a 52' with 40 horse.
- No proof that motorboats have polluted the river ways.
- No fatal boating accident in over 30 years.
- Concessions needs to mark(id) their tubes – for responsibility of actions.
- If there are boater problems – need to concentrate law enforcement in problem area.

- Get LE Rangers out in the open – a “presence” – visible!
- Education-why boaters “run channels” (Shute).
- Against Wilderness Area, a stepping stone to more regulations. By far, more local populations use river.
- I am for A. No ATVs!
- Eliminate river crossings. 7 species shell fish gone because of this.
- Gravel bars, ATVs & jeeps, 4-W drives in river now – STOP!
- Caves are being abused – Trash/fires in caves.

A-4

- If visitors have primitive access – need trash cans or education. Leave no trace.
- Stream team piled up 8 tires, 5 green bags (trash), 8 red bags(cans), a TV and a washing machine – This is trashed.
- In 20 years there will be nothing left.
- More L.E. rangers “present...”
- The more accesses the more trash, more families kept away, more vandalism.
- If primitive – “hike in” (Park outside the camp area) – No vehicle camping.
- Howell – Oregon – poor communication btw H.O. and OZARK. Drove in river cut down trees in river when line 80’ high. Cut down paropas? (pawpas) and small trees – now sliding into river.
- Prefer No Action – reason: access points and boaters on river: needed for medical purpose (emergency) i.e. boaters help others and need accesses.
- No Action – like everything as it is. Except more accesses and more campgrounds and boat ramps. (not all at one spot)
- All plans except no action, discriminate against the tax payer. Reducing our rights.
- Prefer No Action because other alternatives too restrictive

- Need more access – spread out – not so congested.
- No restrictions on hp – open gap from B.S to V.B.

A-5

- Floaters on river May-Sept (3 mos-24 day(weekend)) so why restrict residents the rest of the year??
- Tubes need identification: just as all other watercraft.
- No limits on hp – un-American. They don't limit the hp on my car.
- Ideal: hop in by boat with my family and ride up the river, picnic, talk with friends.
- Boaters all help canoes and tubes in distress and will clean up river.
- Its not the boaters.
- Leave the boaters and cowboys alone.
- Add electricity at Log Yard.
- No noise ordinance (music, vehicles, generators)
- Who wants to use those trails? I never see anyone on them – compared to river use.
- Who is wanting "interpretation" & "education"? People are not coming here for that – I don't see them. Just gives a reason for NPS to hire more people.
- I like to boat, swim, fish and 4-wheel the tram Rd.
- Wilderness area – No Way!

A-6

- From Big Spring downstream – No limits to HP. I'm fine with no inboards.
- I don't wish to see restrictions to camping on Lower Current (B.S. to Gooseneck)
- More LE Ranger presence! Too few rangers to care & protect especially in upper Jacks.
- Cave Hole (upper Jacks) a real problem – not an official park site – Expanding – Help.

- We are retirees – we would never come here to live if this river was not protected(with care & thought) – not simply limits.
- We read the big publication cover to cover – and are still confused about restriction of mechanized equipment(Trucks/ATVs/Power Boats)
- Who took care of river before park service? Local people took care of it—and still help clean trash & rescue canoers. Its “our home”
- I have helped many canoeists numerous times.
- We have few problems btw canoes and boats.
- I like to run by boat downstream from Two Rivers – few canoes there.
- I don't want Alt A – because too restrictive for what our family has enjoyed for generations.

A-7

- Local residents pick-up trash – this is our beloved home
- Uphold current laws - no water patrol and ranger presence
- Fine raised for littering/glass.
- Since there has not been any legislation amendments that created ONSR – how does a bureaucratic administration change the focus of the documented intent of the enabling legislation.
- A return to focused safe recreation opportunities, with minimal impacts. Management decisions be aligned with original intent and based on documented research and dialog.
- We need gravel removed from rivers – water level same but filling with gravel.
- IDEA – Challenge-competing interests. Memorial Day to Labor Day from Round Spring to Mantauk – (motors okay downstream) No motors. Canoeist then know that they have a choice (either a non-motorized or motorized)
- Do not like to see the Current River turned into a boat race for large boats.
- I like Alternative A

- I like natural surroundings and Keeping the natural environment
- I like to be able to camp in quiet solitude.

