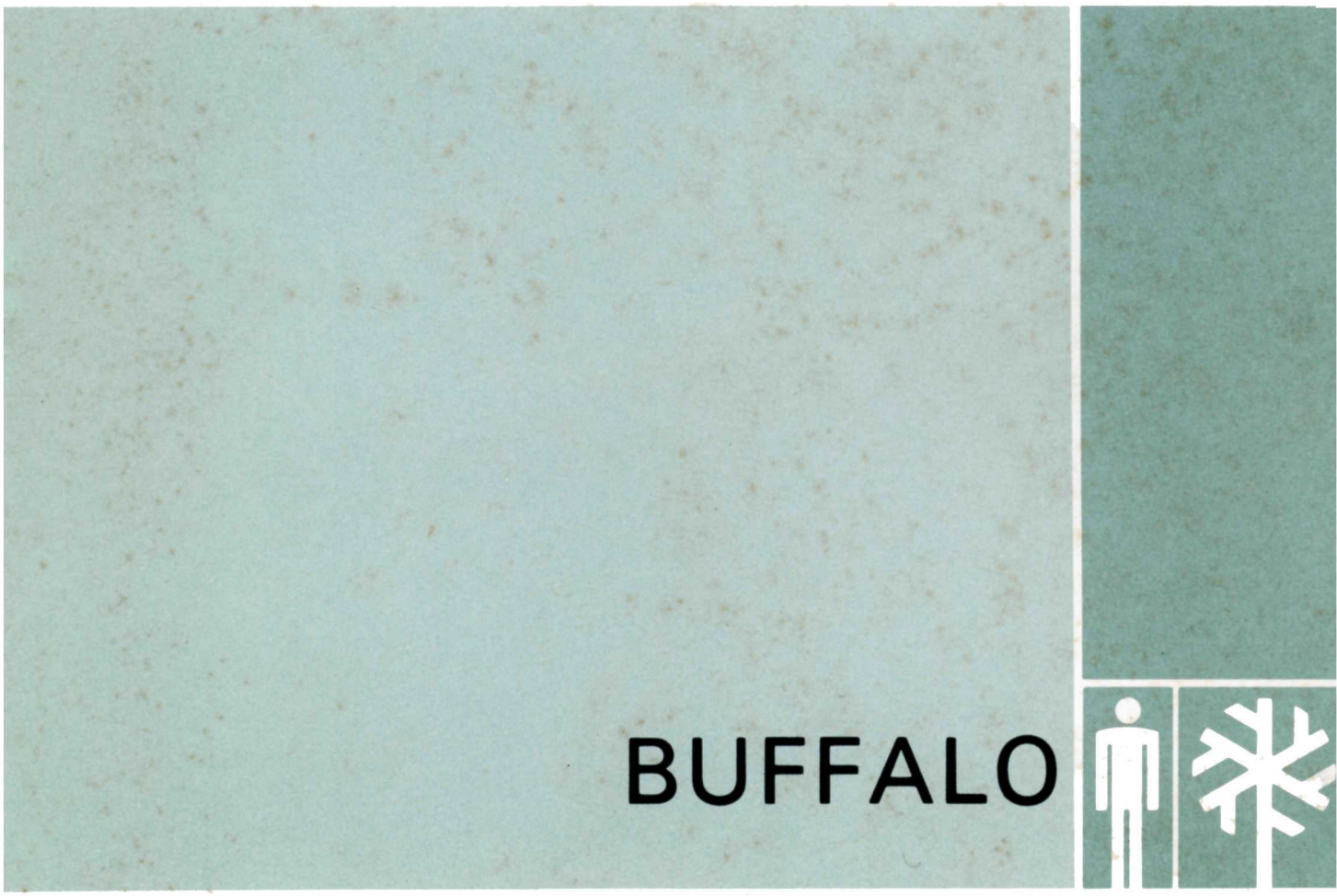
draft environmental statement

wilderness recommendation

DES 77-20



BUFFALO

NATIONAL RIVER / ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

DES 77-20

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

ARKANSAS

Prepared by

Denver Service Center
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

John E Cook

Regional Director, Southwest Region

SUMMARY

(X) Draft ( ) Final Environmental Statement
Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southwest Region

1. Type of action: ( ) Administrative (X) Legislative
2. Brief description of action: Congressional designation of 10,529 acres of federal land within the authorized boundary of the Buffalo National River as wilderness; and 25,471 acres of nonfederal lands, or which have nonfederal interests therein, as potential wilderness additions. The proposal involves three separate units and aggregating 36,000 acres.
3. Summary of environmental impact and adverse environmental effects: Wilderness designation would assure continued preservation of primitive values, while prohibiting construction of extensive recreational and other nonconforming facilities within the three units. Such designation may attract additional visitors to the national river, possibly precipitating limitations on use. Motorized vehicles would be excluded from all three units; motorized watercraft would be excluded from the Upper Buffalo and Ponca units, while the river itself has been excluded in the Lower Buffalo unit to permit continued, traditional use of powered craft there. Configuration of the Lower Buffalo unit would preclude development of two, once-planned access points.
4. Alternatives:

   A. Two potential wilderness units--Ponca and Lower Buffalo.
   B. Potential wilderness units retaining primitive access roads, and addition of a third unit.
   C. Maximum potential wilderness--three units.
   D. Maximum Ponca and Upper Buffalo potential wilderness.
   E. Ponca and Upper Buffalo potential wilderness/no Lower Buffalo potential wilderness.
   F. Instant wilderness with potential wilderness additions.
   G. No wilderness.

5. Comments have been requested from the following (see attached list):
6. Date draft statement made available to CEQ and the public:

JUN 29 1977

5. Comments have been requested from the following:

Federal agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
    Forest Service
    Soil Conservation Service
Department of Defense
    Department of the Army
        Corps of Engineers
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
    Bureau of Indian Affairs
    Bureau of Land Management
    Bureau of Mines
    Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
    Bureau of Reclamation
    Fish and Wildlife Service
    Geological Survey
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Power Commission

State of Arkansas

Clearinghouse
    Historic Preservation Officer

Other

Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District
Interested Organizations and Individuals

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I. Description of the Proposal

A. Type of Action

The final master plan (1975) and final environmental impact statement (FES 75-74) for the Buffalo National River designate three "primitive experience zones." These areas were evaluated for wilderness potential pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964 through a Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment (1974). Public response to the assessment was solicited. As a result of analysis of the public's response and further consideration of management needs, three areas are recommended (Wilderness Recommendation 1975) for wilderness designation (see Wilderness Plan map).

In the Upper Buffalo River area 840 acres are recommended for designation as wilderness and 1,360 acres as potential wilderness additions. This unit adjoins the 9,400-acre Ozark National Forest Upper Buffalo Wilderness. In the Ponca area 4,382 acres are recommended for designation as wilderness and 6,918 acres as potential wilderness additions. In the Lower Buffalo area 5,307 acres are recommended for designation as wilderness and 17,193 acres as potential wilderness additions. Traditionally, johnboats with motors have been used to fish the lower portion of the Buffalo River. It is felt that the use of motors on johnboats is a convenience to those who desire motorized access for fishing, but is not necessary for public enjoyment of the proposed wilderness. It is therefore recommended that motorized recreational use of this part of the river continue, but that the river not be designated as wilderness.

Those portions of the Buffalo River flowing through the Upper Buffalo and Ponca units are included within the respective wilderness units.

A large portion of the lands in the proposed wilderness units within the Buffalo National River are in nonfederal ownership or have nonfederal interests therein. Some of the lands will be subject to use and occupancy rights. A minimum of 25 years will be required before all nonfederal rights and nonconforming uses have expired. Therefore, 10,529 acres of federal land are recommended for immediate wilderness designation and 25,471 acres are recommended as potential wilderness additions. It is recommended that the potential wilderness additions be designated as wilderness by Congress, to be effective upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the

Secretary of the Interior that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased.

The purpose of the proposed wilderness designation is to preserve and restore natural environments and to offer primitive, backcountry experience zones for visitors to the national river.

B. Legislative Background and Legislative Constraints on Planning

Buffalo National River is 148 miles long and flows through four counties in northern Arkansas (Baxter, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties) (see Ozark Region map). The national river contains approximately 90 percent of the total length of the Buffalo River. The remaining 16 miles including the headwaters are located within the Ozark National Forest. The National Park Service determined that the Buffalo River was of national significance in 1963, and soon thereafter the Secretary of the Interior approved the recommendation of his Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments to preserve the Buffalo as a national river.

The national river was authorized by an Act of Congress (Public Law 92-237, 86 Stat. 44) on March 1, 1972. Among other provisions, Section 6 of the act specifies that:

> "Within three years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review the area within the boundaries of the national river and shall report to the President, in accordance with subsections 3(c) and 3(d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c) and (d), his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the national river for preservation as a wilderness, and any designation of any such area as wilderness, shall be accomplished in accordance with said subsections of the Wilderness Act."

C. Factors Affecting Wilderness Suitability for Buffalo National River

1. Land Status

The act establishing Buffalo National River (see appendix A) provided in part that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to acquire lands and waters within the national river boundaries by donation, purchase or exchange, except that lands owned by the state of

Arkansas or a political subdivision may be acquired only by donation (see Land Status map).

Except for property that the Secretary determines is necessary for any purposes of administration, development, access or public use, an owner of any improved property that is solely for noncommercial residential purposes, or any lands used solely for but not limited to grazing, may retain as a condition of the acquisition a right of use and occupancy for residential or agricultural purposes. The term of the right retained shall expire upon the death of the owner or death of his spouse, whichever occurs later, or in lieu thereof, after a definite term that shall not exceed 25 years after the date of acquisition.

Certain lands in the Boxley Valley area (Upper Buffalo) and the Richland area, as well as the Boy Scouts' Camp Orr, were indicated as private-use zones in the proposal presented to Congress to establish Buffalo National River. These lands, also indicated in the master plan, will remain in private ownership subject to scenic controls and necessary rights-of-way for roads and trails and so long as water and air pollution do not increase (see Zoning Plan map).

2. Hunting

The act establishing Buffalo National River provided for hunting on the lands within the national river. Hunting is permitted away from developed areas and during regularly established seasons in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations.

3. Condition of the Land

Historically, the Buffalo River valley was settled by homesteaders in the early 1800s. These early settlers cleared the bottomlands for crop production and livestock grazing. Homesteading continued until all available lands were settled. Marginal agricultural lands, as well as accessible forested tracts, were converted to timber production. Zinc and lead were discovered and mined at almost 100 sites throughout the valley, peaking between 1914 and 1917. There is no current mining or mineral exploration activity in the Buffalo River valley. The last mining of any consequence occurred in the Rush district in 1962. Operations ceased in 1963.

Currently, farming within the Buffalo River valley is minimal, and pasturage is the principal

agricultural use. Logging activities have also decreased markedly since the 1960s.

Establishment of the Buffalo National River will assure that restoration of the lands along the river will continue. Regulation and/or elimination of agricultural practices, logging, and mining will allow second-growth forested areas to develop into native oak-hickory climax communities. Bottomlands previously utilized for grazing will return to native grasses, shrubs, and trees. Pollution and development of the river ecosystem will also be lessened significantly or eliminated completely.

4. Master Plan for Buffalo National River

The master plan for Buffalo National River classifies the land within the national river for various uses to ensure preservation of the basic resources, to provide areas for public facility development, to guide private uses, and to provide "threshold" lands between those areas to be developed intensively and those to remain primitive (see Plan for Visitor Use map).

To provide a general structure for planning and development, river lands have been classified in accordance with a system similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and prescribed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for application to federal lands (see appendix B). Buffalo River contains five of the six classes of land: Class I, high density recreation areas--none; Class II, general outdoor recreation areas; Class III, natural environment areas; Class IV, outstanding natural areas; Class V, primitive areas; and Class VI, historic and cultural areas (see Land Classification Plan map).

Using this system as a framework, the area's resources have been divided into several conceptual categories, each providing for a specific type of development and use, while at the same time remaining closely associated with the others. The concept for dividing the national river into various broad land classes is to assure the visitor a variety of experiences as he passes through the different environments--primitive, recreational, and natural (see Concept for Land Classification map). This concept envisions a further breakdown of the usual land classification, dividing the natural environment zone (Class III) into natural and pastoral, thus relating to the acquisition zoning plan. The natural is to revert to normal succession of growth, while

the pastoral is to be perpetuated. The pastoral can then be acquired on an easement basis, or leased to maintain this scene.

5. Study Areas (see Wilderness Study Areas map).

The entire area lying within Buffalo National River was studied for its suitability for preservation as wilderness. A considerable portion of the national river does not lend itself to wilderness management because of its narrow configuration and incompatible uses as provided for in the act establishing Buffalo National River and by the master plan. These lands were therefore found unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The master plan for Buffalo National River indicates three areas--the Lower Buffalo area, the Upper Buffalo area, and the Ponca area--as primitive zones. A study of these areas for possible wilderness designation resulted in several alternative proposals that are contained in the alternatives section of this report.

D. Interrelationships with Other Projects or Proposals

A master plan and related environmental impact statement have been completed for Buffalo National River. This impact statement and the wilderness recommendation on which it is based are consistent with these foregoing, comprehensive documents.

The Forest Service will manage its lands for multiple use, including watershed, grazing, timber and recreation. Goals of its management will maintain a high quality watershed, thus complementing National Park Service goals. Common boundaries exist between the wilderness areas at each end of the Buffalo National River and adjacent wilderness areas in the Ozark National Forest.

The Soil Conservation Service assists local agriculture in applying environmentally beneficial farming practices that are compatible with National Park Service goals of maintaining environmental quality within the Buffalo River drainage.

One third of the basin will be in federal management and/or ownership, thus it may be included in the hydrological benchmark program of the Geological Survey. This would provide a close monitoring of hydrologic characteristics.

Within the Buffalo River watershed, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission manages over 10,000 acres in Newton and Searcy Counties. It also manages the game and fish on a cooperation basis within the Buffalo National River.

The enabling legislation prohibits construction of any dams on the main stem of the Buffalo River. Consequently, the effect on the Buffalo National River is that there will be no damming, water power production, or flood control projects, thus leaving the Buffalo River waters free flowing.

Several communities plan to use Buffalo River for public water supply. Communities may also have sewage treatment plants that return effluent to the river. Consequently, water quality must be monitored closely so that federal, state and local standards are maintained.

Local and state governments are in the process of developing land-use regulations, but they are only in a beginning stage and will have little value or effect for sometime.

WILDERNESS PLAN, BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS

GROSS PARK ACREAGE 95,730

UNIT	WILDERNESS	POT. WILD. ADD.	TOTAL
UPPER BUFFALO	840 ACRES	1,360 ACRES	2,200 ACRES
PONCA	4,382 ACRES	6,918 ACRES	11,300 ACRES
LOWER BUFFALO	5,307 ACRES	17,193 ACRES	22,500 ACRES
TOTAL	10,529 ACRES	25,471 ACRES	36,000 ACRES

(P) PARKING FOR TRAILHEAD

WILDERNESS & POT. WILD. ADD.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LOWER BUFFALO UNIT

RIVER NOT INCLUDED IN WILDERNESS

PONCA UNIT

RIVER IS INCLUDED IN WILDERNESS

UPPER BUFFALO UNIT

RIVER IS INCLUDED IN WILDERNESS

OZARK NATIONAL FOREST (UPPER BUFFALO WILDERNESS 9,400 ACRES)

Old Buffalo
Buffalo City
Rush
BUFFALO RIVER STATE PARK
Mull
MARION COUNTY
SEARCY COUNTY
Maumee
Cozahome
OZARK N. F. LEATHERWOOD AREA
Evening Star
Harriet
BIG FLAT
Lone Pine
Morning Star
Zack
MARSHALL
Silver Hill
GILBERT
St. Joe
Mount Hersey
Hasty
Marble Falls ("Dogpatch USA")
WESTERN GROVE
Pruitt
Compton
Erbie
BEAUTY CAVE
RADIO REPEATER
YARBOROUGH RANCH
KYLE'S CAMP
CAMP ORR
Ponca
Mount Sherman
OZARK NATIONAL FOREST
JASPER
Low Gap
LOST VALLEY STATE PARK
Boxley
Carver
Pierce town
Mount Judea
Bass
Ozarks Wildlife Club
Paint Peter (site)
Woolum (site)
Eula (site)
Snowball
RICHLAND VALLEY
NEWTON COUNTY
SEARCY COUNTY
MADISON COUNTY

R16W R15W R14W R13W
R22W R21W R20W R19W R18W R17W R16W
T 18 N
T 17 N
T 16 N

2 0 2 4 MILE
2 0 2 4 6 KILOMETERS
1.609 KILOMETERS = ONE MILE

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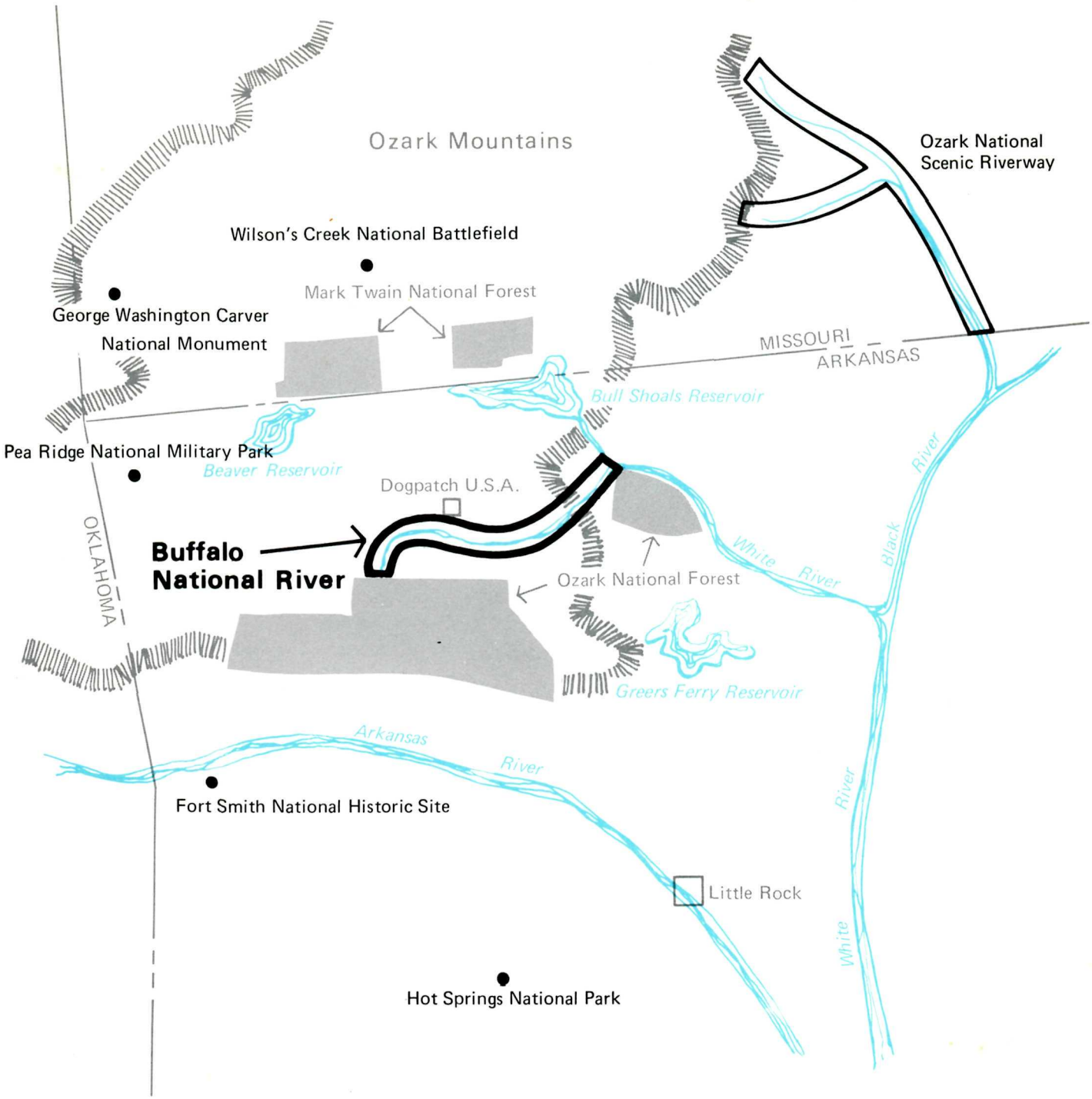

