Ozark National Scenic Riverways

404 Watercress Dr.

P.O. Box 490

Van Buren, MO 63965

RE: Comments on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Draft General Management Plan (GMP)

Dear Superintendent:

I’m writing to share my comments on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Draft General Management Plan (GMP).

I prefer Alternative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as outlined in the Draft General Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

Specifically, my experience in the Riverways in the following recreational uses:

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These uses are important to me because:

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In addition, I appreciate the conservation and preservation functions of the National Park because:

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The primary area(s) I use are:

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The ‘No Action’ alternative is unacceptable to me because it fails to address the need for more enforcement of existing laws and standards, to better manage overcrowding, and to improve communication and partnership with local landowners and communities. Further, it fails to address these critical problems in the Riverways:

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The Ozark National Scenic Riverways (‘Riverways’), established on August 17, 1964, encompasses 134 miles of the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers. The Riverways’ enabling act has three stated purposes: preservation, conservation, and recreation. As Missouri’s largest National Park, it showcases several world-class freshwater springs, caves, and bluffs that are home to fish, birds, rare and endangered native amphibians, crawfish, and plants. It is a testament to Missouri’s commitment to conservation that the Riverways is a National Park and was the nation’s first National River.

The Current River and Jacks Fork are prime recreational waters in a stunning natural karst area that attracts approximately 1.5 million visitors each year. A 2011 study estimated visitor spending at more than $55 million with nearly 90 percent of spending from non-local visitors. As a unit of the National Park System, management of the Riverways must ensure protection of the Park’s resources in an unimpaired condition for public recreation, education, and scientific value. Among its tasks is sustaining and restoring bio-diversity for the next generation.

The management of ONSR—in terms of resource preservation, sustainable use management, and restoration of natural ecosystems—should rival that of our nation’s most pristine and unique public lands.

Yours truly,

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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