A-8

- Post speed limits rather than limit hp.
- Manage boats by noise level.

**VAN BUREN**

**L. Richardson**

B-1

- Would like to see the area from Big Spring boat ramp to the Gap open to all size motors.
- Crazy to have the short section from Big Spring to the Gap 40 HP only. Should be opened up to all size motors.
- In accordance with Indian Treaties, 1817 & 1819, that are still in effect, our people, Cherokee, have no restrictions on river ways.

B-2

- No horsepower limits but controlled with no wake. Keep speed under control.
- All concessions should have floater easily identified. Such as tubers – colored & numbered.
- Locals always help floaters who are in trouble, and pick-up their trash after their visit.
- Open area from bridge to Big Spring to unlimited horse power.

B-3

- Would like to see no action, as far as horse power limits.
- Would like to see the area from the bridge to Big Spring open to all horsepower motors.
- No Action as far as horsepower limits go. Would also like to see a limited number of tubes and canoes. (Lower from current numbers that concessions have). Does not like trash, drugs and nudity that comes with all the floaters.
- No Action as far as horsepower limits.

B-4

- Likes the idea of a learning center.
- Would like to see ID numbers on tubes and canoes to report complaints of ignorance and law breaking.
- Present the information on alternatives without having to worry about horsepower limits.

- Remove all horsepower limits.
- Monitor amounts of tubes and canoes because large congestion areas. Floaters need to be easily identified with numbers or colors.

B-5

- Take drugs and alcohol off river to clean it up. Enforcement of laws.
- Would like to see a more visible Law Enforcement presence on the river to deter bad behavior.
- Would like to see no action on horsepower limits. 40 at the jet and not at the head.
- Will the government provide jobs to people who lose theirs due to horsepower and boating limitations.

B-6

- Would like to see no action on horsepower, 40 HP at the jet not at the heat.
- Boaters feel that motorboats are singled out as far as negative comments, and tubers and canoers are not bothered. Feed like floaters do not have to defend anything but boaters have to.
- Feel that the area from Big Spring to the gap below Van Buren bridge should be opened to all horsepower limits.
- Jet boat operators (Current & Jacks) have the safest operation record in the State waters.

B-7

- If horsepower limits are enacted it will cause people to go back to operating props and possibly cause more injuries.
- Would like to see the old farms maintained as open fields. Cleaned up and accessible.
- River accesses maintained to easier boating access.
- Would like to see no action on current horsepower. Would like to see HP rating at the jet and not the head.

- Would like to see no action at all. Feels that the area livelihood would suffer from any proposed changes.
- Would like to see the horsepower rated at the pump and not the head. Feels that the area would go back to props and cause injuries.

B-8

- Feels that going back to a prop motor would cause more damage to ecosystem and wildlife. Not to mention the danger it would cause people.
- Would like to not have any limitations placed on rivers as to prevent any damage to all local economies.
- Leave horses and horse trails alone. Any reduction would cause an economic hardship.
- Change leash laws for horseback riders.
- Would like to see more restrooms on the rivers in outlying areas.
- Would like to have areas, such as Keatons, mowed and brought back to a manicured state and put restroom back.

B-9

- Would like to have horsepower measured at the prop and not at the head.
- Any limitation below 40 HP will cause more people to buy boats and more congestion because a 25 HP has a lower weight and people limit, causing more boats.
- Would like to see no horsepower limitation, feels it is un-American. There are no horsepower limits on vehicles. Enforce laws – not horsepower.
- Needs to be more education in the area of tubers, canoers, boaters and horse riders. Everyone should be educated and be able to enjoy the resources. How to share and co-operate.
- Would like to see the area from Big Spring to Van Buren Bridge opened up to all horsepower.