Ozark Region

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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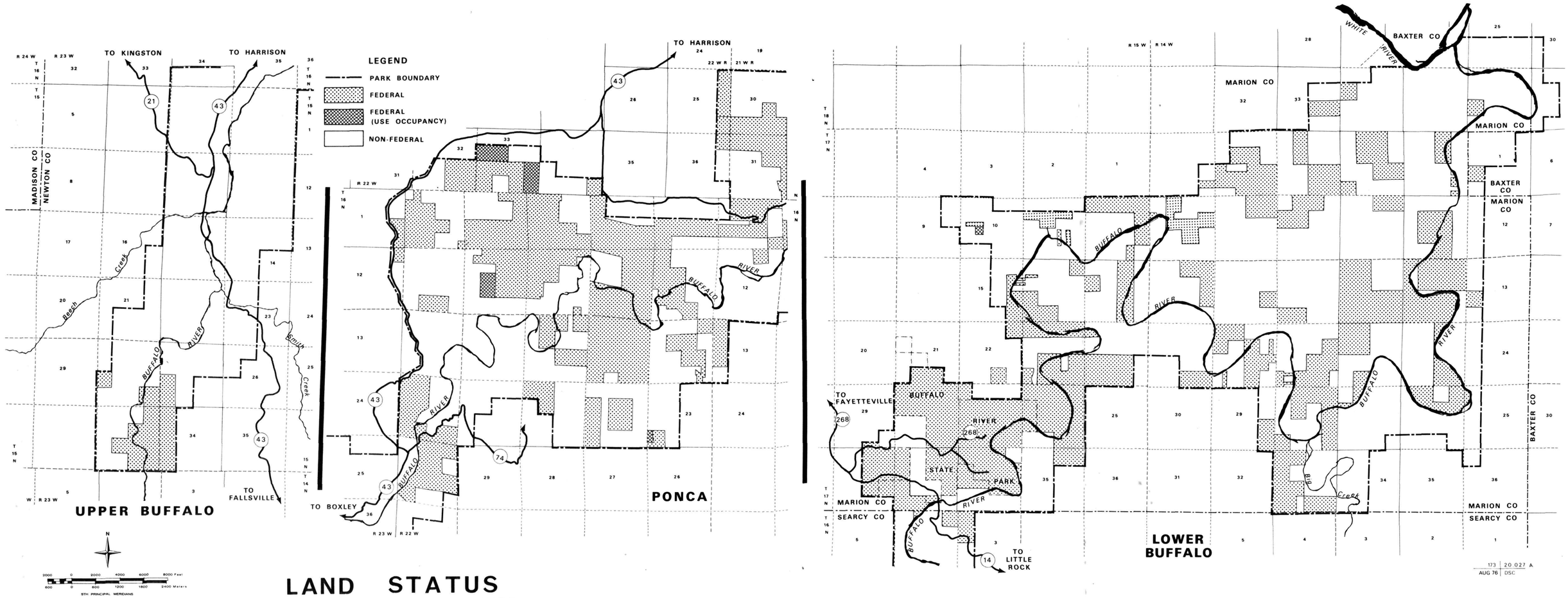

LAND STATUS
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

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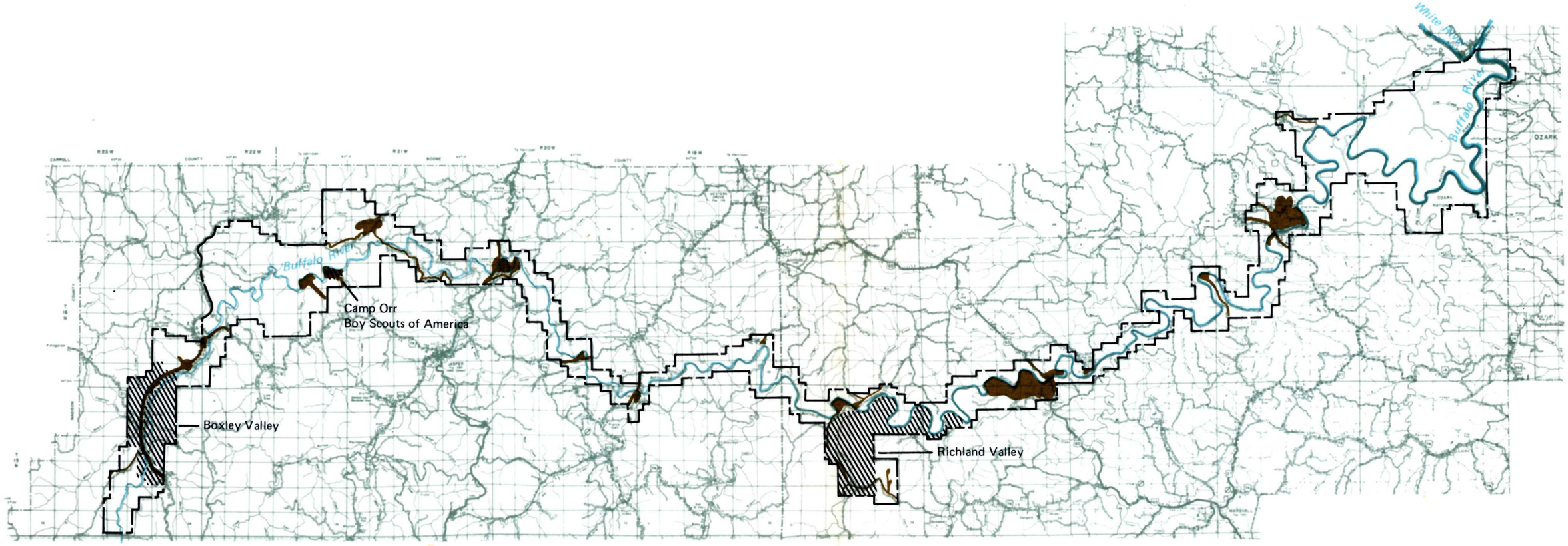

Zoning Plan

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

Private-Use Zone
Public-Development Zone
Preservation Zone

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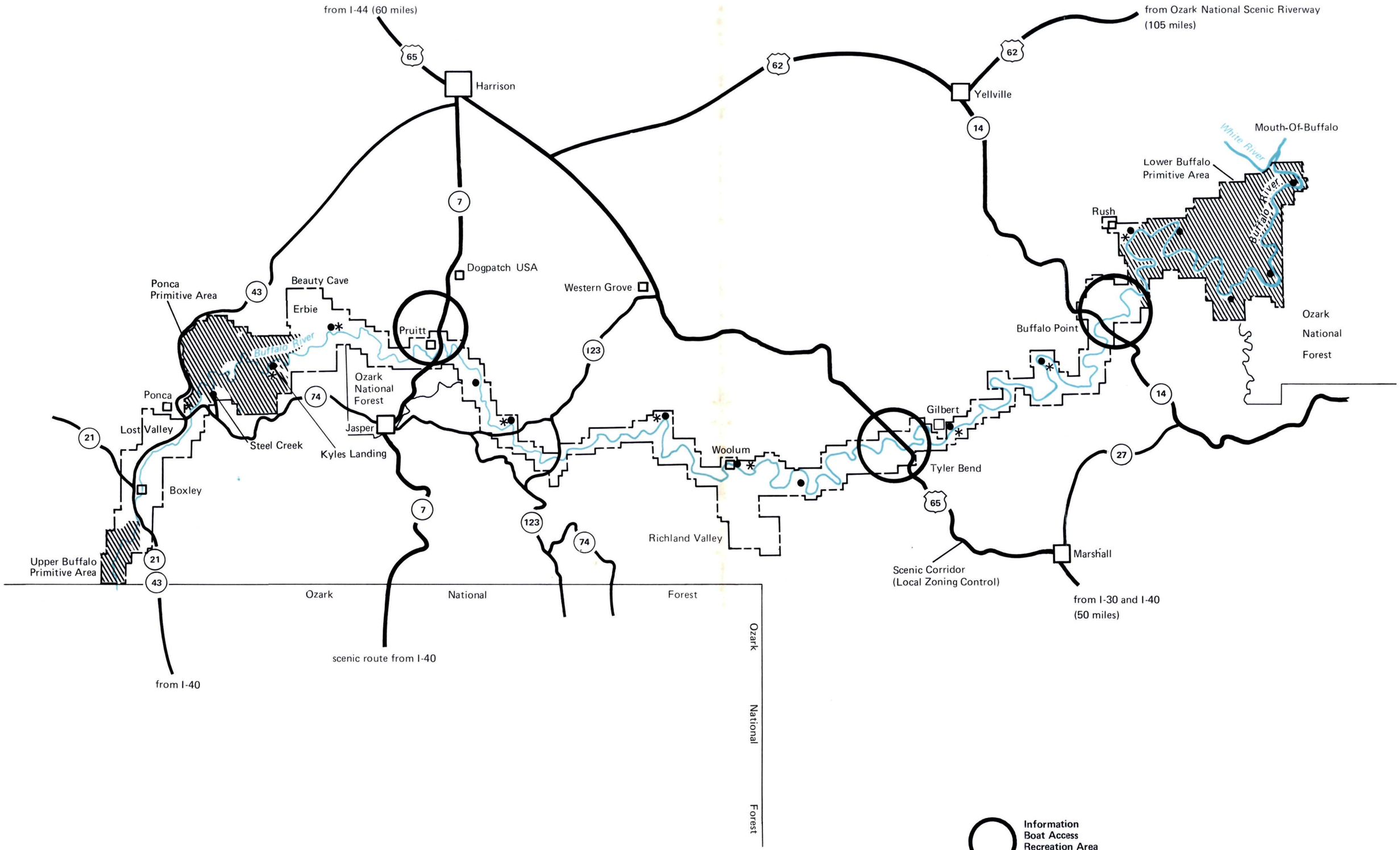

Plan For Visitor Use

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

Information
Boat Access
Recreation Area
District Headquarters

● Primitive Camp

✱ Boat Access Point

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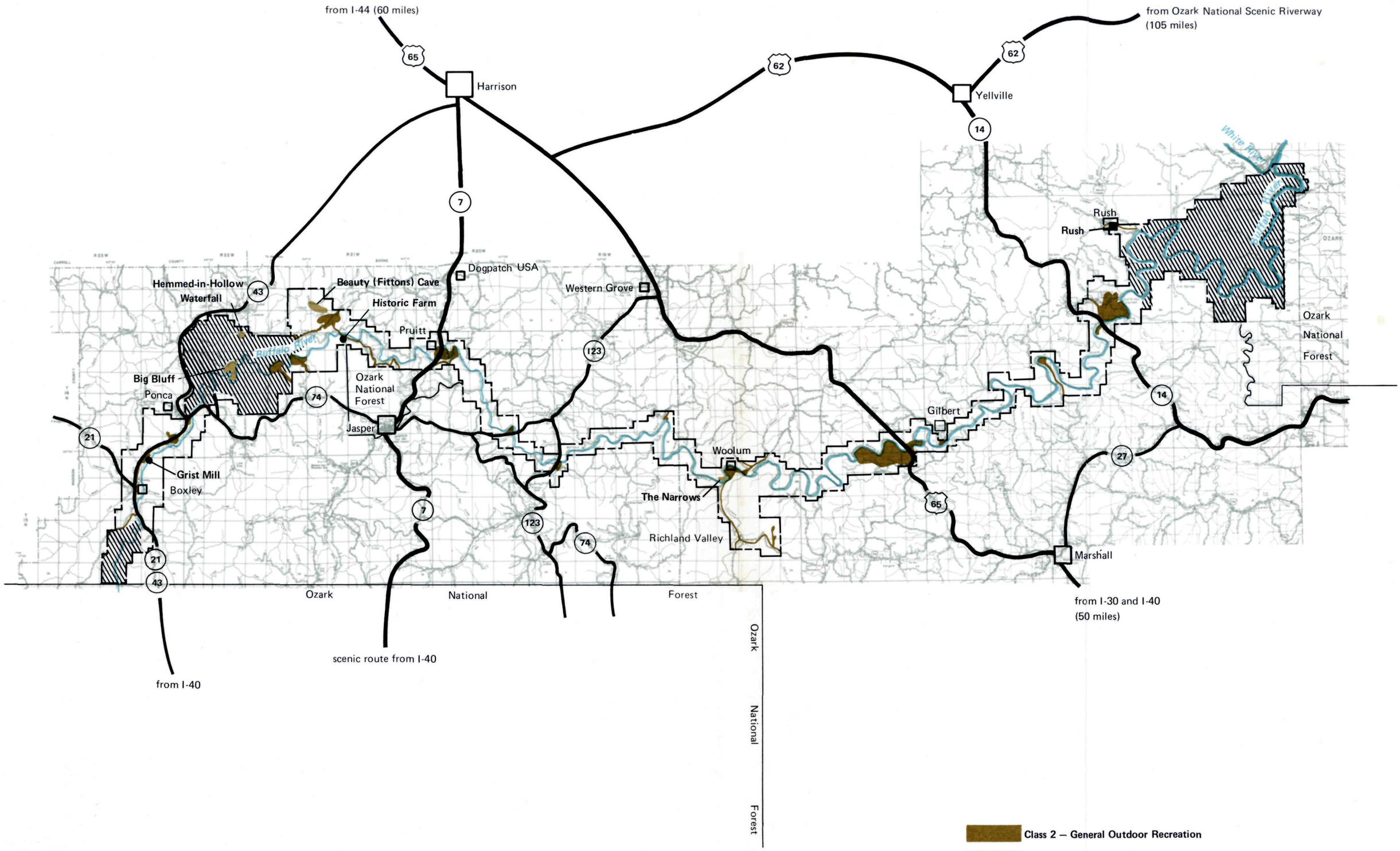

Land Classification Plan

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

Class 2 — General Outdoor Recreation

Class 3 — Natural Environment

Class 4 — Outstanding Natural Feature

Class 5 — Primitive

Class 6 — Historic and Cultural

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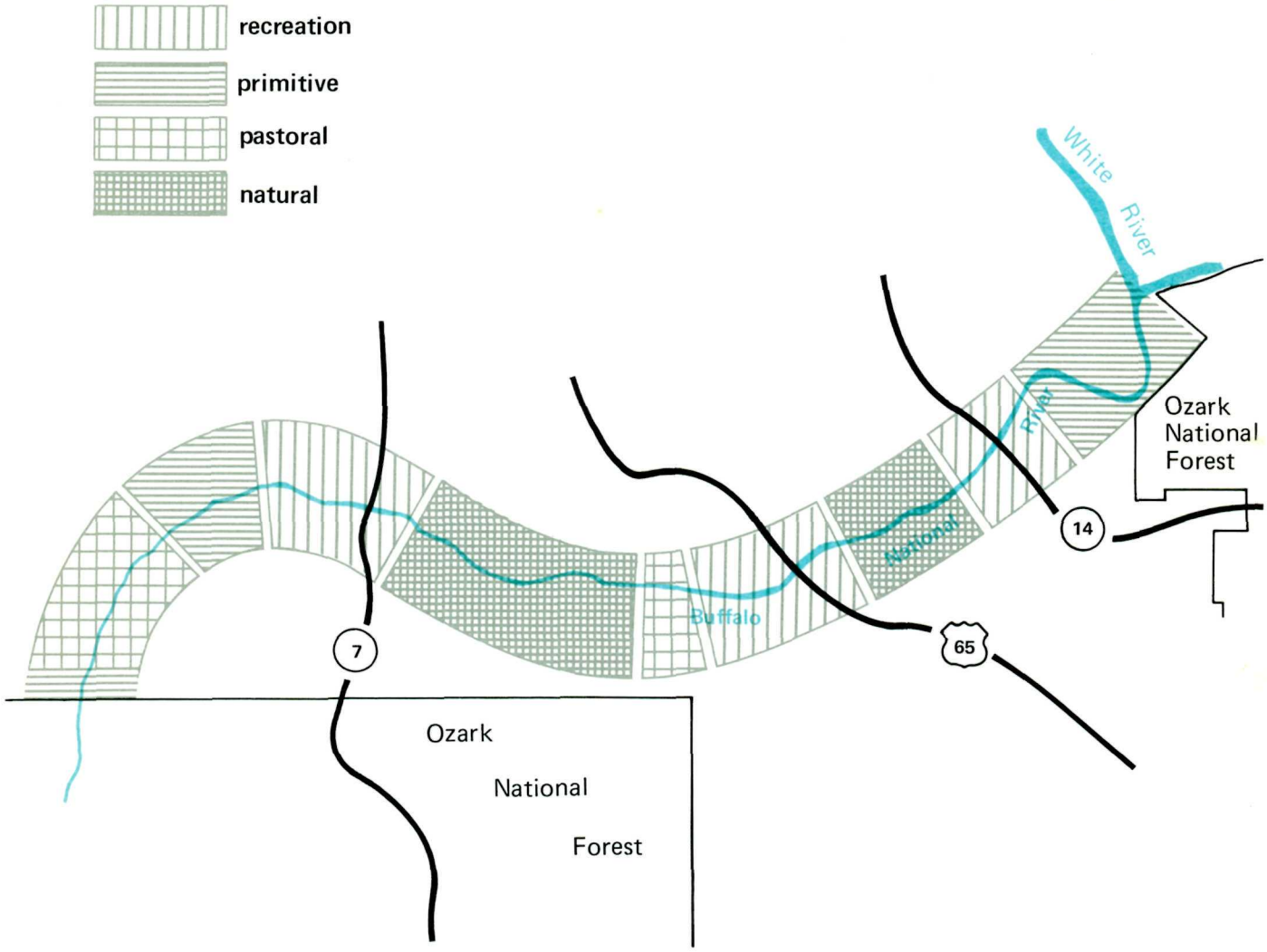

Concept for Land Classification

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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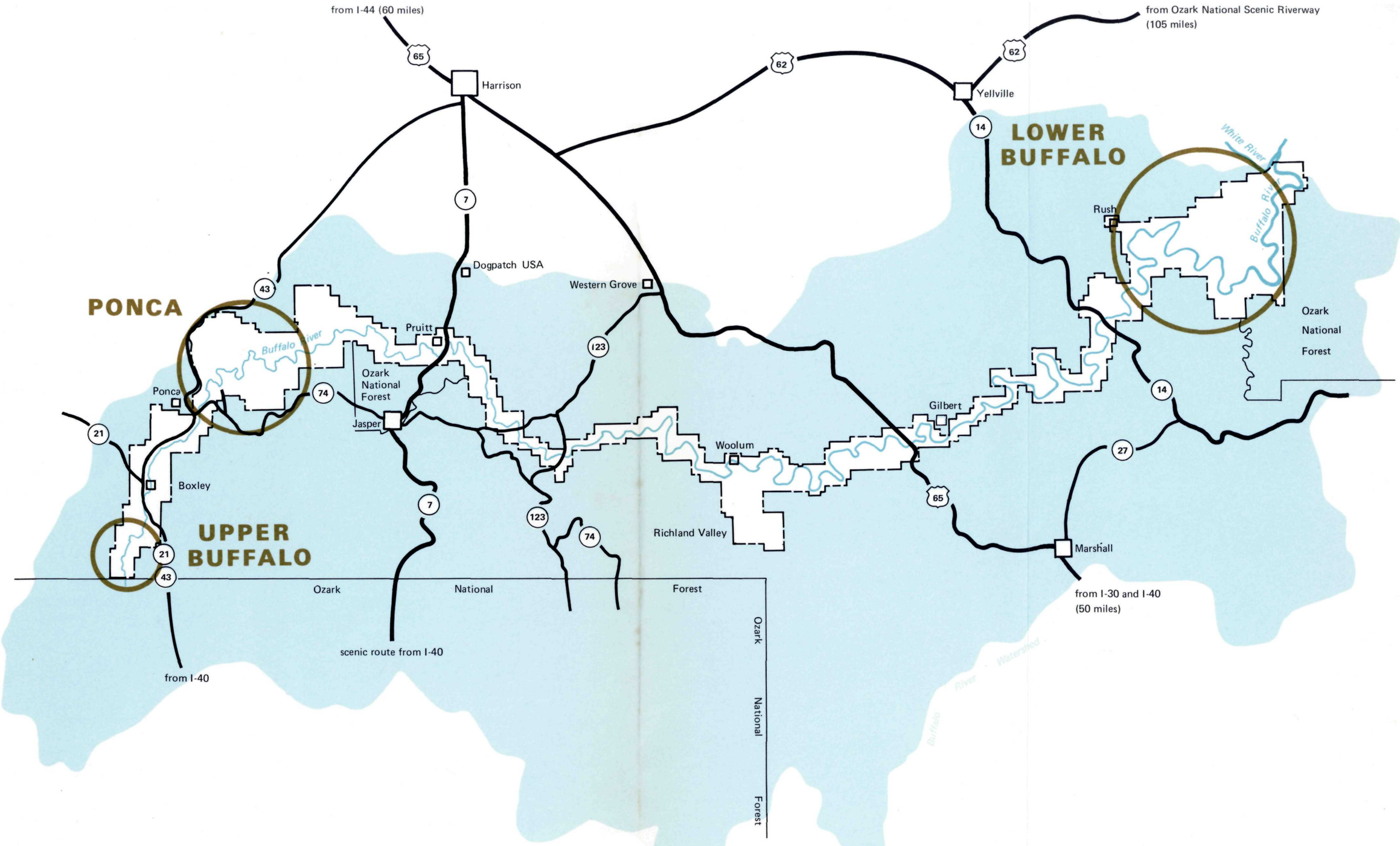

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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miles
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II. Description of the Environment