B-10

- Should not place seasonal limitations on boat operators.

- Would like to see if there is a way to limit the amount of junk (trash) people can take in canoes and tubes. Would like to see more law enforcement; who review gravel bar campers who leave litter.
- Would like to see a more visible presence of law enforcement to deter bad behavior.
- Feels that all alternatives are too restrictive. Reasons: restricting local residents for the purpose of providing tourists their 24 days of enjoyment. Local residents use the resource year round and restrictions only placed on them and not the visiting floaters.

B-11

- Need more accesses to reduce congestion.
- Would like to have all river crossings shut down. Restrict ATV & 4-wheel drive. Need more law enforcement of current regulations as far as driving in the river.
- Remove the restriction from Big Spring to Van Buren Bridge with no horsepower limit.
- Remove restriction in the off season to no horsepower limits (Oct. 1 to April 30<sup>th</sup>).
- See horsepower measured at the jet and not at the motor head.
- Have law enforcement in canoes and on gravel bars, more visible to deter bad behavior.

B-12

- Bring in more law enforcement presence during high visitation, which would cause people to take better care of resource. Such as: temporaries on weekends and holidays to float river with other visitors.
- Need more signs to designate the no swimming in boat access areas and enforcement.
- Would like to see signs (top, middle & bottom) of Mill Creek area to stop congestion of floaters who stop. Should be on an emergency basis only in easily congested area.

B-13

- Need to stop tubers from tying together in large groups.

- More handicap access for gravesites and all areas for the elderly.
- Pave the road all the way to Waymeyer and have more parking and boater access.
- Should not allow floaters to get on river if it is 4' above normal stage.
- A visible law enforcement presence. Not hiding, but visible to help or/and deter bad behavior.

B-14

- Should be high fines for littering.

**VAN BUREN**  
**C. Runge**

B1-1

- No Action between Two Rivers and Round Spring. Tubers and canoes are a lot of the income for locals. I like to drive my boat.
- No Action on HP from TR to RS. I would lose a lot of money because my boat would be worth nothing. Thousands of \$ would be lost.
- Would like the tubes & canoes to go to Jacks Ford if they have a problem with the jet boats. It is researched that jet boats are the safest type of boating. There has only been one death in the history of jet boating.
- No Action – I don't see how running our boats have hurt anything. Need to look at – there has been a lot of canoers and tubers hurt on these rivers that needed medical attention that would have never got it in time without boaters. Its been researched that there has been only one death caused by jet boats in MO.
- I feel that boats are being discriminated against by trying to take them away. I would have to buy a new boat – my boat would be worthless. If they take my boat away – I could only run in the gap where the trouble is anyway.
- No HP limits. There is no limits on the highway. It is un-American. I should be cited if I'm speeding.

B1-2

- No HP restrictions. I don't think the comments from 2006 is represented (360) of the 1.8 million users on the river ways. No actions. I would like to use the river for the same uses I always have. More Park Rangers needed. It would cut down on illegal acts. We are forced to have two access points (boats) making us go through canoers & floaters. Please give us a boat ramp with a lot of parking at Waymeyer.
- No Action on HP. Give limitations back before 1984. People came for the rivers. If you take away the taxes from boats, etc., you're taking away from the people here. The boats would be worth nothing. The boat dealers would have nothing. The river is going to the tourists.
- Park Rangers should be visible. If they were visible it would keep people from illegal acts. They should talk to people.
- Are people instructed about the rules and regulations before they go on the river. They need info BEFORE. Have rules & regs at the concessions.