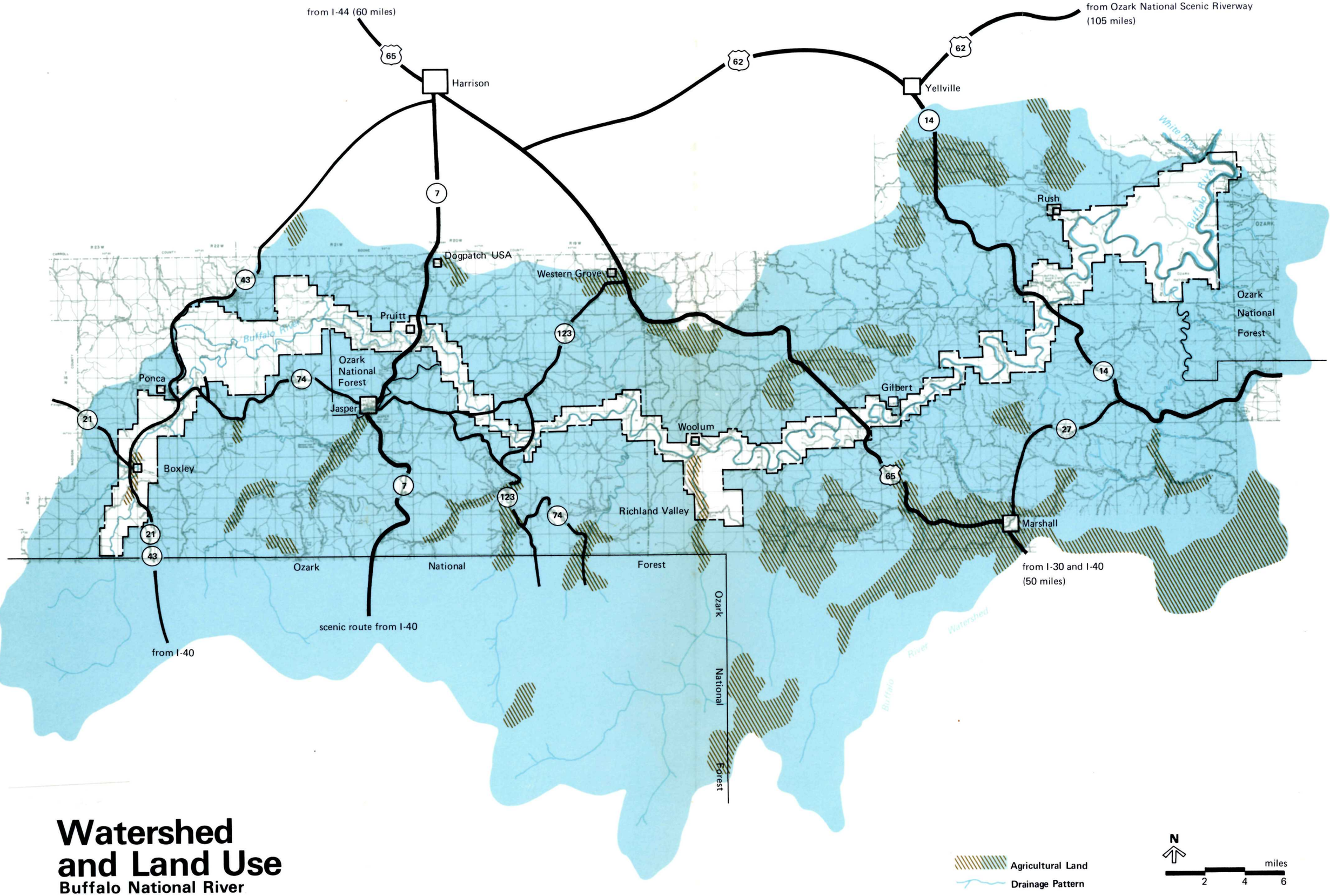
A. Regional Significance

The Buffalo River, near the heartland of the Ozarks, which extends roughly 200 miles from north to south and 150 miles from east to west, is considered one of the country's finest remaining natural rivers. Deeply entrenched in a meandering course, the Buffalo flows eastward through northwestern Arkansas across Newton and Searcy Counties, entering briefly Marion and Baxter Counties before joining the White River near Buffalo City. The Buffalo is one of the few major streams left undammed in the Arkansas Ozarks.

The headwaters and first 16 miles of the Buffalo River lie within the Ozark National Forest (see Watershed and Land Use map). Also within the national forest are the headwaters of major tributary streams including the Little Buffalo, Big Creek, Cave Creek, and Richland Creek. The remaining 132 miles of the Buffalo River, within an elongated strip along the banks, are being acquired as a national river. Included are features illustrating the river basin's geology, botany, wildlife, archaeology, and history. A major appeal of the river is the clean, flowing waters that support a notable sport fishery and provide an opportunity for pleasurable boating and swimming.

The Ozark region is a land of many rivers. The largest of them have been dammed and inundated. This creation of reservoir recreation has caused the loss of free-flowing river recreation opportunity.

In Missouri there are three rivers comparable in size (length of float stream) to the Buffalo. These are the 139-mile-long Current and its 45-mile-long Jacks Fork tributary, portions of which are preserved in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; the 235-mile-long Gasconade, which meanders through lower, more open farm country of the northern Ozarks; and the 191-mile-long Meramec, whose upstream portion is subject to inundation by a proposed dam and last 60 miles are punctuated with real estate development, railroads, and industry. The White River, of which the Buffalo River is a tributary, is also of outstanding quality as well as being one of the longest and largest rivers in Arkansas. About 25 to 30 miles of the headwaters' forks above Beaver Reservoir are floatable in the spring. More than 200 downstream miles have been inundated by four reservoirs. Below Bull Shoals Dam, the White River for 42 miles to Norfork is scenic and excellent for trout fishing, although settled with farms and



Watershed and Land Use

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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paralleled by a railroad. Examples of other Ozark streams, shorter in length than the Buffalo but generally regarded as outstanding in quality, include the following:

(1) Eleven Point River, Arkansas and Missouri. Situated in wilderness-like country in Missouri (49 miles) and Arkansas (35-40 miles), this river has been proposed for a scenic river (the Missouri portion) and for damming or a scenic river (the Arkansas portion).

(2) James River, Missouri. About 60 miles of the lower James have been inundated by Table Rock Reservoir. The upper 40 miles cannot be floated during low water.

(3) North Fork River, Missouri. This fork of the White River (48 miles) flows through uninhabited country and is excellent for white water sport. The lower North Fork has been tamed by Norfork Dam in Arkansas.

(4) Mulberry River, Arkansas. During its brief floating period, this river (35-40 miles) is wild and a real challenge to experienced canoeists. A portion is in the Ozark National Forest and possesses fine mountain scenery.

(5) Kings River, Arkansas. This river (30-35 miles) is a scenic stream with relatively little traffic. The lower Kings has been changed by Table Rock Reservoir, and another dam is proposed for the river's middle reaches.

(6) Spring River, Arkansas. This river (55-60 miles) can be floated all year. Many summer homes and resorts line the banks, and a railroad follows the stream for its entire length.

B. Regional Recreation Opportunities

Within the Ozarks of Missouri, Arkansas, and northeastern Oklahoma, there are 12 major conservation reservoirs with a total of 295,000 surface acres. Most of the developed recreation facilities are located around these reservoirs. More than 20 other large impoundments in

Arkansas and Oklahoma afford reservoir-recreation opportunities for people in the area surrounding the Ozarks.

State parks in Missouri's Ozarks center around large springs and reservoirs. Arkansas' state parks in the Ozarks include Devil's Den, with deep open fissures and a wooded creek valley, Withrow Springs near Huntsville, and at Bull Shoals Dam. Eight of the nine state parks and recreation areas in Oklahoma's Ozarks are located on reservoirs.

The 1974 visitation to two former state parks now part of the national river was: Buffalo River State Park, 169,110; and Lost River State Park, 36,751. A breakdown of specific activities during 1974 at the Buffalo River State Park included the following: camper days, 44,399; cottage rentals, 8,880; interpretive contacts, 14,635; canoe-days, 8,950. Total canoe use at Ponca, Pruitt, and Buffalo River State Park was 15,505 canoe-days.

A 700-acre theme park, "Dogpatch, U.S.A.," located 4 miles north of Pruitt on Arkansas Highway 7 and just outside the national river boundary, attracted over one-half million visitors in 1972. "Dogpatch, U.S.A." has numerous exhibits and attractions and includes 126 lodging units, a 100-unit motel and a 600-capacity restaurant. Completed during the winter of 1972-73 were a 1,200-capacity convention center, a ski slope, and an ice skating rink.

Public recreation is well served by 2 million acres of national forests in the Ozarks (Ozark National Forest in Arkansas and the Mark Twain and Clark National Forests in Missouri). Much of the national forest acreage is dry uplands, thus limiting water-based recreation, but a number of facilities have been developed on small impoundments and along streams. A large cavern is being developed by the Forest Service at Blanchard Springs, 40 miles southeast of former Buffalo River State Park, to include guided tours, campgrounds, picnic areas, lodge and dining accommodations, and trails.

National Park System areas within a 150-mile radius of the national river include the 80,000-acre-authorized Ozark National Scenic Riverways, George Washington Carver National Monument, and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Missouri; and Pea Ridge National Military Park, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Arkansas Post National Memorial, and Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas.

Missouri's seven state forests in the Ozarks offer picnicking, camping, trails, and related activities on 100,000 acres, largely in tracts isolated from paved roads. Arkansas and Oklahoma have no state forests, but 15,000 acres of Ozark lands are controlled by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including 10,280 acres in Newton and Searcy Counties in the Buffalo River watershed outside the boundaries of the national river.

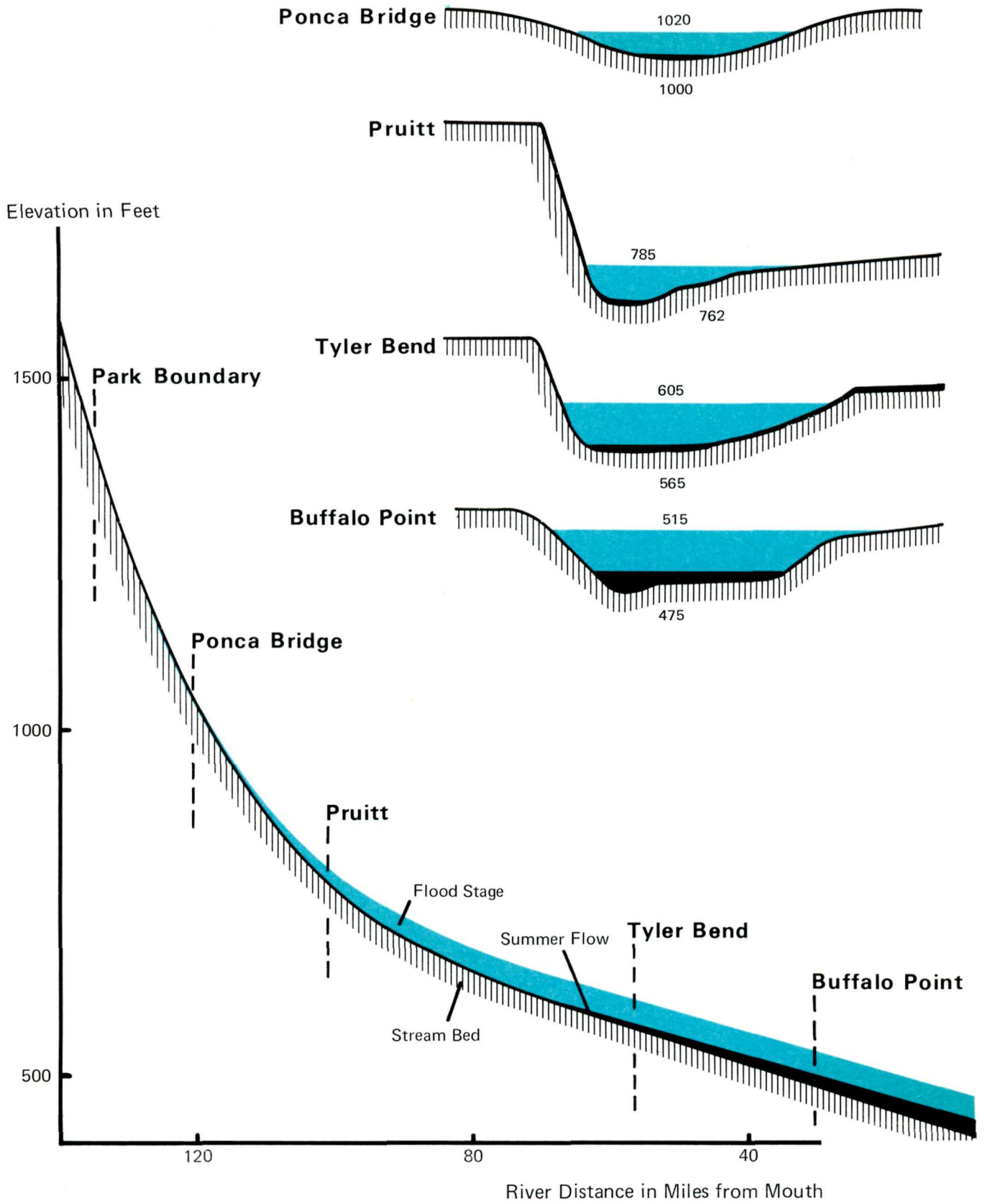
The many private resorts in the Ozark region include motels, restaurants, service stations, fisherman-type facilities, frontier towns, and developed caves and offer a variety from economy to luxury accommodations. Retirement and residential subdivisions are being developed which advertise onsite and peripheral recreation opportunities.

C. Major Natural Features

1. Land

As described by N.M. Fenneman, the Buffalo River's physiographic location is in the Interior Highlands Division of the Ozark Plateaus Province, with the headwaters in the Boston Mountains section and the remainder in the Burlington Escarpment of the Salem Plateaus section.

Born on summits almost 2,400 feet above sea level, the river surges over rapids, moves lazily through long, shaded eddies, and sweeps gracefully against streaked canyon walls down to elevations of less than 400 feet before joining the White River. The drainage pattern consists of one main stem with a total of some 64 perennial and intermittent, and usually short, tributaries entering from both sides. The Little Buffalo is the largest tributary and Richland Creek is the next largest. The average fall of the Buffalo River is 6-1/2 feet per mile in the 148-mile national river (see River Profile map). The river's geologic features illustrate the complicated story of the building and erosion of the Ozark Dome. Here are many layered rocks and innumerable fossils; ancient peneplains and prominent escarpments; caves, arches and sinks; and canyons and solution valleys. Terrain is generally rough, hilly, and wooded. Soils are comprised of sandy and silt loams in the more fertile floodplains of the valleys and of less productive cherty loams and clays on the steeper slopes and ridges. Thin soils which occur in most areas are easily eroded. Most soils are well drained. The channel is exceptionally stable, generally composed of gravel and boulder deposits overlying the solid rock floor. Frequently, the rock strata forms the channel floor. All



River Profile

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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formations are of sedimentary origin and consist mainly of limestones and dolomites with occasional beds of shale, sandstone, and chert.

Rough terrain and steep slopes limit access to the river. River banks are often steep or covered with dense vegetation and further restrict easy access to the river. Gravel beds offer the most feasible access. The capability of the land base of the region to sustain economic land uses (crop and timber production, pasture, etc.) has been classified in a study entitled "Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Needs Inventory" (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1961). The risks of soil damage and limitations in use become progressively greater from Class I to Class VIII. A comparison of the Buffalo River study area (including Boone County) with the state indicates that the area is far below the average of total land area in the first four classes and, conversely, far above average in percent of total land area in the last three classes (table 1). Less than 10 percent of the land within the boundary of the national river is suitable for raising crops.

Table 1. Land base capability of five-county Buffalo National River region compared to State of Arkansas.

	Percent of total land area	
	Five-county region	Arkansas
Classes I-IV	30.8	70.3
Classes V-VIII	69.2	29.7

The principal mineral resources are lead and zinc. Other minerals found in the four counties include tripoli, manganese, pyrite, uranium, marble, copper, fuller's earth, and phosphate rock. Ore deposits are related to the underlying igneous intrusions. Occurrence of lead and zinc is primarily in zones of shattering near faults, notably grabens. There is a wide distribution of limestone and sandstone. Actual mining operations on a continuous basis appear to have been limited to limestone, aggregate, sand and gravel, lead and zinc, and crushed stone.

There is no current mining or mineral exploration activity. The last mining of any consequence was in the Rush district in 1962. Operations ceased in 1963. The nearest lead ore smelters are 175 to 250 miles from the lead mines near Ponca. The closest zinc smelter is in St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Climate

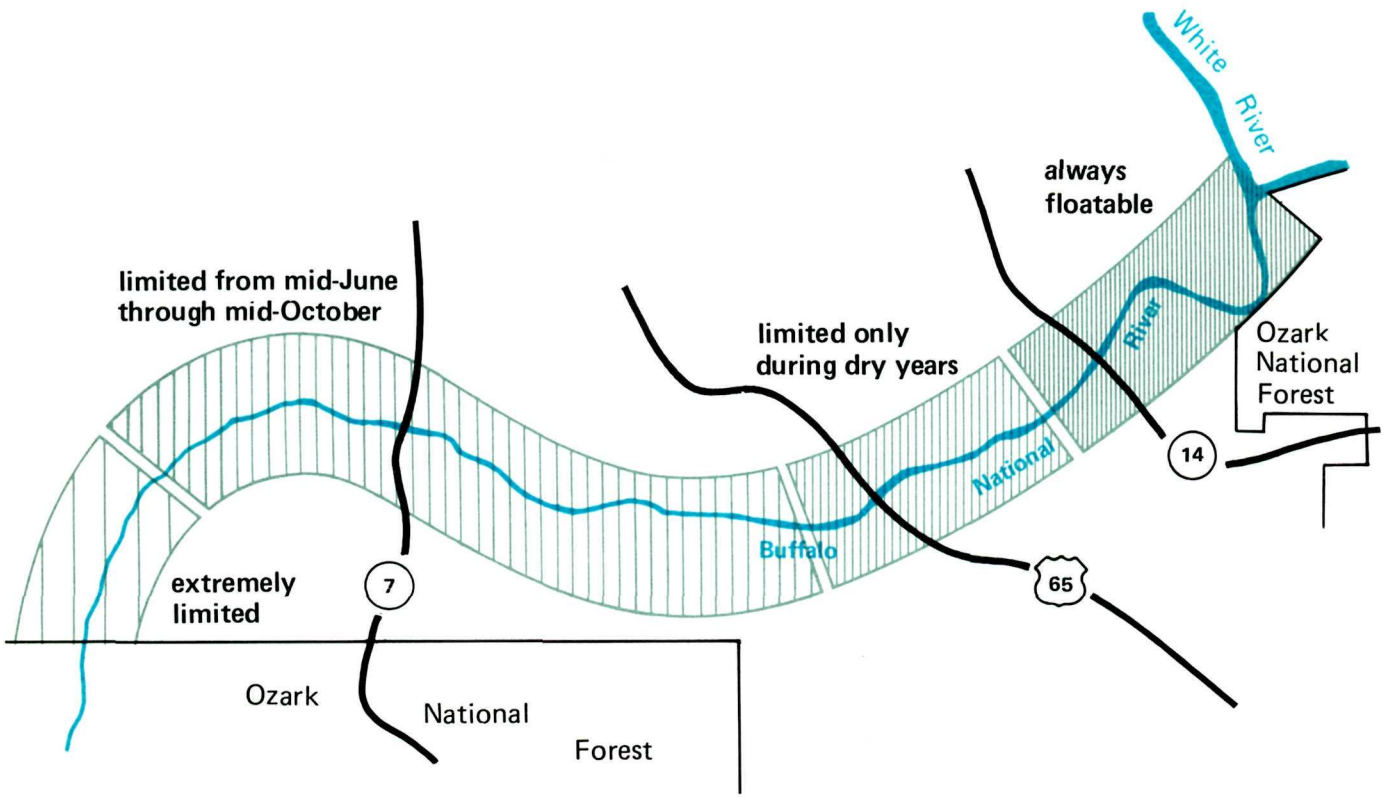
The climate of the Buffalo River is pleasant and temperate. The average annual temperature is about 58 degrees Fahrenheit and the average day-night temperature difference is approximately 29 degrees. Summers are long and warm with July temperatures averaging about 80 degrees. The frost-free season averages 199 days. Severe winter temperatures are rare, although freezing may occur from late October to late March. January temperatures average about 40 degrees. Temperature extremes of 114 degrees to -23 degrees have been recorded within the basin. The seasons are separated by distinct springs and falls.

The area is semi-humid. The average annual precipitation is 49 inches with distribution relatively uniform throughout the year, although spring months receive slightly higher amounts. From records dating back to 1900, the greatest annual precipitation was 82 inches, in 1927, and the least was 30 inches, in 1901. Only 32 inches were recorded in 1947. Snowfall averages 12 inches a year and may occur from November through March.

Prevailing winds are moderate and come from the south. Drought conditions, common to the Great Plains to the west, frequently extend into the basin and affect the stream flow and plant life. The Buffalo River basin lies in a region characterized by the occurrence of moderately intense local storms and general storms of somewhat heavier rainfall and several day's duration. The larger storms occur most frequently in the spring months, but records show that they can happen at any time of year. Storms that produced major floods in the basin occurred in August 1915, April, June, and December 1927, and February, March, April, and June 1945. Tornadic winds occur frequently in the spring.

3. Air

Air quality in a scenic area is judged not so much on its chemical aspects as on its clarity, for clarity affects the visual experience. Because the Buffalo River drains a rural region with few city or industrial sources of pollutants, and because frequent rains clean the



River Floatability

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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sky, the air remains generally clear. Three sawmills do generate smoke in restricted areas, however, and a charcoal manufacturing operation produces a noxious odor in the vicinity of its kilns. Motor vehicles on the river-crossing roads introduce minor amounts of air pollution. Landowners practice occasional burning to maintain and clear open areas.

4. Water

The runoff within the basin varies to a greater degree than is indicated by the more uniform rainfall pattern. Late summer and early fall are characterized by greatly reduced flows. This pattern is common in all years but is more pronounced during drought years. The upper half of the river cannot be floated at all times. Generally, the entire river is floatable from October until the end of May or early June (see River Floatability map). Except for extreme dry periods, the lower half of the river can be floated almost anytime. As one of the great attributes of the Buffalo is its natural condition, its fluctuating characteristic is to be expected. In recent years, annual flows have often been lower than in the past. However, this is also the case for many streams in the region and is probably a result of annual variations in precipitation.

During dry periods, the entire stream may disappear into a bed of gravel and reappear downstream. Thus, the river appears to be dry in some areas when substantial subsurface flows are actually present.

The Buffalo is generally considered an unpolluted stream, except by silt during periods of heavy runoff. A preliminary water quality analysis is summarized in appendix C. Although surrounding agricultural lands are annually fertilized with nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in approximately a 10-20-10 ratio, nutrient concentrations remain relatively low. Likewise, local application of 2-4D and 2-4-5T herbicides have had no observable effect upon river life. However, pollution from domestic sewage has resulted in somewhat elevated fecal coliform levels (an indication of contamination from human fecal material) near Jasper, on the Little Buffalo River, and near Hasty and Shaddox on the main river.

5. Vegetation

The vegetation along the river is rich and diverse. Hillsides and bluffs, varying in exposure, provide habitats for some 1,500 species of plants. The area is

within the Oak-Hickory Forest Association, near the center of the Interior Highlands Natural Region.

Six species of oak and three of hickory are predominant in the Buffalo watershed. White, black, blackjack, chinquapin, post, and northern red oaks are abundant, and the mockernut, black, and shagbark hickories are equally well represented. Winged elm, red maple, sassafrass, and persimmon and minor representations of walnut, hackberry, black gum, shortleaf pine, redcedar, sweetgum, and more than 40 other species of trees are also present.

A great variety of microenvironments in the Ozarks has permitted the survival of many relict species from times when a different local climate prevailed. Some of these, such as the monkey-flower, or blue larkspur, and the Indian mallow show spectacular separation from present-day areas of distribution to the west.

Ozark chinquapin and spring-flowering witch hazel are two plants found only in the Ozark Mountains. Other species occurring in the Buffalo River watershed that are either very unusual or of limited distribution include the fee lip fern, Bradley spleenwort, smoketree, yellowwood, Ashe juniper, umbrella magnolia, yellow mandarin, mock orange, and the yellow lady-slipper orchid.

Azalea, redbud, serviceberry, and dogwood are spectacular in spring or early summer, as is the fall coloring of the deciduous forest. So-called "fern falls" occur on the cooler, more moist, north-facing slopes. These cascades of ferns blanketing a precipitous, treeless incline appear from a distance to be a green-tinted waterfall.

6. Wildlife

Wildlife is present in a variety of species, if not in great numbers. Animal life of the Arkansas Ozarks is representative of the deciduous forest biome and its rivers but diversified by the presence of endemic species and western faunal elements. Some animals have been extirpated from the region--notably, the timber wolf, elk, and the bison, which gave the Buffalo River its name. In all probability, the red wolf and mountain lion have been extirpated from the region. The status of several other rare species such as the longnose darter, bluestripe darter, and grotto salamander is unknown. White-tailed deer, bobcat, and coyote are the largest native animals frequently seen in the area. Black bear, transplanted from Minnesota and Manitoba in the early 1960s, are now found in

the Ozark National Forest and have been reported along the Buffalo River. Aquatic fur-bearing animals such as beaver, otter, mink, and muskrat are found along the river.

With the demise of the red wolf, commensurate with the clearing of the deciduous forest for open farming, the coyote increased and extended its range. The status of the red wolf is unclear, but it is probably absent from the Buffalo River area. It is apparent that coyotes and feral dogs have interbred, producing large offspring commonly called "coydogs" which occasionally bear a resemblance to a small wolf. The red wolf is classified as endangered in the 1973 publication "Threatened Wildlife of the United States" (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife).

Many species of migratory waterfowl and other migratory water birds are often seen on the Buffalo during spring and fall migrations. Ornithologists have reported over 250 species of birds, many of them common throughout the year. Reintroduced wild turkey and bobwhite quail are conspicuous in the area. Pileated woodpeckers and bald eagles (the southern subspecies is classified as endangered) are also infrequently seen during late fall and winter.

The Buffalo River's principal game fish is the smallmouth bass. Also present are largemouth bass, spotted black bass, rock bass, walleye, suckers, catfish, bluegills, green perch, and sunfish. Except for outflows near the larger springs, the river's waters are too warm for trout. Unusual fish species include the studfish, chestnut lamprey, darters, and gar. The Buffalo is now an isolated ecological unit protected from an invasion of warm water rough fish by the chilled waters of the White River below Bull Shoals Dam.

Important in interpreting the Buffalo River story are animals that have retained narrow habitat requirements and thus provide the best clues to past conditions and occurrences. Some are listed below under appropriate headings:

Ozark Plateau endemics:

Ringed salamander
Many-ribbed salamander
Grotto salamander
Stippled darter
Yoke darter
Longnose darter

Ozark shiner
Wedgespot shiner
Bluntface shiner
Bleeding shiner

Western animals at eastern extremities of their ranges:

Brush mouse
Roadrunner
Collared lizard

Eastern animals showing disjunct Ozark ranges:

Queen snake
Wood frog
Zigzag salamander
Streamline chub
Small blindfish
Northern studfish
Greenside darter

D. Socioeconomic Environment

1. The Region

The four counties adjacent to the Buffalo River are rural and sparsely settled. The population has declined during the 1960-1970 period in Newton (-2 percent) and Searcy (-4.8 percent) Counties. Tables 2 and 3 illustrate the population trends in the four counties and in the three counties most affected by the proposed national river, with comparisons to the state of Arkansas and the rural portions of the state, all derived from the 1970 Bureau of the Census data.

Population patterns of the study area reflect the relative lack of economic opportunity and consequent migration to areas and occupations in which there is the chance for improving income and living standards. The high median ages of the four counties result from both out-migration of young people, from farms and small communities into larger communities and metropolitan areas, and the influx of retirement-age individuals attracted by favorable regional cost-of-living, tax structure, and recreation resources.

The components of population change for the 1960-1970 decade show net migration as the principal factor in losses or gains in the four involved counties (see table 4).

Table 2. Population for selected age groups by race, sex, and median age presented by county. 1970.*

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
	Baxter County		
All ages	15,319	7,492	7,827
0-5	1,149	604	545
6-15	2,185	1,134	1,051
16-21	1,081	524	557
22-44	3,131	1,457	1,674
45-54	1,670	777	893
55-64	2,623	1,443	1,180
65 & over	3,480	1,816	1,664
Median Age	45.7	45.4	46.0
	Marion County		
All Ages	7,000	3,433	3,567
0-5	544	287	257
6-15	1,122	581	541
16-21	506	260	246
22-44	1,441	673	768
45-54	892	430	462
55-64	1,112	530	582
65 & over	1,383	672	711
Median Age	43.4	41.5	44.3
	Newton County		
All Ages	5,844	2,965	2,879
0-5	550	279	271
6-15	1,154	589	565
16-21	557	302	255
22-44	1,384	676	708
45-54	713	353	360
55-64	733	368	365
65 & over	753	398	355
Median Age	32.4	31.5	33.2
	Searcy County		
All Ages	7,731	3,828	3,903
0-5	637	326	311
6-15	1,510	779	731
16-21	731	373	358
22-44	1,729	823	906
45-54	902	428	474
55-64	970	482	488
65 & over	1,252	617	635
Median Age	35.9	34.6	37.0
	Arkansas		
Median Age	29.1		

*U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census Industrial Research and Extension Center, University of Arkansas.

Table 3. Population change by county and compared with state totals.

County or as noted	Acres in National River	Percent of Total Lands	Population 1960	Population 1970	Percent Change
Marion	26,000	7	6,041	7,000	15.9
Newton		8-1/4	5,963	5,844	-2.0
Searcy	24,530	5-3/4	8,124	7,731	-4.8
Baxter	1,590	1/2 of 1	9,943	15,319	54.1
Marion, Newton & Searcy	94,140	7	20,128	20,575	2.2
State of Arkansas			1,786,000	1,923,000	7.7
Rural (State of Arkansas)			962,000	1,021,000	5.7

Table 4. Population change by county, 1960-1970.

			Natural	Net Migration	
Births	Deaths	Increase	Number	Percent	
Baxter	1,669	1,607	62	5,314	42.2
Marion	846	817	29	930	14.3
Newton	946	565	381	-500	-8.5
Searcy	1,262	969	293	-686	-8.7

Projections, by the U.S. Water Resources Council, of regional economic activity for a 29-county water resource area in Arkansas and adjacent Missouri, including the four counties in which the Buffalo National River is located, are presented in table 5.

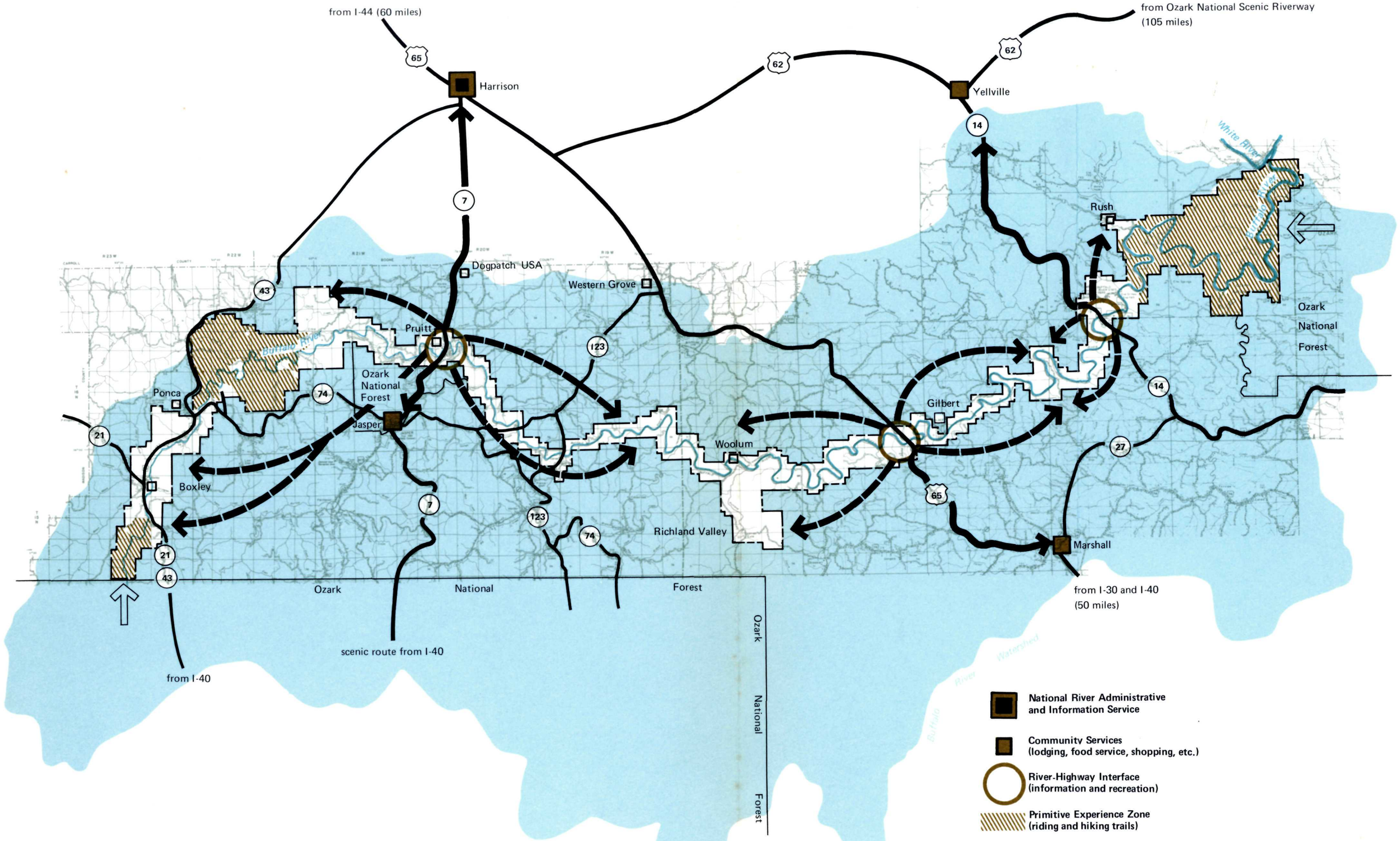
Mountain Home (population 3,936), Baxter County, is the major urban area in the four-county area. Mountain Home and Harrison (population 7,239), Boone County, are major economic growth centers for the region. Population has increased steadily in these two cities since 1960. Population gains have primarily resulted from an increase in local manufacturing, from promotion of the recreation industry, and from the establishment of the region as a destination for retirees.

2. Potential Visitation

The Ozark region is surrounded by more densely populated regions with a number of large cities. More than 10 million people live within 250 airline miles of the Buffalo River, including residents of St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri, Topeka and Wichita, Kansas, and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Shreveport, Louisiana, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee. If the radius is extended to 350 miles--a day's driving distance from the Buffalo--the perimeter takes in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, and approaches Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Birmingham, Alabama, Omaha, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa. The Buffalo, with its mild climate and lengthy outdoor season, is thus within an easy day's drive of nearly 15 million people. These large urban population concentrations are the potential visitors for whom the national river's attributes and the contrast with city environments will be attractive.

Table 5. U.S. Water Resources Council projections of economic activity in northern Arkansas and adjacent Missouri (29 counties).

	1969	1980	2000	2020
Population, midyear	342,177	352,300	382,700	438,000
Per capita income (1967)	1,816	2,604	5,328	10,363
Per capita income Relative (U.S..=1.00)	.53	.55	.64	.73
Total employment	109,136	116,700	139,000	171,100
Employment/population ratio	.32	.33	.36	.39
Earnings per worker (1967$)	3,962	5,724	10,790	19,711
Earnings per worker Relative (U.S.=1.00)	.58	.61	.68	.74



Concept for Circulation

Buffalo National River

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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The Economic Study of the Proposed Buffalo National River (College of Business Administration, University of Arkansas, February 1968) states:

> "Approximately 44 percent of all the visitors should be from other states, and it is estimated that they would spend 3.3 days in the near vicinity of the proposed national area. It is estimated that in-state visitors will spend 1.7 days in the study area. From this information, it is believed that the average length of stay of the typical Buffalo National River visitor will be 2.38 days."

Generally, the primary access to the area is good, with major roads crossing the national river at a number of points (see Concept for Circulation map). Lateral circulation within the area is difficult, and in some instances, impossible. The route of east-west Interstate 40 lies parallel to and some 70 miles south of the river. U.S. 62, a major route servicing resort and vacation areas across the northern Arkansas counties, lies 20 to 30 miles to the north. State Highways 7, 14, and 21 and U.S. Highway 65, the latter a major north-south artery, cross the Buffalo River valley to provide primary access. Several gravel-surfaced state routes and unsurfaced county roads afford limited circulation within the Buffalo River watershed and lead to scattered access points on the river or to overlooks and tributary canyon rims. Local dirt roads lead to fords, camping and picnic sites, boat launching points, fishing waters, major scenic attractions, and natural features.

3. Economic Factors Which Influence or are Influenced by the National River

Historically, the first settlers of the Ozarks were farmers, who, over time, exceeded the carrying capacity of their land resource. Marginal fertility of the land, erosion resulting from ill-advised land uses, isolation from market areas, and high birth rates combined to act as limiting factors to economic growth and development. Table 6 illustrates the low income and employment structure of the four-county region.

Table 6. Income and employment statistics by county.

	Per capita personal income		Pct. change in total employment		Unemployment rate	
	1960	1970	Agri.	Nonagri.	1960	1970
Baxter	$ 1,142	$ 2,691	35.3	174.4	8.7	4.7
Marion	954	2,162	-38.1	70.6	8.3	9.0
Newton	610	1,649	-35.3	88.9	10.3	11.8
Searcy	868	2,033	-36.8	51.2	9.0	10.1

Presently, the number of economic farm units has decreased through consolidation, and the average size per farm is on the rise. Pasturage is the principal use of farmland.

Marginal agricultural land in the area was often converted to timber production. The Buffalo River study area follows the pattern of the state as a whole with respect to percentage of total land area forested. Hardwood sawtimber stock has been cut more rapidly than growing stock can reach maturity. A 54 percent decrease in the volume of logs and lumber processes was noted between 1961 and 1967. If allowed to persist, this condition will lead to an eventual loss of the hardwood resource base in the area. Even with excellent forestry and conservation practices, only a rather modest and gradual increase in the forest resource and employment based on it could reasonably be expected in the Buffalo River basin.

Within the boundary of Buffalo National River and immediately adjacent thereto, there are 59 overnight establishments with accommodations for 3,132 people per day according to a 1962 survey conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas. The tourist business is one of Arkansas' major industries, and the lake and mountain areas of the north-central portions of the state are among the most heavily visited. Two constraints on more extensive recreational development in the Buffalo River region have been the lack of a full complement of facilities and restricted lateral access.

Table 7. Personal income payments produced (thousands of dollars) by major source: 1970.

Source	Arkansas	*NWAEDD	Baxter	Marion	Newton	Searcy
TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME PAYMENTS	5,376,000	566,240	37,149	9,251	7,358	12,283
WAGE AND SALARY	3,169,999	315,192	19,037	3,257	2,732	5,217
Farms	99,000	6,541	145	106	53	68
Mining and	34,000	1,101	53	30	0	0
construction	167,000	14,465	1,059	116	165	10
Manufacturing	962,000	103,820	6,946	462	116	1,972
Whsle and retail trade	511,000	48,981	2,323	418	218	661
Fin., ins., and real est.	133,000	10,573	572	117	56	149
Trans., comm. and util.	250,000	24,339	1,158	353	2	64
Services	364,000	38,184	3,083	467	745	765
Government	635,000	63,449	3,672	1,188	1,344	1,450
Federal	248,000	17,659	2,127	304	498	434
State and local	387,000	45,790	1,545	884	846	1,016
Other industries	16,000	3,739	26	0	33	78
OTHER LABOR INCOME	193,000	19,665	1,246	130	70	459
PROPRIETORS INCOME	757,000	91,948	3,313	1,304	1,682	2,010
Farm	376,000	50,821	738	764	832	1,005
Nonfarm	380,000	41,127	2,575	540	850	1,005
PROPERTY INCOME	692,000	71,083	4,547	1,198	669	1,250
TRANSFER PAYMENTS	743,000	86,312	10,116	3,556	2,385	3,656
LESS SOC. SEC. CONTRI.	-178,000	-17,960	-1,110	-194	-180	-309

*Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (nine counties).

Source: Industrial Research and Extension Center, University of Arkansas: Arkansas Personal Income Handbook, 1972,

The University of Arkansas' economic study of 1968 estimated that all employment directly generated by recreation and tourism in the Buffalo River study area amounted to about 8.5 percent of total 1965 employment in the area, or something over 1,400 people. Translated into personal income, it was reported that recreation and tourism expenditures in 1965 were responsible for the creation of nearly $9 million in personal income, of which $5.3 million was direct income, and about $3.7 million was indirect income. Table 7 presents personal income payments by source for the state, the nine-county Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, and the four-county Buffalo National River area. Tourist spending in 1970 was estimated at $13 million.

Per capita income, type of employment, and unemployment rates for the 1960-1970 period display an increase in the low income structure, a move out of agriculture, and substantial unemployment.

4. State and Local Land-use Plans Which Affect or are Affected by the Proposal

Land-use planning is in a beginning stage in the four counties adjacent to the Buffalo River. County planning boards in Baxter and Marion Counties have completed land-use plans, but no such plans are presently being developed for Newton or Searcy Counties. The Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District does not anticipate development of a regional land-use plan in the near future, but it has prepared comprehensive development plans for the communities of Pruitt and Jasper.

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Land Resource Management is presently identifying areas where land-use patterns are of critical concern on a statewide basis. Ultimately, policies will be formulated which will provide direction for land resource management within the state of Arkansas. At the present time, however, the amount of time required to complete this task cannot be estimated with certainty.

E. Historic and Archaeologic Resources

1. Prehistory

The prehistory of the Buffalo River drainage area has largely been determined by its topography, which has thrown a geographical barrier across the advancement of mankind for thousands of years. From prehistoric times, those who roamed its valleys and hills

were isolated from the interests and achievements of societies in adjacent areas. The cavernous valleys and rugged highlands of the region made contact difficult even among people within the area. The lack of fertile tracts of land prohibited its inhabitants from engaging in more than a subsistence existence. The gathering of seeds, nuts, and berries, and, in later years, the tilling of small plots of rocky soil rewarded even the most industrious with little more than a marginal existence.