- I would like to see more services at the campgrounds. Currently pay \$5.00 with nothing. Would like picnic tables, trash cans, trash service. Used to bring trash bags & have trash service at Carderera.
- The way it is now from Big Spring to Van Buren is a good idea (HP). To increase the HP would be dangerous scenario for floaters. There would be too many boats.
- No Action on HP; leave at 40 at pump. No change development. The river is beautiful as it is.
- No HP limit at all. They highway patrol does not tell me motor size. The park should not tell me the size of motor as well. There should be no HP limits from Big Spring to Van Buren Gap.

B1-3

- There should be no HP from Big Spring on up the river. A 40 HP will not move several people in a boat up the river well.
- No HP change, changing the HP limitations would cause a hardship to local families and economy if their boats became illegal. They will not be in high demand and could not resell because of the decreasing demand due to visitors.
- "DITTO".
- Increase the littering fines by 1000%. It is #1 resource concern.
- If HP is changed the Gap areas in Van Buren & Eminence will be more congested. It would be dangerous. There would be more littering. The resource damage would affect the park.
- Allow more access points for boats, possibly above & below major canoe/tube areas, i.e., Waymeyer to Big Spring. This would encourage boat users to recreate outside canoe & tube use areas without further restrictions on HP limits.
- No horses anywhere except on trails away from natural water sources. Personally experienced muddy, poopy, dirty, smelly water on Jacks Fork south of horse camp. Jacks Fork is so beautiful in its natural state to pollute with horses. They should go somewhere else to ride horses then people (only) come to river. I don't like the idea that all the mess is coming down the river.

- There should be no motorized boating/recreation at all on the river. They pollute the river. They are loud, they're stinky. They disrupt people floating down the river. They about blow you away sometimes.

B1-4

- Against litter. Strictly enforced laws & regs. Have only seen littering enforced at Van Buren; have to pick up trash when go to enjoy river.
- More policing of the rivers. Because of the trash, glass, rude and drunk boaters.
- For Jacks Fork would like to enforce the river crossings restrictions. More Rangers on rivers. More policing on rivers. I live on river. It is trashed. Minors partying. Drunk drivers getting stuck I rivers. I live across from Ratliffe Hole on Jacks Fork. Would like Cave Hole down or at least enforce rules/laws there. There is graffiti there, drug use. They knock down restrictive poles and drive in river. We have had two thefts & one window busted in cabin. Need preservation in area. There is a federally protected cave there, they jump from it. Would like to see as walk-in only or hike only. Needs signs near caves to educate visitors on cave preservations. Fires being started in caves. More conservation & education.
- The tubes and canoes have more pollution of the river. Lack of control over the stuff they take. Most of the times the boaters pick up the floating trash. Boaters rescue people who get in root wads.
- Tubes need identification numbers or stickers. No way to identify if needs help or is doing illegal activities.
- Why is tube rentals exempt from sales tax? Because they make the most impact on the water but pay no sales tax. Single largest revenue for local economy.

B1-5

- No HP limits. There is not a problem with the current HP. NPS need to do an impact study before reductions. Lowering HP limits increase the boats on the river.

**VAN BUREN 06/22/09**  
**ALT C - Jim Price, Kim Houf**

C-1

- The Irish Wilderness on the Mark Twain Nat'l Forest management is too restrictive. (i.e. could not adequately enforce eradication efforts on feral hogs.)
- Against the 40 hp from Big Spring to Southern boundary because it limits/eliminates folks coming from Doniphan. Many do not have 40 hp motors.
- Van Buren citizens also do not have 40 hp (those that do go down river to areas where there are less tourists)
- All non-motorized (concession rented) water vessels need to be identified/identifiable with a number or color.

C-2

- Would like to see 40 hp or less from Log Yard to Big Spring. Motorized boats(big motors) have made floating less enjoyable.
- To reduce current horse power from current regulations, would prohibit the elderly, disabled from being able to get on the river. (i.e. wouldn't be able to accommodate family without the use of a motorized boat with current horse power)
- Keep the hp the same because if you have a family of 4 or 5 you can't get them to the gravel bar without making multiple trips-increasing boat traffic.