Earliest evidence of humans on the Buffalo River links prehistoric man to the Archaic Stage (8000-500 B.C.). The Archaic man depended on hunting and the gathering of nuts and seeds for his livelihood. He hunted with a spear propelled by a spear thrower or atlatl, and lived in the caves and rockshelters along the bluffs of the Buffalo River and its tributaries. Because of his primitive habitation, the Archaic man has been labeled the Ozark bluff-dweller. During the Woodland Period (500 B.C. - A.D. 700), in the regions east of the Ozarks, pottery was developed and burial mounds began to appear. Simultaneously, an extensive trading system evolved throughout the eastern United States. In the Arkansas Ozarks, however, the Woodland Period was only of minor significance. Burial mounds were never introduced, and pottery was used only sparingly, possibly because the bluff-dwellers were skillful in the art of weaving. Furthermore, the Ozark Indians did not take an active role in the trading that so characterized this period.

The impact of other cultures on the inhabitants of the Buffalo River region continued to be minimal during the Mississippian Period (A.D. 700 to 1541). During this period temple mounds, shell-tempered pottery, large villages, and an increased dependence on agriculture characterized aboriginal life in the middle Mississippi Valley and in the eastern United States. In addition, the bow and arrow increasingly replaced the atlatl. However, in the Ozarks this period was marked only by a shift from woven baskets to shell-tempered pottery and the substitution of the bow and arrow for the atlatl. Although the Ozark Indians were seemingly sheltered, primarily by the Ozark Plateau itself, evidence indicates that cultural influences were advancing westward from the White River in the latter stages of the Mississippian Period. What these bluff-dwelling Indians might have become and what cultural heights they might have reached must remain in the realm of conjecture. In 1541, the white man arrived.

2. History

The exact route of the Spanish expedition led by Hernando de Soto remains a controversy. Even the location of his famous crossing of the Mississippi River has not been positively identified. Numerous historians have hypothesized about how far north and how far west the Spaniard and his band actually traveled. One of these was Henry R. Schoolcraft who published a multi-volume work on the Indian tribes of the United States in 1853. Schoolcraft proposed that de Soto not only journeyed through the Ozarks but also traversed the length of the Buffalo River. On a map included in his work the author furthermore located the Indian village of Tula on the banks of the Buffalo. It was in this village that de Soto remained 20 days to rest his troops. There is some curious but unidentifiable evidence that might substantiate the claims of Schoolcraft. A Latin inscription carved on a stone located immediately outside the watershed of the Buffalo River reads: GLORIA PATRI ET FILIO ET ESPIRITUI SANCTO. The carving was first noted in 1922 by M. R. Harrington, an archaeologist working for the Museum of the American Indian in New York. The inscription cannot be accurately dated, and its origins are clearly speculative. Its characters, however, appear to be of a more recent vintage than the Spanish calligraphy of the 15th century. In any event de Soto seems to have been the only Spaniard to enter the region and quite possibly the only European, as French traders and explorers chose to skirt the Ozark Plateau by either traveling the Mississippi River or traversing the Great Plains.

The Arkansas Ozark region remained a primitive area until the 19th century when it became the site of both Indian and white migrations. As Americans began to move westward, they forced the Indians to relocate. Among those tribes who moved were the Cherokee who inhabited areas in present Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas at the time of white contact. By 1920 about a third of the tribe had signed treaties in which they exchanged the land they occupied for a strip of land between the White and Arkansas Rivers in present northern Arkansas. In 1828 the American frontier again caught up with the Cherokee, and in that year they ceded their Arkansas reservation and moved to what is now northeast Oklahoma. Northwest Arkansas was then ready for the immigration of the white man.

Between 1820 and the Civil War, settlement was scattered and sparse. Subsistence farming was the predominant occupation in that frontier region. It was during this early period of Arkansas history that the three counties that compose the Buffalo River watershed were established--Searcy, 1835; Marion, 1836; and Newton, 1842. Although the population of the area increased during the

1850s, by the eve of the Civil War the Buffalo River country remained a primitive, sparsely settled, and remote area. The 1860 census revealed that the total population of the three-county area was 14,470, including 378 slaves and 8 free Negroes. Of the former, two thirds were fully located in Marion County. Furthermore, the county seat of Newton County, Jasper, had a total population of 80 individuals.

On March 6, 1861, Arkansas formally seceded from the United States and 2 weeks later was admitted to the Southern Confederacy, but not every part of the state concurred in the decision. Northwest Arkansas, and especially Searcy County, harbored deep political and emotional bonds to the Union. Accordingly, the Arkansas Peace Society was organized, and throughout the conflict it supported the Northern effort. Although no major battle took place on the Buffalo during the war, a number of skirmishes occurred in Boxley Valley, at the mouth of Richland Creek, on the Buffalo south of Yellville, and at other locations along the river. In most of the encounters the Union troops were victorious and remained in control of the region for the duration of the war. The most significant result of the conflict in the Ozarks was to familiarize a large number of potential settlers with the availability of land along the Buffalo.

After the war, the population of the counties bordering the Buffalo grew steadily. Frontier farmers, predominately from Missouri and Tennessee, homesteaded up and down the river seeking the most fertile lands. Most took advantage of the Homestead Law of 1862 that provided that any citizen could register claim to 160 acres, and after providing proof that he had lived on the land or cultivated it for a period of 5 years, could receive title to the quarter section for a nominal fee. However, a substantial number of settlers simply took up residence on a tract of land without filing the proper documents with the authorities. As a result, many parcels of land changed hands several times before being formally obtained from the federal government. Regardless of the method, land acquisition increased as did the population. By 1900 the inhabitants of the three-county area numbered 35,903, and along with the rising number of settlers came expanded economic opportunities.

Around the turn of the century, the Eagle Pencil Company began employing young men to cut the beautiful cedar groves and float the trees downriver to Gilbert where they were taken by railroad to be converted to pencils. The cedar harvest was a great boon to the economy and provided high adventure to countless numbers of men who

were tired of farming, but the process was costly. The river's bluffs and valley slopes were largely denuded of the stately cedar, and today, 75 years later, nature has not been able to replenish and refurbish itself. The pencil company ceased operations around 1915, having depleted the cedar supply to the point where the cutting of that wood was no longer a profitable business. Selected removal of other trees continues, however, and provides a modest income for several small sawmills along the Buffalo.

During the second decade of the new century, a lead and zinc mining boom in the Arkansas Ozarks fostered the rapid growth of towns like Ponca and Rush. Mining ventures remained prosperous following the war and during the 1920s, but when the nation entered the economic difficulties of the 1930s, the mining industry along the Buffalo all but folded. The population declined during the Depression, and those who remained faced difficult times, although most were able to live in modest comfort by subsisting off the land.

Following the Depression people returned to the Buffalo River although certainly not in droves. The per-capita income of the three-county region is one of the lowest in Arkansas, and those who are able to make a living are far from prosperous. The Buffalo River today remains a remote and somewhat primitive area. Population density for the area is well below the national average. In 1970 the United States possessed an average of 57.5 people per square mile, while Arkansas recorded 37 people per square mile. In light of these statistics, the Buffalo River watershed is lightly populated indeed. The average population density for Marion County is 12 people per square mile, Searcy 11.6, and Newton County verges on falling into a frontier classification with a density of 7.1 people per square mile.

The history of the Buffalo is not of major importance to the nation's character, but it is rich and varied. It provides a microcosm of the American frontier--the struggle of man against the wilderness. The resolution of that conflict is a product called civilization.

In order to comply with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation procedures (36 CFR Part 800), the following steps have been undertaken. A preliminary archaeological survey (Wolfman 1974, see Appendix D) has indicated that some 250 sites are located within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. Two historical surveys (Sellars 1973 and Texas Tech. 1975) have identified a number of extant cultural resources.

The Boxley Grist Mill (Newton County) and the Calf Creek Archaeological site (Searcy County) have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Several other sites are being given further study and consideration for possible nomination to the National Register in the near future. These include:

Villines Farmstead near Ponca

C.C.C. cabins at Buffalo Point

Cold Spring Schoolhouse

Hickman cabin

Rush ghost mining town

Historical and archaeological surveys assure compliance with Executive Order 11593 of May 13, 1971. As survey-inventory work proceeds, additional cultural resources may be judged worthy of nomination to the National Register. Pending the results of the surveys and the application of National Register criteria and possible nomination and listing, interim protection will be provided to all properties that would seem to qualify. Also, when the data from the surveys become available and when the acquisition of land is far enough advanced to allow a comparative application of values to a representative range of cultural properties, specific determinations will be made not only to National Register nominations but also to levels of preservation and proposed uses.

Pending formal nomination to and acceptance on the National Register of selected properties now owned by the National Park Service, the Service has concluded a Joint Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, signed on December 4, 1973, to allow emergency stabilization of National Register potential structures (see appendix E).

Subsequent plans and actions flowing from the wilderness recommendation that might affect National Register properties should be reviewed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the state of Arkansas. Mutually agreeable practices have been formulated to avert or mitigate adverse effects, and a Joint Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council, the National Park Service, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer was executed on December 13, 1975 (see appendix E).

F. Probable Future Environment Without the Proposal

The Ozark region including the Buffalo River drainage is increasing in popularity for summer homes, second homes, and retirement homes. Sub-developments are being planned or are just beginning to develop, and this trend is expected to continue.

The river's waters were once considered unpolluted, but University of Arkansas quality tests indicate the presence of various pollutants. Water quality is decreasing in the river, and if all factors continue in their current rates, it will continue to decrease.

Air quality is staying generally the same. The main pollution contributors, kilns and sawmills, have been associated with the existing logging industry for many years. The logging industry would be expected to gradually increase in the Buffalo River basin.

Visitor use, especially river-floating use, has been increasing and will continue to increase. Water pollution, littering, sanitation, and public safety problems will accompany the increase in visitor use.

Many historic structures, indicative of Ozark Mountain culture, have been abandoned and will continue to deteriorate.

Recreation-oriented establishments are increasing throughout the Ozarks, and the urban population surrounding the Ozarks will contribute to the increasing number of regional recreation visits.

The region has experienced limiting growth factors and this is not expected to change appreciably, thus economic income will change little. Per-capita income will remain in its relatively low status.

The master plan for Buffalo National River proposes that certain lands within the national river be managed as primitive lands, which would be the same as wilderness management without the legal designation of wilderness by Congress.

III. Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

A. General Impacts

Presently the National Park Service can administratively reclassify lands, as necessary, to provide proper recognition and protection of park resources, or to plan for future visitor use and enjoyment of the values of the area. This flexibility would no longer exist on lands designated wilderness by the Congress.

However, the proposal will not significantly alter present land-use patterns for Buffalo National River, for the areas involved are being managed as Class IV (outstanding natural) and Class V (primitive) lands, in accordance with the master plan. Nondevelopment would be in order whether or not wilderness is designated by Congress.

Wilderness designation would add a second layer of congressional protection for preservation of the resources within three units of the national river. The public would be assured that the lands so designated would always be managed by the National Park Service for wilderness use. This generally precludes use of motorized vehicles and equipment and the building of any permanent structures including dams.

Wilderness designation would prohibit private and other public agencies from constructing roadways, powerlines, pipelines, and the like within any of the areas designated as wilderness unless otherwise authorized by Congress. Therefore, the lands within these areas would remain free of these nonconforming uses.

B. Impacts on Visitor Use and Park Development

Wilderness designation by Congress may create a greater public interest in Buffalo National River with a resulting increase in visitation. Eventually this may require limitations on visitor use equal to the carrying capacity of the wilderness land both in the backcountry and along the river. This is impossible to quantify now.

River use has been increasing because approximately 10 new canoe rental outlets have been established since 1972. A study of river use of the Ponca wilderness unit is currently underway to determine its carrying capacity. Increases may be mostly seasonal--in the spring when water levels are optimum and wild flowers are abundant, and in the fall when autumn colors reach their height.

Land acquisition within the wilderness units is still underway, hence use is mostly along the river for canoeing, fishing, and camping. After all the land is acquired, there would be more hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, primitive camping, and hunting, but the numbers of such visitors cannot be predicted at this time.

Extensive recreational development and permanent physical facilities would be prohibited from the designated wilderness areas. All motorized vehicles such as cars, four-wheel drives, dune buggies, trail bikes, and other off-road vehicles and/or equipment would also be prohibited except in emergencies involving the health and safety of the wilderness user (see appendixes F and G). However, visitors have not been using such vehicles here in the past.

Although no public roads now exist, that portion of the public dependent upon vehicular transportation would not be able to utilize and enjoy these wilderness areas.

River travel has been limited to hand-propelled boats on those portions of the river within the Upper Buffalo and Ponca units, because the river is too shallow or too rocky for motor-powered boats. However, powered boats may be used in the Lower Buffalo unit. The river there would be excluded from wilderness.

Access into designated wilderness by National Park Service personnel would be more arduous, time-consuming, and inconvenient. Administrative control, management (including cleanup and removal of litter), and development of these areas would have to be accomplished without the use of motorized vehicles and equipment, except in emergencies.

The Park Service can, under existing authority, issue special use permits for utility lines, roads, and the like. If wilderness is designated, this authority would be rescinded.

Future research activities in wilderness units would have to be accomplished without use of motorized equipment and permanent structures.

C. Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Destruction of vegetation and loss of wildlife habitat through construction and use of roads, parking areas, and permanent structures would not occur in wilderness units.

Future pressures to construct access roads to the river would not be met when wilderness is designated. This will eliminate soil erosion, siltation, noise, and air and water degradation.

Increasing river use would cause trampling, loss of vegetation, and habitat modification on the gravel bars in the river which are preferred campsites. Loss of vegetation could cause erosion of these gravel bars during freshets. Accumulation of human wastes at campsites along the river would increase the coliform bacteria count and lower the water quality.

Because of the concentration of use along the river, riparian and riverine plants and animals will be more adversely affected by public use than those growing upslope.

The Federal Register lists the following as being endangered (E) or threatened (T).

Ozark Chinquapin (E) (Castanea ozarkensis)
Yellowwood (T) (Cladastris lutea)
Red Wolf (E) (Canis rufus)

The park staff reports that the two following taxa are also known from the area:

Indiana Bat (E) (Myotis sodalis)
Gray Bat (E) (Myotis grisescens)

Moreover, it is possible that the endangered Fat Pocketbook Pearly Mussel (Potamilus/-Proptera/capax) reported from the White and St. Francis Rivers may also be found in the Buffalo River.

Because of the restrictions on permanent structures and use of motorized equipment in wilderness, the above listed species will not be adversely affected by their presence. However, increasing recreational use, unless held within a to-be-determined carrying capacity, could have an adverse effect on some species mostly in the spring season when young are present. The same situation will prevail with the land being managed under the Class IV or Class V category.

Similarly, historical and archaeological sites will be given the same special attention under either land use designation. Cultural features are protected by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915) and by Executive Order 11593.

D. Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment

To what extent visitation would increase above the levels realized since 1972, after wilderness is designated, is entirely conjectural. According to the Research Section of the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department, tourism in the state increased from 5 to 7 percent overall in 1976 over 1975. Assuming that the Buffalo National River shared equally in the overall increase, the local and regional economy would benefit from a greater demand for gasoline, food, camping and canoeing equipment, and supplies. On the other hand, increasing demand could exceed carrying capacity of the wilderness requiring imposition of management controls like limiting the numbers of visitors. This would minimize damage to the natural and cultural resources and would retain a wilderness experience for the visitor. Increasing visitation would also mean a larger staff and concomitant expenditures for support services. Staff above present levels would be needed to assure visitor health and safety and for resource protection.

IV. Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposed Action

Research is underway to determine the visitor capacity. Imposition of controls on visitor numbers, if required, would protect the resources from degradation and perpetuate the values for which the national river was established.

Detrimental effects on endangered/threatened species and on cultural resources would also be minimized.

Designation of wilderness would reaffirm congressional policy to maintain the river as a free-flowing stream because dams are not compatible.

Views of the backcountry wilderness of the Lower Buffalo unit would be possible for the elderly and handicapped from motorized boats that are permitted on that section of the river. Such a vicarious experience is not possible within the Upper Buffalo and Ponca units because the river is part of the wilderness and motorized boats are excluded.

V. Any Adverse Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided Should the Proposal Be Implemented

Wilderness designation prohibits the use of motorized vehicles and equipment except in emergencies. This would prevent construction of roads and other permanent structures and make it impossible for elderly and handicapped persons to use the backcountry. Routine ranger patrols and removal of litter will be more costly in time and require more personnel than would be required if wilderness is not designated.

Water quality would be lowered as coliform bacteria counts rise with increasing river use that may accompany wilderness designation. This may require restrictions on swimming in certain sections of the river especially at times of low water.

Intensive use of gravel bars as campsites would make them more susceptible to erosion as vegetation disappears through trampling and use for cooking fires.

VI. The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Although the National Park Service intends to manage the lands in question as Class IV and Class V, their inclusion as units of the National Wilderness Preservation System would relieve the possibility of pressures for development that may occur in the future. Wilderness designation also imposes an obligation on the Park Service to manage and preserve these lands so that those values are perpetuated. This may entail restrictions on the numbers of visitors that may use the three units of the Buffalo National River that are designated as wilderness.

VII. Any Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources Which Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented

Rather than allowing consumptive uses, wilderness management will ensure resource preservation. Wilderness inhibits development, and no change in the wilderness line can be accomplished without congressional approval. This, in a sense, is a commitment of resources in that economic benefits derived from development are unavailable. However, there are few inherent resources suitable for commercial development.

Wilderness designation preserves and perpetuates the resource, and anytime that Congress determines that some other use of the resources within Buffalo National River would be in the best interest of the country, it can provide for that use.

VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The following alternatives are those presented in the Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment. Alternatives 1 through 5 provide for management as primitive areas by the National Park Service of the potential wilderness units, until all lands within the boundaries of the units are in complete federal ownership and all nonconforming uses have been eliminated. Therefore, all of the lands within a particular unit would be designated as wilderness by Congress, effective upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that these lands are federal property, and that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased.

A discussion of the impacts on visitor use and park development, impacts on natural and cultural resources, and impacts on the socioeconomic environment and the surrounding area is included in each alternative.

The discussion of impacts for alternatives 1 through 5 is based on the effective date of wilderness designation, which would be approximately 25 years hence, therefore, the term wilderness is used throughout.

The impacts of the various alternatives can be summarized as follows:

> Wilderness designation would add a second layer of congressional protection for preservation of the resources within certain areas of the national river. The public would be assured that the lands so designated would continue to be managed by the National Park Service for wilderness use.
>
> Wilderness designation would prohibit private and other public agencies from constructing roadways, powerlines, pipelines, and the like within any of the areas designated as wilderness unless otherwise authorized by Congress. Therefore, the lands within these areas would remain free of nonconforming park uses.
>
> Some alternatives would provide for fewer public-use facilities and more wilderness, thereby decreasing the overall visitor capacity of Buffalo National River. The reverse would be the case for other alternatives.

Wilderness designation by Congress may create a greater public interest in Buffalo National River with a resulting increase in visitation. Eventually this may require limitations of visitor use equal to the carrying capacity of the wilderness land.

No wilderness (alternative 7) would allow the National Park Service to manage Buffalo National River as proposed in the master plan, with the flexibility to alter that management if conditions warrant it.

A. Alternative 1: Two Potential Wilderness Units--Ponca and Lower Buffalo

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative would generally conform to the master plan's land classification plan with respect to the Ponca and Lower Buffalo areas. All Class IV and V lands in these two areas would be included in the potential wilderness boundaries (see alternative 1 map). There would be two units of potential wilderness, the Ponca unit (11,300 acres) and the Lower Buffalo unit (15,600 acres).

All of the following references to existing developments to be retained and/or proposed developments are based on the master plan.

a. Ponca Unit

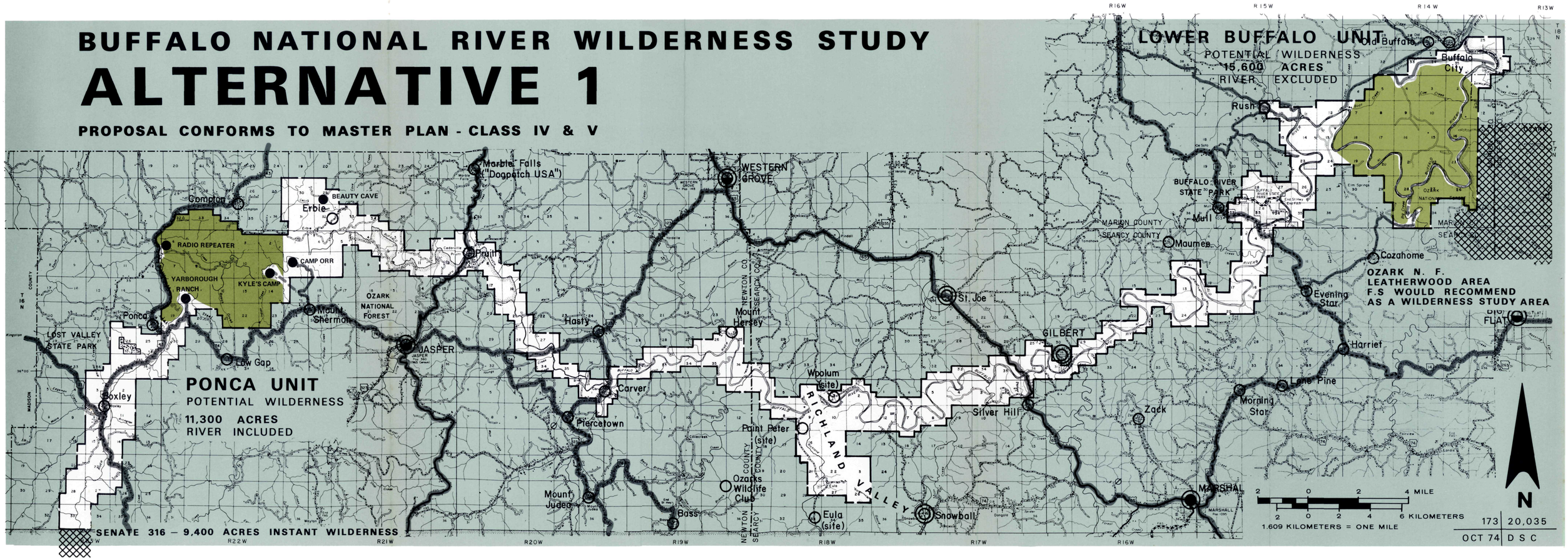
This unit of approximately 11,300 acres is generally primitive in nature with richly vegetated, rugged slopes; a 200-foot waterfall (Hemmed-in-Hollow); and scenic streams with interesting rapids and rock formations. The master plan proposes this area for primitive management (Class V) and provides for hiking, camping, canoeing, horseback riding, and hunting. That portion of the Buffalo River flowing through the Ponca unit would conform to traditional use. Motorized boats would not be allowed on the river in the Ponca unit. This would not conflict with existing use patterns because the fluctuating water level precludes the use of motor-powered boats on the river throughout much of the year. Existing primitive roads within this unit would be converted and maintained for trail use.

The boundaries of the north, west, and south sides of the Ponca unit would generally conform to the

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY

ALTERNATIVE 1

PROPOSAL CONFORMS TO MASTER PLAN - CLASS IV & V



Buffalo National River park boundaries, with the following exceptions:

> Radio-Repeater Site--The western boundary is drawn to exclude 1 acre along the boundary of the national river in the SE1/4 sec. 1, T. 16 N., R. 23 W. to provide for a radio-repeater site that will be utilized by both the National Park Service for management of the Buffalo National River and the telephone company serving the region.
>
> Ponca Bridge-Steel Creek Area--The southwest boundary of the Ponca unit is drawn to exclude existing and/or proposed developments south of the Buffalo River including an existing boat and canoe access at the Ponca bridge; a proposed day-use area (25-site) at Ponca bridge; and the existing buildings and facilities in the Steel Creek area. This area, as proposed by the master plan, will be developed into an environmental education center. The development would also provide shelter and trail access for hikers and canoeists.

The above-mentioned areas were excluded because the existing and/or proposed facilities situated there are inconsistent with wilderness designation.

The eastern boundary of the Ponca unit would follow the north-south section line between secs. 2, 11, and 14, T. 16 N., R. 22 W., and secs. 1, 12, and 13, T. 16 N., R. 22 W, excluding Kyle's Landing in the first access and/or take-out point below Ponca after a full day's float. The site is also a trailhead for the Hemmed-in-Hollow area. A primitive camp with sanitary facilities for both the floater and hiker is proposed for this site. Existing structures will be utilized for group camps and environmental education, as well as shelter for trail users and canoeists.

Immediately east of Kyle's Landing is the Boy Scouts' Camp Orr. The Camp Orr site is proposed as Class II land by the master plan and will be a private-use zone, subject to scenic controls and necessary rights-of-way for roads and trails, as long as water and air pollution do not increase.

b. Lower Buffalo Unit

This unit of approximately 15,600 acres also exhibits wilderness qualities with rugged topography, rich and diverse hardwood forests, and clear, fast-flowing streams. Although the area was heavily logged in the past, it is recovering rapidly. This area is proposed for management by the master plan as primitive land (Class V). The Buffalo River would be excluded from potential wilderness in this alternative, allowing johnboat floaters continued use of light motors to navigate the river, as the use of motor-powered vehicles is prohibited in wilderness. Throughout the Lower Buffalo unit, the high-water mark of the river would form the potential wilderness boundaries along the Buffalo River.

Vehicular access to the area would be eliminated and, where feasible, primitive trail systems would utilize existing roadways.

The north, east, and south boundaries of the Lower Buffalo unit would generally conform to the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, with the following exceptions:

> River Access-South--On the southern boundary of the Lower Buffalo unit, there is a put-in/take-out point for boaters using the Buffalo River. The roadway follows Big Creek, terminating at the Buffalo River. The road corridor and terminus at the river would be excluded from this potential wilderness unit.
>
> River Access-North--Another potential alternate take-out point exists along the north boundary of the national river from Old Buffalo to the White River, where the Buffalo River enters the White. Presently, floaters put in upstream on the Buffalo River, often at Buffalo Point or Rush. When they reach the White River there is no convenient route back to their point of origin. They must either continue many miles down the White or maneuver across its swift water to Buffalo City on the opposite shore. Some motor-powered boat trips originate on the White River and move up the Buffalo.

As a result, the Lower Buffalo unit boundary would be drawn to exclude this alternate 6-mile access roadway that would run from Old Buffalo to the mouth of the Buffalo River.

All of these areas were excluded because the existing and/or proposed facilities situated there are inconsistent with wilderness designation.

The western boundary of the Lower Buffalo unit would generally follow the high-water mark of the east bank of the Buffalo from sec. 7, T. 17 N., R. 14 W., southwest to sec. 24, T. 17 N., R. 15 W., then southeast, terminating at the park boundary in the center of sec. 19, T. 17 N., R. 14 W.

2. Interrelationships With Other Projects

The Leatherwood area of the Ozark National Forest, which abuts the eastern boundary of the Lower Buffalo potential wilderness unit, would be recommended as a wilderness study area for possible inclusion into wilderness by the Forest Service (see alternative 1 map). If designated by Congress, a wilderness area comprised of both the Leatherwood and Lower Buffalo areas would not only create a larger wilderness unit, but would also offer legislative protection to a larger portion of the Buffalo River ecosystem and its watershed.

In summary, alternative 1 would include two potential wilderness units, the Ponca unit and the Lower Buffalo unit, totaling approximately 26,900 acres.

3. Impacts of the Alternative

Alternative 1 would not significantly alter present land-use patterns for Buffalo National River, as the areas involved are proposed by the master plan for management as Class IV (outstanding natural) and Class V (primitive) lands. Nondevelopment would be in order whether or not wilderness is designated by Congress.

The National Park Service can administratively reclassify lands at a later date, if necessary, to provide proper recognition and protection of park resources, or to plan for future visitor use and enjoyment of the values of the area. This flexibility would no longer exist with congressional wilderness designation.

Wilderness designation would give the public congressional assurance that the lands so designated would be managed to preserve their wilderness character in compliance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

In general, management of designated areas within Buffalo National River as wilderness will result in the same impacts (listed below) that would occur if these areas were managed as Class IV and Class V lands under the National Park Service's land classification system.

a. Impacts on Visitor Use and Park Development

Lands will be managed as wilderness. Hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, primitive camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, and various passive types of use will be provided for or allowed. Extensive recreational development and permanent physical facilities would be prohibited from the designated areas. All motorized vehicles such as cars, four-wheel drives, dune buggies, trail bikes, and other off-road vehicles and/or equipment would also be prohibited except in emergencies involving the health and safety of the wilderness user (see appendixes F and G).

That portion of the public dependent upon mechanical transportation would not be able to utilize and enjoy these wilderness areas.

Floating on that portion of the river within wilderness would be by nonmotorized boat or canoe. Motor-powered boats would be prohibited on that section of the Buffalo River flowing through the Ponca unit.

Access into designated wilderness by National Park Service personnel would be more arduous, time-consuming, and inconvenient. Administrative control and management of these areas would have to be accomplished without the use of motorized vehicles and equipment.

The National Park Service can presently issue special-use permits for certain private, county, state and federal projects such as roadways, powerlines, and pipelines. These projects could possibly affect the lands within Buffalo National River, even Class IV (outstanding natural) and Class V (primitive) lands. However, under wilderness designation nonconforming park uses, these projects would be prohibited within the designated areas unless otherwise authorized by Congress.

Research activities will have to be accomplished utilizing motorized vehicles and equipment and permanent structures because these conveniences are prohibited in wilderness.

b. Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Minor impacts on vegetation and wildlife proximate to the river, primitive trails and campsites--such as destruction of vegetation, disruption of wildlife, and erosion, siltation, and pollution of the river--will occur in the wilderness areas because of hiking, horseback riding, camping, canoeing, and hunting uses.

Historical and archaeological sites, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915) and Executive Order 11593, will be provided the same special protection whether managed as Class IV (outstanding natural) and Class V (primitive) lands or as wilderness. Wilderness designation, however, will ensure that developments affecting any archaeological or historical sites would not occur without congressional approval.

c. Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment and the Surrounding Area

Designation of certain areas as wilderness may result in increased public interest of Buffalo National River and the resources contained within the park and the surrounding vicinity. This could result in at least a short-term increase in backcountry and river use, particularly in the spring and fall when the conditions for river use are at their best. Impacts on vegetation and gravel-bar ecology would occur if this visitor-use increase is realized.

Increased visitation could necessitate an increase in energy and money expenditures required for proper management to protect the natural and cultural resources of the park.

If the human carrying capacity of the wilderness areas is reached, management controls such as limiting the number of visitors may be necessary to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural resources and to retain a wilderness experience for the visitor.

If realized, increased visitation deriving from the "wilderness label" to Buffalo National River may benefit the local and regional economy, because there could be an increased demand for gas, food, camping and canoeing equipment, and supplies.

B. Alternative 2: Potential Wilderness Units Retaining Primitive Access Roads, and Addition of A Third Unit

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative would retain existing primitive roads for vehicular access in the Ponca and Lower Buffalo units and add an Upper Buffalo unit to potential wilderness (see alternative 2 map), resulting in three separate units totaling 27,300 acres.

a. Upper Buffalo Unit

Although relatively small in size (approximately 2,200 acres), the Upper Buffalo area is generally primitive in nature, with extremely rugged topography and relatively little development. This area is proposed as Class V land (primitive) in the master plan.

Existing primitive roads within this unit would be converted to and maintained for trail use. That portion of the Buffalo River flowing through the Upper Buffalo unit would be included in potential wilderness, thereby precluding the use of motor-powered boats.

The west, south, and east boundaries of the Upper Buffalo unit would generally conform to the boundaries of the Buffalo National River.

The north boundary would be delineated by lands that are to remain in private ownership with scenic easement and by the county road that runs through secs. 21 and 22, T. 15 N., R. 23 W. All lands within the Buffalo National River south of the scenic easement lands and the county road would be included in the Upper Buffalo unit. Scenic easement lands do not qualify for wilderness because full federal ownership is not planned, and certain uses of these lands conflict with wilderness designation.

b. Ponca Unit

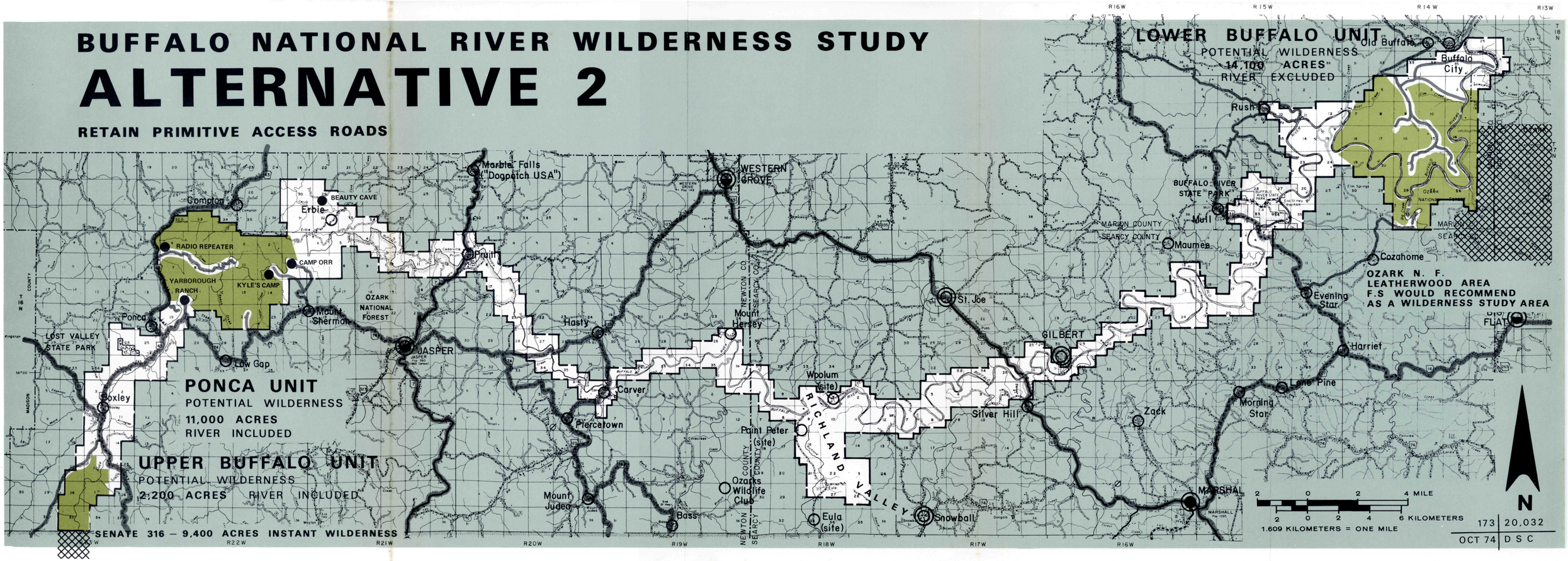
The boundaries of this unit would generally be the same as described in alternative 1, with the following exceptions:

> The northeast corner of the Ponca unit would be extended east to the major powerline crossing the Buffalo River in a north-south alignment, transecting secs. 1 and 12, T. 16 N., R. 22 W.

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY

ALTERNATIVE 2

RETAIN PRIMITIVE ACCESS ROADS



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Two primitive roadways totalling approximately 4 miles in length would be retained to provide vehicular access to trailheads, the river, and for hunting. These road access corridors would therefore not be included in potential wilderness.

The size of this unit would be approximately 11,000 acres and would include the Buffalo River itself.

c. Lower Buffalo Unit

The boundaries of this unit would generally conform to those described in alternative 1, with the following exceptions:

A network of primitive roadways, totalling approximately 10 miles, would be retained to provide vehicular access to trailheads, the river, and for hunting. Therefore, as with the Ponca unit, these road corridors would not be included in potential wilderness.

With retention of the primitive roadway along Cow Creek for vehicular access, the small 1,000-acre area immediately north of the creek would no longer be manageable as wilderness and would therefore not be included in the Lower Buffalo unit.

That portion of the Buffalo River flowing through the Lower Buffalo area would not be included in potential wilderness boundaries. The high-water mark of the river forms the potential wilderness boundaries. This potential wilderness unit would encompass approximately 14,100 acres.

2. Interrelationships With Other Projects

The Eastern Wilderness Bill, as proposed by Senate Bill 316, would designate a 9,400-acre area of the Ozark National Forest, tentatively called Upper Buffalo wilderness area. It would abut the Upper Buffalo unit on the south as wilderness (see alternative 2 map). This action would significantly benefit the Buffalo River by protecting the entire headwaters area of the river and preserving it as a clean, free-flowing stream for future generations.

The interrelationships between the Lower Buffalo unit and the Leatherwood area of the Ozark National Forest would be the same as discussed in alternative 1.

3. Impacts of the Alternative

Alternative 2 for potential wilderness would result in the same general impacts as alternative 1 in respect to land-use management, visitor use, and development of park resources. However, alternative 2 does propose the following changes from alternative 1:

The addition of a 2,200-acre tract of potential wilderness in the Upper Buffalo area.

An eastward addition of 300 acres to the northeast boundary of the Ponca unit extending to an existing major powerline.

The retention of a number of primitive roads for public use; these will therefore not be included within the Ponca and Lower Buffalo units.

These variations from alternative 1 would result in some additional impacts.

a. Impacts on Visitor Use and Park Development

The addition of a 300-acre tract to the Ponca unit and the addition of a 2,200-acre unit in the Upper Buffalo area would not create any additional impacts on visitor use and park development, because the area would otherwise be managed as Class V (primitive) lands according to the master plan.

Retention of two primitive roads in the Ponca area (totaling approximately 4 miles) and a network of primitive roads in the Lower Buffalo area (totaling about 10 miles) would provide the visitor with vehicular access into the backcountry areas, as well as to the Buffalo River.

Vehicular access could result in substantial increases in visitor use of the wilderness units, allowing a greater portion of the public to enjoy the resources of these areas by hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, and hiking while expending less of their time and energy accomplishing these goals.

b. Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Increased visitor use with vehicular access would inevitably result in increased trampling and destruction of vegetation, as well as increased disturbance of wildlife in the wilderness units.

Vehicular access with resultant increased visitor use could increase the potential for disruption and destruction of cultural artifacts and/or resources in the wilderness units.

Retention and utilization of primitive roads would result in minor amounts of erosion and siltation and substantially increase noise and air pollution within the wilderness units.

c. Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environ-Environment and the Surrounding Area

A significant increase in energy, funds, and equipment would be required by the National Park Service to properly manage the increase in visitor use and maintain the primitive road systems.

Retention and use of primitive roads would significantly reduce for some the quality of the wilderness and/or backcountry experience.

C. Alternative 3: Maximum Potential Wilderness--Three Units

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative would provide for maximum potential wilderness in three units--Upper Buffalo, Ponca, and Lower Buffalo--totaling 35,700 acres (see alternative 3 map). This alternative is the closest to the recommended plan of all the alternatives, except that the recommended plan excludes Kyle's Camp from the Ponca unit and excludes the river itself and three peripheral trailhead parking areas in the Lower Buffalo unit.

a. Upper Buffalo Unit

The boundaries for this unit would be the same as those defined in alternative 2. The Buffalo River would be included as potential wilderness in this unit. The size of the Upper Buffalo unit would be approximately 2,200 acres.

b. Ponca Unit

The boundaries of this unit would generally be the same as defined in alternative 1, with the following exceptions:

The northeast corner of this unit would be extended to the powerline running north-south across the Buffalo River as defined in alternative 2. The Kyle's Camp area and its associated vehicular corridor would be included in this unit.

The southeast boundary of the Ponca unit would extend out to include all of sec. 11, T. 16 N., R. 22 W.; the portion of sec. 12, T. 16 N., R. 22 W., north and west of the Buffalo River; and the portion of sec. 13. T. 16 N., R. 22 W., that lies within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River.

That section of the Buffalo River lying within the Ponca area would be included in potential wilderness. The size of this unit would be approximately 11,400 acres.

c. Lower Buffalo Unit

This unit would include all lands within the boundaries of Buffalo National River from the town of Rush eastward, with the following exceptions:

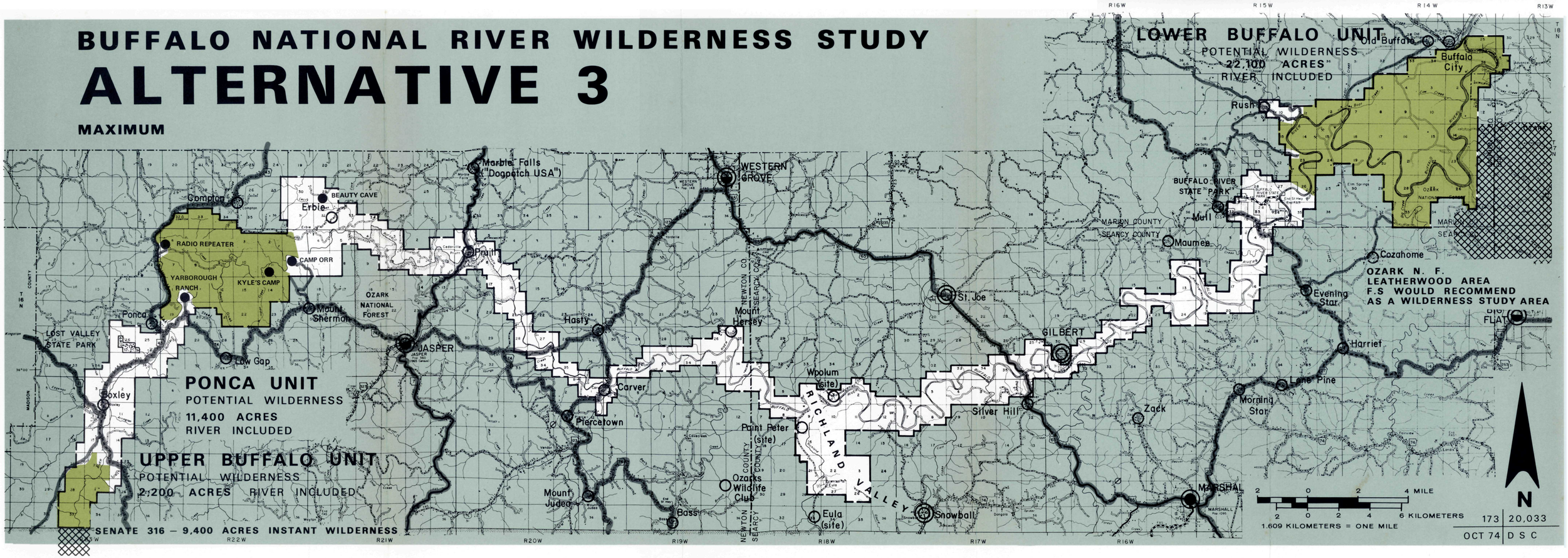
The town of Rush and its associated primitive access road to the Buffalo River would not be included. The master plan proposes that the mining ghost town of Rush be interpreted and protected as a significant historical resource of the park. The mouth of Rush Creek is important as a take-out point for an easy day's float to Mouth-of-Buffalo. As a result, boat access (roadway corridor and launching site) and a primitive campsite would be provided. Therefore, this area is excluded from this unit.