C-3

- Put numbers on tubes and canoes to make formal complaints.
- If you drop the boat hp and you are a long way from your take out, how long would it take you to get back with a lower hp. (i.e. emergency situation)
- Don't drop the hpj-No Action- keep current regulations.
- Limit the number of tubers and canoes.
- No action of hp (don't reduce)

C-4

- The majority of trash, intoxication, lewd behavior, noise, comes from floaters, not boaters.
- No restriction on hp from Round Springs on down river.
- Need to be able to identify tubes and canoes (including concession)
- Restrict the number of tubes concessioners can put in daily.
- More boaters will go to Doniphan or wherever there is no boat hp restriction – causing more congestion at these areas.

C-5

- Supports the No Action Alternative because:
- Eliminate the 40 hp restriction from the 'South edge of Van Buren gap to Big Spring' – this would help reduce congested boat parking at Big Spring. Will help Van Buren economy by using boat launch in town.
- Pleased with variety of current recreation use we offer.
- We want the tourists to come and enjoy the river but we (locals) don't want to be pushed to the side.

C-6

- If you drop below 40 hp you will move more slowly and create more wake with the boat, you can't get your family, cooler, etc up river.
- Do more education to tubers and canoeist about right-of-way respect (this includes boaters too.) Advocate for the law enforcement working the river.(Visibility is good)
- Keep the 40 hp at jet/output shaft; if at the power head it will not have enough hp for needed recreation use.

C-7

- If your motor is less than 40 hp my brother and I can't even go fishing (won't get us up river).
- Reduced hp may impair boat rescues.
- The bigger the motor the less waves you have – less damage to the river.

- Supports 'No Change' to current regulations because if you have too big of motors up river it will/could cause problems (too much hp for a small area of water)
- Feels that 90% of trash comes from tubers/canoers (i.e. beer cans)

C-8

- If I reduce to a 40 hp I can't take(won't) my 5 family members up river. Runs a 115 h & rated 85hp at the jet; this is perfect for my family. Supports the 'No Action' Alternative. (has drug his boat at times with it being an 85hp at the jet)
- Supports no alcohol on the rivers – this would reduce trash.
- Do not agree with Alternative C; leave as is – no change.
- Doesn't agree with Alternative C.
- Rate the 40 hp at the pump and not at the power head.

C-9

- No changes on the river; it is beautiful as it is.
- The 40 hp at the jet.
- Supports the 'No Action' Alternative.
- If we reduce 40 hp form Big Spring on South, it will force more people to put in at Doniphan which is already congested/crowded.
- Smaller hp engine causes more damage to river bank.
- Jet boats are the safest boat in the State of MO. There is only one death for MO related to a jet boat – that was on the Meramac River.

C-10

- If you impose more hp restriction its going to cause boaters to congest to certain put-ins.
- There is no data that supports that a 25 hp is safer to operate or eco-friendlier than any other hp. (so why limit?)

- No need for new government programs (ranger led programs, hunter safety courses) it's a waste of money. We're trying to cut back on gov't programs. (No need to increase staff).
- Don't agree with bringing more park rangers – bigger gov't is not what we need.

C-11

- The boat 40 hp restriction located at Big Springs to 700-800 yard up river should be abolished.
- Jet boats are not dangerous to tubers.
- I don't want to increase law enforcement. They need to be more visual and not in the weeds.
- Keep the 40 hp measured at the jet.
- Lift all hp regulations. I think its un-American to be able to limit me on the river or highway.

C-12

- No more new boat accesses particularly at Waymeyer.
- Feels that there are too many boats currently on the river.
- I want to see more alternatives. Current alternatives are too restrictive.
- I want no restrictions.
- Comment cards are leading (they try to get me to say what you want to hear.)
- Reduce the amount of tubes and canoes.

C-13

- No more hp restrictions from Van Buren Bridge on South.
- Hp restrictions are the devil... Larger hp has more control with more power(safer).
- The highway patrol does not tell you what size of an engine you can have; why should the park service tell us what size motor on our boats.