A small exclusion along the west boundary of Buffalo National River in secs. 22 and 23, T. 17 N., R. 15 W., would be necessary to provide road access to private lands lying immediately outside the park boundary.

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY

ALTERNATIVE 3

MAXIMUM



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That portion of the Buffalo River flowing through the Lower Buffalo area would be included in potential wilderness, thereby precluding use of motor-powered boats on the river. The size of this unit would be approximately 22,100 acres.

2. Interrelationships With Other Projects

The interrelationships between the Upper Buffalo Unit of the Buffalo National River and the Upper Buffalo area of the Ozark National Forest would be the same as those discussed in alternative 2.

Interrelationships between the Lower Buffalo Unit and the Leatherwood area of the Ozark National Forest would be the same as those discussed in alternative 1 Forest.

3. Impacts of the Alternative

Impacts resulting from general land-use management, visitor use, and development of park resources would be similar to those discussed for alternative 1. However, alternative 3 does propose a number of significant additions to alternative 1:

That portion of the Buffalo River that flows through the Lower Buffalo unit would be included in potential wilderness.

An addition of 100 acres of land (Kyle's Camp) to the Ponca wilderness unit.

The addition of 8,800 acres to the Lower Buffalo wilderness unit:

Big Creek access road.

Alternate road access from Old Buffalo to the White River, along with immediate surrounding lands.

Lands from the Rush area southeast to the Buffalo River.

These major additions to alternatives 1 and 2 would result in a number of additional impacts.

a. Impacts on Visitor Use and Park Development

Inclusion into wilderness of additional Class V lands in the Lower Buffalo area would not create any additional impacts on visitor use and park development, because the area would otherwise be managed as "primitive" according to the master plan (see impacts on visitor use for alternative 2).

Inclusion into wilderness of Kyle's Camp (Class II lands) would significantly limit the proposed developments of the camp. The master plan proposes to maintain Kyle's Camp as the first vehicular river access point below Ponca, as well as a trailhead for the Hemmed-in-Hollow primitive area. Sanitation facilities would be provided, and existing structures acquired there are proposed to be utilized for group camps and environmental education. Permanent structures and facilities are not compatible with wilderness, therefore, these proposed facilities would not be developed if the camp area is designated as wilderness. The existing road access would also be eliminated. Development would be limited to primitive trail access and a primitive campsite. As a result, public use of the area would be limited to hiking, primitive camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, and other types of primitive use. That portion of the public dependent upon mechanical transportation would not be able to utilize and enjoy this area.

The Big Creek access road to the Buffalo River, as well as an alternate access road from Old Buffalo to the White River, are potential put-in/take-out points for boaters and canoeists using the lower Buffalo River. These areas would be included in wilderness in alternative 3. Proposed vehicular accesses would be eliminated by alternative 3. As a result, access to the Lower Buffalo at these points would be limited to hiking trails. This action would significantly curtail access to the Buffalo River by the public, especially for those people who normally utilize that portion of the river for canoeing, hunting, and fishing.

Inclusion of the Buffalo River in the lower wilderness unit would limit the use of that portion of the river to nonmotorized boats and canoes. This action would significantly affect that portion of the public using the Lower Buffalo for hunting, fishing, and camping, as it relies heavily on motor-powered boats for transportation upstream to fishable waters and good camping sites.

b. Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Maximum wilderness for the three study areas lying within the Buffalo National River would give congressional assurance to the public that these areas would be protected and managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act. This action would ensure that the natural and cultural resources within the lands included in this alternative would be provided the added protection of wilderness designation.

Inclusion of some lands in wilderness would eliminate motorized vehicles and permanent developments from these areas. Impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources caused by construction of buildings, roads, parking areas, and so forth, and normal use of these facilities by the public would either be eliminated and/or significantly reduced.

Soil erosion with resultant siltation would be lessened with the elimination of motorized vehicles and facilities from these wilderness units. Noise and air pollution would also be reduced in these units.

Inclusion of the Buffalo River into wilderness in the Lower Buffalo unit would limit the use of that portion of the river to nonmotorized boats and canoes. This would significantly reduce the impact of boating and camping on the riverine ecosystem (that is, roiling of the river bottom by motors, destruction of aquatic vegetation, and disturbance of wildlife that utilizes the river).

c. Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment and the Surrounding Area

Inclusion of Kyle's Camp in wilderness would result in the elimination of the road access proposed for retention by the master plan and the permanent facilities at the camp. This would cause some inconvenience of time and cost to river-users who normally utilize Kyle's Camp as a take-out point after a 1-day's float from Ponca bridge. Use of the camp as a put-in point for float trips further down the Buffalo would also be eliminated, resulting in longer float trips.

Inclusion of the Big Creek access and the alternate access from Old Buffalo to the mouth of the White River into wilderness would also preclude their development for vehicular access, resulting in significant inconvenience to river-users on the Lower Buffalo. The only

accessible put-in points would be at Buffalo Point and Rush Creek. Fishermen and canoeists would have no convenient take-out points on the Lower Buffalo River, and would have to travel on to the mouth of the Buffalo upstream across the swift waters of the White River to Buffalo City.

Inclusion of the lower portion of the Buffalo River in wilderness would preclude use of motorized boats on that portion of the river. This action would result in significant inconvenience for that portion of the public that utilizes motorboats to reach fishing-holes and campsites on the Lower Buffalo River, especially those people who normally put in at Buffalo City and motor upstream on the Buffalo to their destinations.

That portion of the public that requires motorized vehicles to travel would not be able to enjoy the fishing, hunting, and camping experiences offered by the Lower Buffalo. The remainder of campers and fishermen would be forced to put in at Buffalo Point or Rush Creek, float downstream to their fishing-holes and campsites, then continue down the Buffalo across the White River to Buffalo City to take out.

D. Alternative 4: Maximum Ponca and Upper Buffalo Potential Wilderness/Minimum Lower Buffalo Potential Wilderness

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative proposes maximum potential wilderness for the Upper Buffalo and Ponca areas and minimum potential wilderness for the Lower Buffalo area (see alternative 4 map), for a total of 27,700 acres.

a. Upper Buffalo Unit

The potential wilderness boundaries for this unit would be the same as those defined in alternatives 2 and 3. Again, that portion of the Buffalo River flowing through this area would be included in this potential wilderness unit. The Upper Buffalo unit would be approximately 2,200 acres.

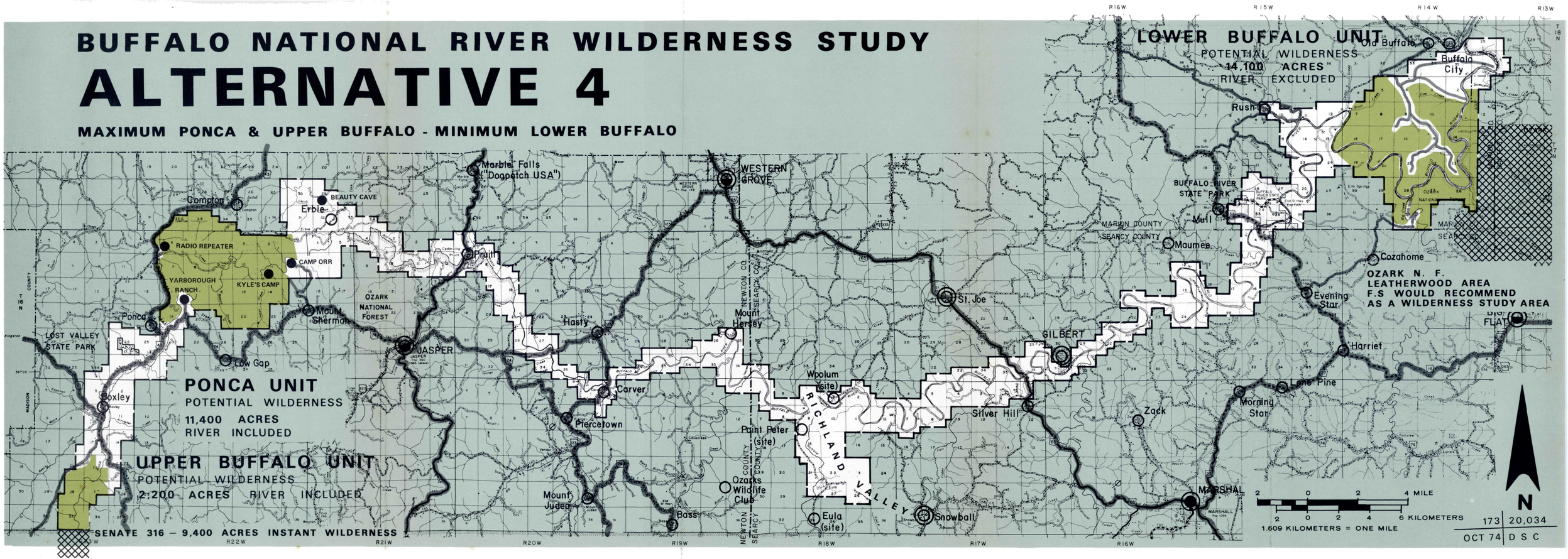
b. Ponca Unit

The potential wilderness boundaries for this unit would be the same as described in alternative 3. That section of the Buffalo River running through this area would be included in the potential wilderness unit.

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY

ALTERNATIVE 4

MAXIMUM PONCA & UPPER BUFFALO - MINIMUM LOWER BUFFALO



The total acreage for the Ponca unit would be approximately 11,400 acres.

c. Lower Buffalo Unit

The potential wilderness boundaries for this unit would be the same as described in alternative 2. That portion of the Buffalo River flowing through this area would not be included in potential wilderness to facilitate continued motorboat use as proposed by the draft master plan. The Lower Buffalo unit would be approximately 14,100 acres.

2. Interrelationships With Other Projects

The interrelationships between the Upper Buffalo unit of the Buffalo National River and the Upper Buffalo area of the Ozark National Forest would be the same as that discussed in alternative 2.

The eastern boundary of the Lower Buffalo unit would not be altered in this alternative. Therefore, the interrelationships between the Leatherwood area of the Ozark National Forest and the Lower Buffalo unit would be the same as discussed in alternative 1.

3. Impacts of the Alternative

This alternative incorporates concepts from previously discussed alternatives 2 and 3, and impacts would be the same as stated in these alternatives:

> Impacts of maximum wilderness in the Upper Buffalo area would be the same as discussed for this unit in alternative 2.
>
> Impacts of maximum wilderness in the Ponca area would be the same as discussed for this unit in alternative 3.
>
> Impacts of minimum wilderness in the Lower Buffalo area would be the same as discussed for this unit in alternative 2.

E. Alternative 5: Ponca and Upper Buffalo Potential Wilderness/No Lower Buffalo Potential Wilderness

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative proposes maximum potential wilderness for the Upper Buffalo and Ponca areas with no potential wilderness for the Lower Buffalo area (see alternative 5 map), for a total of 13,600 acres.

a. Upper Buffalo Unit

The potential wilderness boundaries for the Upper Buffalo unit would be the same as described in alternatives 2, 3, and 4. That portion of the Buffalo River within this area would be included in potential wilderness. This unit would be approximately 2,200 acres.

b. Ponca Unit

The potential wilderness boundaries would be the same as described in alternatives 3 and 4, with the Buffalo River included in potential wilderness. This unit would be approximately 11,400 acres.

2. Interrelationships With Other Projects

The interrelationships between the Upper Buffalo Unit of the Buffalo National River and the Upper Buffalo area of the Ozark National Forest would be the same as discussed in alternative 1.

3. Impacts of the Alternative

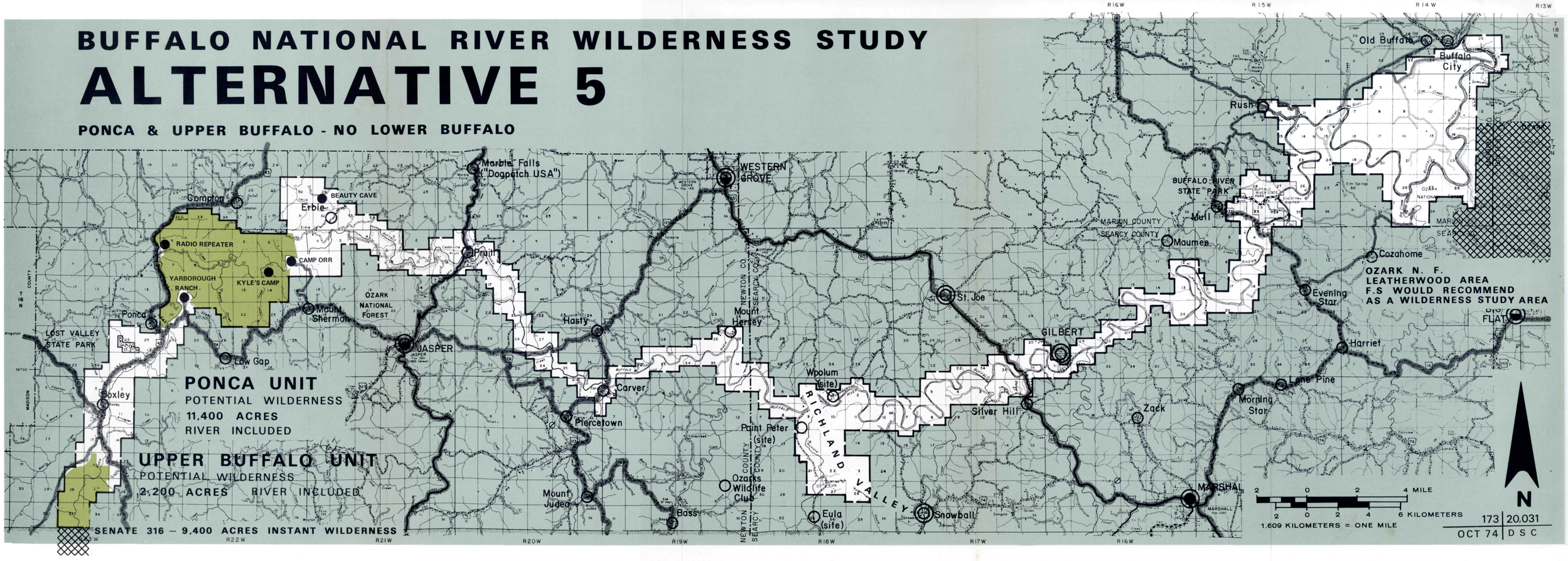
Alternative 5 incorporates concepts of previously discussed alternatives 2 and 3 for the Upper Buffalo and Ponca units and no wilderness for the Lower Buffalo unit:

> Impacts of maximum wilderness in the Upper Buffalo area would be the same as discussed for this unit in alternative 2.
>
> Impacts of maximum wilderness in the Ponca area would be the same as discussed for this unit in alternative 3.
>
> No wilderness in the Lower Buffalo area would result in the impacts outlined below.

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY

ALTERNATIVE 5

PONCA & UPPER BUFFALO - NO LOWER BUFFALO



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a. Impacts on Visitor Use and Park Development

If no wilderness is designated by Congress in the Lower Buffalo unit, the National Park Service would manage these lands according to the land classification plan in the master plan. Management of the lands classed as IV (outstanding natural) and V (primitive) would be essentially the same as wilderness. However, the public would not have congressional assurance of continued wilderness management.

Class III lands would be managed by the National Park Service as natural environment areas. The only facilities to be placed in these lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation, and protection of the features such as primitive roads, small visitor-overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature trails, and primitive camping areas.

Class II (general outdoor recreation) lands, some of which are proposed as potential wilderness in alternatives 3 and 4, would be managed by the National Park Service as general outdoor recreation areas. These lands are reserved for such things as existing and proposed visitor accommodations, administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, and roads of varying intensities.

Without wilderness designation, the Lower Buffalo Unit could be affected by private and/or public agency projects such as highways, pipelines, and powerlines if approved by the National Park Service.

b. Impacts on Natural and Cultural Resources

Without wilderness designation, private and/or public agency projects such as roads, pipelines, and powerlines within Buffalo National River could be approved in the future. National Park Service development plans could also be altered depending on future needs in the park. These demands and needs would result in a change in the land classification in the park that could affect both the natural and cultural resources of the area.

Construction of roadways and permanent facilities would result in some destruction of vegetation and disturbance of wildlife in the affected areas. Erosion and siltation, and noise and air pollution would also increase in these areas.

A change in the land classification of the park, with resultant construction and developments, would increase the probability of disturbance of the cultural resources of the park.

Increased facilities and roadways would result in an increase in visitor use of these areas, causing trampling and destruction of vegetation and disturbance of some wildlife.

An increase in visitor use in the developed areas could also result in overuse of portions of the Buffalo River. Heavy use for motorized boats would result in significant impacts on the riverine ecosystem including disturbance of aquatic vegetation; disruption of the fishery of the river--especially game-fish spawning beds; destruction and trampling of vegetation proximate to the river; and overall deterioration of the gravel bars presently utilized for campsites.

c. Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment and the Surrounding Area

A change in the land classification resulting in development of permanent facilities and roadways would also result in a decrease in the aesthetic quality of the park experience for those visitors seeking a wilderness experience.

Extreme increases in visitor use may necessitate some sort of controlled visitor-use programs by the National Park Service, ultimately denying some of the public use of the park resources, especially the Buffalo River itself.

F. Alternative 6: Instant Wilderness with Potential Wilderness Additions

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative would recommend to Congress that all of the federal lands within the exterior boundaries of the proposed units (Upper Buffalo, Ponca, and Lower Buffalo) would be designated as wilderness, and that all of the nonfederal lands within the boundaries of these units would be proposed as potential wilderness additions (see Land Status Map). All of the potential wilderness lands would, within an estimated 25 years, qualify for wilderness. A special provision would be recommended in the legislative proposal giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate these lands as wilderness at such

time as he determines they qualify. The legislation designating wilderness within the Buffalo National River would have to recognize existing nonfederal rights for as long as they exist. These rights may conflict with wilderness, such as right of vehicle access to private lands and right of use and occupancy.

The minor difference between this alternative and alternatives 1 through 5 is that a congressional provision would be required recognizing nonfederal rights whereas alternatives 1 through 5 would provide that the National Park Service could administratively provide for nonfederal rights until their expiration and designation as wilderness.

Alternative 6 can be applied to any of alternatives 1 through 5:

Potential Wilderness--Ponca and Lower Buffalo.

Potential Wilderness--Units retaining primitive access roads and an additional unit.

Potential Wilderness--Maximum in three units.

Potential Wilderness--Maximum Ponca and Upper Buffalo/Minimum Lower Buffalo.

Potential Wilderness--Ponca and Upper Buffalo/No Lower Buffalo.

2. Impacts of the Alternative

The impacts of alternative 6 would be the same as outlined and discussed under each of the alternatives 1 through 5.

G. Alternative 7: No Wilderness

1. Description of the Alternative

This alternative proposes no wilderness or potential wilderness (no action) within the Buffalo National River.

Lands within the Upper Buffalo area would be managed by the National Park Service as Class V (primitive) according to the land classification plan in the master plan.

Lands in the Ponca and Lower Buffalo areas would be managed by the National Park Service as primitive lands according to the land classification plan in the master plan (Class IV and V lands).

2. Impacts of the Alternative

Impacts of this proposal would essentially be the same as those discussed for the no wilderness alternative on the Lower Buffalo unit, alternative 5.

Management of the lands classed as IV (outstanding natural) and V (primitive) would be essentially the same as wilderness; however, the public would not have congressional assurance of this type of continued management by the National Park Service.

Lands classed as III would be managed by the National Park Service as natural environment areas. The only facilities that can be placed in these "natural environment" lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation, and protection of the features such as one-way motor nature roads, small visitor-overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature trails, and wilderness-type uses. Such limited facilities must be in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Class II lands would be managed by the National Park Service as general outdoor recreation areas. These lands are reserved for such things as existing and proposed visitor accommodations, administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, and two-way roads.

Without wilderness designation, the Buffalo National River could be affected by private and/or public agency projects such as highways, pipelines, and powerlines if approved by the National Park Service. Without proper management and/or control, these actions could significantly impact the natural and cultural resources of the park.

At this time there are no existing or proposed projects that would affect any of the three wilderness study areas--Upper Buffalo, Ponca, and Lower Buffalo units.

IX. Consultation and Coordination with Others

A. Consultation and Coordination in the Development of the Environmental Assessment

During the process of preparing the environmental assessment, the National Park Service made informal contacts with public agencies and organizations: They are:

Arkansas State Parks Department

Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

Ozark National Forest Office in Russellville, Arkansas

The Ozark Society

B. Consultation with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

In accordance with the procedures for the protection of historic and cultural properties, comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation were requested July 19, 1974.