- There should be a time schedule as to how canoes and tubes are put on the river per hour. Too crowded.
- Higher profile on river patrol instead of in the bushes.

C-14

- Eliminate the 40 hp from Big Spring and Granite Quarry.
- Eliminate the "Natural" Mgmt. Zone south of Cataract Landing because it does not allow camping on gravel bars.
- Impose the same blood alcohol content to floaters (tubers and canoers) as you do with boaters.
- Not in favor Wilderness area because too restrictive. Implement a management plan for that specific area with your goals and objectives for that specific area.

C-15

- Does not support Alternative C because too many restrictions. Needs to be modern for more boat landings, open up gravel bars, no hp restrictions.
- Boat hp – unrestricted.
- Boat launch area moved from Waymeyer to Pin Oak.
- The park service should address the public and discuss the proposed alternatives.

C-16

- Concessioners or NPS need to be on the river making sure things are not getting out of control. (nudity, lewd behavior, public drunkenness, emergency services, littering, etc.) Promote more family-friendly activities/behavior.
- More law enforcement visibility, no hiding in the bushes.
- NPS needs to remove rootwads or dangerous obstacles to make it more safe.

C-17

- No Action because this has the best offer for everyone-no one group is singled out or restricted.

- No Action. The tubes and canoes need to be identified by a number, etc. So they can be identified for problem resolutions.
- All alternatives are too restrictive. They restrict local residents all year long, but only 24 days for tourists.
- More boat accesses to reduce congestion.

C-18

- HP needs to be rated at the prop.
- The gap from Big Springs to Van Buren needs to be lifted.
- The NPS needs to enforce current laws/regulations better. (i.e. river crossings need to be shut down, no illegal ATVs, federally protected caves better protected. There should be restricted areas where boats shouldn't be allowed – Upper Jacks Fork is too shallow and boats get stuck.
- More primitive hiking and camping areas.

C-19

- Canoe and tube concessions are commercial businesses, boats are family recreation; each should be equally restricted.
- Highly erodible roads and river crossings that are closed should also be stabilized.
- Tubes should have some identifiable tag/sticker (i.e. number, color, etc.)
- Do not feel there should be an hp change below Big Spring. Does not understand the rationale behind the restriction.

C-20

- I would like to be able to salvage down or blown over or damaged trees.
- Don't support the 25 hp restriction above Waymeyer. If this did happen it would cause more congestion between Waymeyer and the bridge, where the tubers/canoers are.
- Do not support any changes to the current hp regulations because it will cause a hardship on people in this area as we won't be able to use them or sell them.
- Supports hp being rated at the jet.

C-21

- Supports 'No Action'. Would like to leave hp restrictions as they currently are.
- Restrict ATV/dirt bikes use because they devastate the natural vegetation/environment. (i.e. water pollution)
- Unnecessary river crossings by 4x4 vehicles have caused damage to water pools below. Vehicles getting stuck in River with vehicle running.
- Floaters broke into personal property.

C-22

- Increase education regarding trash/littering.
- Higher fines for littering
- More NPS visibility on patrol, etc. No hiding in bushes. More accessible or a 'friendly' presence
- Should be able to camp on all gravel bars (does not agree with 'Natural' Mgmt Zone)
- Keep access points, roads, and trails open.
- No further limitations on hp.
- Remove the gravel and will allow wildlife habitat that used to be here.

C-23

- Allow for season-long cultural demonstrations at several locations like Blue Spring, Round Spring, Shawnee Creek, Two Rivers. – Blacksmithing, lye soap, different types of woodworking(turkey calls, paddle making, basket making)
- Provide more resources for recreationists- Bathrooms, horse trails, hitching posts, amenities for primitive camp sites.
- Have NPS staff in canoes and motorboats providing information and help to tourists & locals alike. "How far are we from...." "What are the rules?" "What Where can we camp, stay?"

- The tourist industry here generates money & jobs for local economy.