Subsequently, on September 13 and 14, 1974, an onsite investigation was held and attended by representatives of the Advisory Council, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service. At that time, agreement was reached as to the course of action that would be required by the National Park Service to insure that the wilderness recommendation satisfactorily mitigates any adverse effect that might result to the historic resources or cultural properties.

A proposal containing the conditions agreed to at the consultation has been prepared by the National Park Service. The proposal and the resulting Memorandum of Agreement required by the Advisory Council procedures are included in appendix E.

C. Coordination in the Review of the Draft Environmental Statement on the Master Plan

Federal and state agencies and organizations were requested to review and comment on the environmental statement for the Buffalo National River Master Plan (comments received which are pertinent to the Wilderness Recommendation are enclosed in appendix H):

D. Wilderness Assessment Public Hearing

As required by the act establishing Buffalo National River, P.L. 92-237, and the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held on the preliminary wilderness study/environmental assessment on December 5, 1974, in Harrison, Arkansas. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the Federal Register on November 5, 1974, and in local newspapers. Approximately 75 people attended the hearing, and 14 presented oral statements. Oral statements, plus written responses received during the time the hearing record was open, totaled 506, as shown on table 8.

The wilderness study/environmental assessment indicated seven alternatives. These alternatives were discussed in detail in the report and are previously outlined.

The majority of the private organizations and individuals testifying or submitting written views favored alternative 3 with some boundary modifications and applying the provisions of wilderness as generally indicated in alternative 6. Specific comments and/or modifications to alternative 3 that were suggested by the public follow:

Comment: Nonwilderness exclusions around Yarborough Ranch should be at a minimum.

Response: Alternative 3 does not indicate specifically the nonwilderness exclusion for this proposed area as an environmental education center, however, the Yarborough Ranch exclusion will be the minimum necessary to encompass the developments there.

Comment: If it is determined that a road to the Lower Buffalo River from Old Buffalo City through the national river, as indicated in the draft master plan, is necessary for put-in/take-out boat access to the river, this exclusion should be the minimum necessary.

Table 8. Summary of responses received to the Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment.

Study/Environmental Assessment.

Recommendation	Public Agency	Private Organization	Individuals Statements/ Letters	Petitions	Totals
Alternative 1	0	1	2	0	3
Alternative 2	1	0	3	0	4
Alternative 3	1	36*	338*	75*	450*
Alternative 4	0	0	1	0	1
Alternative 5	0	0	1	0	1
Alternative 6 *(see note below)	-	-	-	-	-
Alternative 7	0	1	3	0	4
Wilderness general, no recommendation	0	0	4	16	20
Acknowledgments	18	1	4	0	23
TOTALS	20	39	356	91	506

*Recommended application of Alternative 6 (instant wilderness for federal lands and wilderness designation of nonfederal lands effective upon acquisition by the federal government.

The official record, including letters received by the Hearing Officer, the Superintendent and the Southwest Regional Office, and the Washington Office of the National Park Service, has been assembled and is available for review in the Washington Office.

Response: It has been determined that such a road through the national river is not needed. The existing public access upstream on the opposite bank of the White River outside the Buffalo River boundaries will be the put-in/take-out river access. Therefore, no lands are excluded from wilderness for a road access.

Comment: Small nonwilderness parking exclusions for wilderness trailheads along the national river boundaries should be provided.

Response: Six small parking area exclusions have been provided--three in the Ponca unit and three in the Lower Buffalo unit. These small proposed parking areas are shown on the Wilderness Plan. Four other proposed parking areas, not shown on the preliminary report, lie in close proximity to the wilderness boundaries and are also shown on the Wilderness Plan.

Comment: Beauty Cave should be designated as a "pocket wilderness."

Response: Beauty Cave is recognized by the master plan as an outstanding natural area (Class IV) and will be given maximum protection. It will be open only to groups by reservation and to National Park Service guided tours. The National Park Service believes the area encompassed by Beauty Cave is too small to be managed as wilderness.

Several landowners within the Buffalo National River opposed wilderness designation of any portion of the national river. Their comments were directed against the concept of a Buffalo National River and the resulting acquisition of their lands. The effects of federal acquisition of lands within the Buffalo National River were stated and discussed earlier in the draft environmental statement (D.E.S. No. 74-45) on the master plan. The designation of wilderness within Buffalo National River by Congress would have no further effects than those already stated in the draft environmental impact statement.

Letters, statements, and resolutions received from the agencies listed below are included in appendix I.

Federal Agencies

Department of Agriculture
Chief, Forest Service

State Conservationist,
Soil Conservation Service (2 letters)

Department of Commerce
Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Assistant Secretary for Science and
Technology

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Environmental Clearance Officer, Region VI

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Assistant Director
Regional Director, South Central
Region
Fish and Wildlife Service
Deputy Regional Director
Geological Survey
Wilderness Coordinator
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Director, Office of Trust
Responsibilities
Bureau of Reclamation
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Mines
Acting Director

Federal Power Commission
Chief, Bureau of Power

Department of Transportation
Regional Administrator, Federal
Highway Administration

Environmental Protection Agency
Regional EIS Coordinator, Region VI

State of Arkansas

Office of the Governor
Governor

State Game and Fish Commission
Director

Department of Parks and Tourism
Director

Department of Planning
Director

Director, Office of State Planning
Coordination

Archaeological Survey
State Archaeologist

Division of Soil and Water Resources
Chairman

Department of Health
Director

Local

Town of Pruitt
Mayor (oral statement)

E. Coordination in the Review of this Draft Environmental Statement

Comments will be requested from the following:

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Soil Conservation Service
Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Mines
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Power Commission

State of Arkansas

Clearinghouse Historic Preservation Office

Other

Northwest Arkansas Economic Development
District
Interested organizations and individuals

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APPENDIX A

Public Law 92-237

To provide for the establishment of Buffalo National River in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

Public Law 92-237
92nd Congress, S. 7
March 1, 1972

An Act

To provide for the establishment of the Buffalo National River in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

Buffalo National River, Ark. Establishment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That for the purposes of conserving and interpreting an area containing unique scenic and scientific features, and preserving as a free-flowing stream an important segment of the Buffalo River in Arkansas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") may establish and administer the Buffalo National River. The boundaries of the national river shall be as generally depicted on the drawing entitled "Proposed Buffalo National River" numbered NR-BUF-7103 and dated December 1967, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Secretary is authorized to make minor revisions of the boundaries of the national river when necessary, after advising the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate in writing, but the total acreage within such boundaries shall not exceed ninety-five thousand seven hundred and thirty acres.

Lands and waters, acquisition.

SEC. 2. (a) Within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, the Secretary may acquire lands and waters or interests therein by donation, purchase or exchange, except that lands owned by the State of Arkansas or a political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, with funds appropriated for development of the area, reimburse such State for its share of the cost of facilities developed on State park lands if such facilities were developed in a manner approved by the Secretary and if the development of such facilities commenced subsequent to the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such reimbursement shall not exceed a total of $375,000. When an individual tract of land is only partly within the boundaries of the national river, the Secretary may acquire all of the tract by any of the above methods in order to avoid the payment of severance costs. Land so acquired outside of the boundaries of the national river may be exchanged by the Secretary for non-Federal lands within the national river boundaries, and any portion of the land not utilized for such exchanges may be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 377; 40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), as amended. With the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, any Federal property within the boundaries of the national river may be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for administration as part of the national river.

Retention rights.

(b) Except for property which the Secretary determines to be necessary for the purposes of administration, development, access or public use, an owner or owners (hereafter referred to as "owner") of any improved property which is used solely for noncommercial residential purposes on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary or any owner of lands used solely for agricultural purposes (including, but not limited to, grazing) may retain, as a condition of the acquisition of such property or lands, a right of use and occupancy of such property for such residential or agricultural purposes. The term of the right retained shall expire upon the death of the owner or the death of his spouse, whichever occurs later, or in lieu thereof, after a definite term which shall not exceed twenty-five years after the date of acquisition. The owner shall elect, at the time of conveyance, the term of the right

reserved. The Secretary shall pay the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value of the term retained by the owner. Such right may, during its existence, be conveyed or transferred, but all rights of use and occupancy shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate to assure the use of such property in accordance with the purposes of this Act. Upon a determination that the property, or any portion thereof, has ceased to be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, the Secretary may terminate the right of use and occupancy by tendering to the holder of such right an amount equal to the fair market value, as of the date of the tender, of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

"Improved property."

(c) As used in this section the term "improved property" means a detached year-round one-family dwelling which serves as the owner's permanent place of abode at the time of acquisition, and construction of which was begun before September 3, 1969, together with so much of the land on which the dwelling is situated, the said land being in the same ownership as the dwelling, as the Secretary shall designate to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use.

Hunting and fishing, rules and regulations.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws, except that he may designate zones where and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any rules and regulations of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission.

Water resource projects, restriction.

SEC. 4. The Federal Power Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting the Buffalo National River and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river is established, as determined by the Secretary. Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to, developments below or above the Buffalo National River or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area on the date of approval of this Act. No department or agency of the United States shall recommend authorization of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river is established, as determined by the Secretary, nor shall such department or agency request appropriations to begin construction on any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without, at least sixty days in advance, (i) advising the Secretary, in writing, of its intention so to do and (ii) reporting to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, respectively, the nature of the project involved and the manner in which such project would conflict with the purposes of this Act or would affect the national river and the values to be protected by it under this Act.

Administration.

SEC. 5. The Secretary shall administer, protect, and develop the Buffalo National River in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented; except that any other statutory authority available

to the Secretary for the conservation and management of natural resources may be utilized to the extent he finds such authority will further the purposes of this Act.

Area review; report to President.

SEC. 6. Within three years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review the area within the boundaries of the national river and shall report to the President, in accordance with subsections 3(c) and 3(d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (c) and (d)), his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the national river for preservation as a wilderness, and any designation of any such area as a wilderness, shall be accomplished in accordance with said subsections of the Wilderness Act.

Appropriation.

SEC. 7. For the acquisition of lands and interests in lands, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than $16,115,000. For development of the national river, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than $283,000 in fiscal year 1974; $2,923,000 in fiscal year 1975; $3,643,000 in fiscal year 1976; $1,262,000 in fiscal year 1977; and $1,260,000 in fiscal year 1978. The sums appropriated each year shall remain available until expended.

Approved March 1, 1972.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 92-807 accompanying H. R. 8382 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 92-130 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 117 (1971): May 21, considered and passed Senate.
Vol. 118 (1972): Feb. 7, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H. R. 8382.
Feb. 9, Senate concurred in House amendment.

APPENDIX B

Land Classification

LAND CLASSIFICATION

Master planning requires sound classification of the lands in a recreation area. This is necessary to ensure that public-facility development is commensurate with the use capabilities of the basic resources and in accord with the legislative intent of Congress for the area. Land classification in recreation areas thus is a tool of space allocation.

The land classification system used is similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission and prescribed for application to federal lands by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as follows:

> Class I--high density recreation areas; Class II--general outdoor recreation areas; Class III--natural environment areas; Class IV--outstanding natural areas; Class V--primitive areas; and Class VI--historic and cultural areas.

Classes I and II identify the land reserved for visitor accommodations, for administrative facilities, public beaches, marinas, formal campgrounds, two-way roads, etc. (both existing and proposed), of varying intensities. Class I and II lands in recreation areas will occupy a relatively higher proportion of the total space as compared to such classifications in, for example, a national park.

Class III identifies the "natural environment areas" which will, to a large degree, make up the bulk of the lands within a recreation area. Ofttimes, facilities and uses are planned in Class III lands that provide for additional public use of the area, such as public recreational hunting and nature study. Such developments are less intensive than those for Class I and II lands. These developments, moreover, should be in harmony with and facilitate the enjoyment of the natural environment. Other resource uses, not incompatible with the recreation mission of the area may be provided for in the Class III lands, such as timber harvesting and grazing.

Classes IV, V, and VI, while not necessarily found in recreation areas, do frequently occur there. While these elements provide the very basis for a national park or monument, they serve to enhance and supplement the more general features of the Class III aspects of a recreational

area. The planner must be keenly aware of Class IV, V, and VI resources within recreation areas preserved and made available to the public; these resources can greatly complement the recreation area by providing a much broader spectrum of visitor use and enjoyment.

Class IV lands are those encompassing unique natural features such as Big Spring in Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Class V lands are primitive lands that should remain pristine and undisturbed as a part of our natural inheritance. Where they exist in sufficient size, they may qualify for study and recommendation to the Congress for designation as wilderness. Facilities in Class V lands should be limited to trails and such limited primitive campsites, shelters, and sanitary facilities as may be required for public use and enjoyment or protection of the Class V values.

Class VI lands are those of historical or cultural significance, such as the lighthouse at Cape Point in Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

APPENDIX C

Preliminary Reconnaissance Water Quality Survey of the Buffalo National River. Water Resources Research Center, University of Arkansas 1973.

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

Principal investigator: Dr. D.G. Parker

Three two-day sampling trips were taken in order to collect information on water quality. The dates of these trips were May 22-23, June 10-11, and June 24-25, 1973.

During each trip eight sampling stations were surveyed. The location of each sampling station is shown on the Sample Stations Locations map. The following is a brief description of the location of each station:

Station #1: Boxley--located immediately downstream from Highway 21 bridge.

Station #2: Shaddox--located downstream from the confluence with Mill Creek at Shaddox Cemetery.

Station #3: Jasper--located on the Little Buffalo River at Highway 7 bridge.

Station #4: Hasty--located at the low-water bridge upstream from Highway 123 bridge.

Station #5: Gilbert--located at the Gilbert landing.

Station #6: Highway 14--located just downstream from Highway 14 bridge.

Station #7: State Park--located in Buffalo River State Park in camping area above sewage effluent.

Station #8: Rush--located downstream from influent of Clabber Creek.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 list the pertinent water quality information obtained during the study period. The following is a brief description of each parameter:

Flow: Streamflow was determined at stations #2 and #3 to establish the relative quantity of flow in the Little Buffalo. It appears that the flow in the Little Buffalo makes up approximately 29 percent of the

total flow in the Buffalo River below the confluence. This indicates that any water quality problem in the Little Buffalo could have a significant effect on water quality in the Buffalo.

Temperature: The temperature of the water in the river increased slightly from May through June and is generally cooler upstream than downstream.

Dissolved oxygen: The dissolved oxygen concentration in the river was consistently above 7.2 mg/1 which is sufficient to support a healthy aquatic environment.

pH: The pH varied from 7.0 to 7.9; however, no trend is readily apparent.

Color and turbidity: The color and turbidity of the river water were generally low; however, it was observed during the first sampling trip that both parameters can be significantly affected by rainwater runoff.

Nitrate: Variations in nitrate nitrogen are shown in tables 2 and 3. The concentrations appear to be largest in the downstream stations. This increase could possibly be the result of increased input of agricultural runoff and domestic waste discharges into the river.

Orthophosphate: Orthophosphate concentrations were determined under field conditions and were too low to be measured accurately by the techniques used. However, later measurements indicate that concentrations of less than 0.1 mg/1 orthophosphate-phosphorus are typical for the river concentrations downstream. These variations are probably due to the same factors affecting nitrate.

Alkalinity: Alkalinity is primarily a measure of the bicarbonate concentration in the water. The alkalinity in the Buffalo River increases in the downstream direction. This increase is probably the result of changing geological conditions as the river drops in elevation.

Hardness: Hardness is a measure of the concentration of divalent metal ions, prinicpally calcium and magnesium. The hardness in the river is similar to the alkalinity and is probably influenced by the same factors that influence alkalinity in this system.

Chlorides: The chloride concentration was low at all stations on the river.

Conductivity: The conductivity of water is primarily influenced by the concentration of dissolved solids in the water. The conductivity of the river increased in the downstream direction and indicates an increase in the dissolved solids concentrations in the lower portion of the river.

Suspended solids: Suspended solids concentrations in the river are relatively low (less than 11 mg/1) except for stations 2, 4, and 5 on May 22-23. This increase was a result of heavy rains that started May 22.

Total solids: Total solids increase downstream which is a result of the increase in dissolved solids.

Coliform organisms: Coliform organisms are indicators of possible fecal contamination in water. The United States Public Health Service sets a limit of one coliform per 100 ml of water as a safe level for drinking water. Station #3 at Jasper, Arkansas, consistently showed high concentrations of organisms, and samples collected in Mill Creek above station #2 also showed high coliform counts. The actual sources of this contamination could only be determined by further investigation but there is sufficient evidence to recommend that the Buffalo River water not be used as a source of untreated drinking water.

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD): The BOD and COD tests were conducted and it was found that the values of these parameters were too low to be significant.

Total organic carbon (TOC): The TOC is a measure of the organic matter in the water and is often related to BOD and COD. It was found that all samples were quite small (less than 6.0 mg/1) which indicates that the river water contains only a very small quantity of oxygen-demanding material.

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS

Date Sampled: May 22-23, 1973

TABLE 1

Parameter	Rush #8	St. Park #7	Hwy 14 #6	Gilbert #5	Hasty #4	Jasper #3	Shaddox #2	Boxley #1
Flow (cfs)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Temperature (^{0}C)	20	20	20	19	17.5	17	17	17
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
pH	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.1
Color (Units)								
Turbidity (JTU)								
Nitrate (mg/l as N)			EQUIPMENT FAILURE					
Orthophosphate (mg/l as PO_4)								
Alkalinity (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	140	120	120	110	70	80	70	25
Hardness (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Chlorides (mg/l)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Conductivity (μ Mhos)	----	----	220	200	120	760	140	40
Suspended Solids (mg/l)	2.6	3.0	6.0	20.6	39.6	7.4	23.2	10.6
Total Solids (mg/l)	----	----	144	168	176	104	152	64
Coliforms, Total (Coli/100 ml)	0	0	130	0	5500	5000	300	30
Coliforms, Fecal (Coli/100 ml)	0	0	50	0	1500	670	150	0
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	2.1	2.1	2.9	1.9	5.6	----	5.7	3.3

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS

Date Sampled: June 10-11, 1973

TABLE 2

Parameter	Rush #8	St. Park #7	Hwy 14 #6	Gilbert #5	Hasty #4	Jasper #3	Shaddox #2	Boxley #1
Flow (cfs)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Temperature (^{0}C)	22	23	23	22.5	22	19	21	22
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.0	75	8.0	10	7.5
pH	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.3
Color (Units)	5	10	0	0	0	0	20	10
Turbidity (JTU)	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Nitrate (mg/l as N)	0.60	0.20	0.45	0.12	0.09	0.18	0.26	0.08
Orthophosphate (mg/l as PO_4)	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Alkalinity (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	112	102	100	95	86	78	91	33
Hardness (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Chlorides (mg/l)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	4.2	2.8	2.8
Conductivity (μ Mhos)	160	140	140	140	130	120	140	50
Suspended Solids (mg/l)	8	11	9	16	5	5	5	5
Total Solids (mg/l)	67	75	67	63	75	72	80	16
Coliform, Total (Coli/100 ml)	220	100	27	200	330	1700	700	130
Coliform, Fecal (Coli/100 ml)	34	50	10	50	140	190	23	30
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	3.2	5.0	3.5	2.7	4.2	3.2	2.6	2.9

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS

Date Sampled: June 24-25, 1973

TABLE 3

Parameter	Rush #8	St. Park #7	Hwy 14 #6	Gilbert #5	Hasty #4	Jasper #3	Shaddox #2	Boxley #1
Flow (cfs)	----	----	----	----	----	42	104	----
Temperature (^{0}C)	26	26	27	27	26	23	23	25
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)	7.2	7.4	8.9	8.5	8.5	7.4	8.0	8.4
pH	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.9	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.0
Color (Units)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turbidity (JTU)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nitrate (mg/l as N)	1.2	0.8	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.25	0.10	0.20
Orthophosphate (mg/l as PO_4)	$<$1.0	$<$ 1.0	$<$1.0	$<$ 1.0	$<$1.0	$<$1.0	$<$1.0	$<$ 1.0
Alkalinity (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	130	127	123	123	106	98	100	42
Hardness (mg/l as $CaCO_3$)	148	136	117	111	105	95	109	43
Chlorides (mg/l)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.5
Conductivity (μ Mhos)	250	240	240	220	200	200	220	90
Suspended Solids (mg/l)	1.4	2.7	2.3	2.2	3.5	3.0	3.6	4.8
Total Solids (mg/l)	152	141	120	125	119	111	127	60
Coliforms, Total (Coli/100 ml)	20	22	41	26	29	11000	230	2000
Coliforms, Fecal (Coli/100 ml)	130	7	----	8	4	16000	150	200
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)	2.1	1.7	2.7	2.1	1.8	4.5	2.9	2.2

APPENDIX D

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY DATA

From "Archaeological Inventory of
the Buffalo National River" by
Daniel Wolfman, July 1974.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY DATA

Two hundred and fifty-four archaeological sites have been located to date within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. The great majority of these were located by amateur archaeologists. In addition, other sites were located and a few tested by M.R. Harrington in 1922 and 1923; University of Arkansas Museum crews under the direction of S.C. Dellinger between 1923 and 1935; and Kenneth Cole of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Russellville Station, between 1968 and 1973. Site survey forms from all of these sites are on file, and surface collections from less than half of them are stored at the Arkansas Archaeological Survey Station at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville. The following portion of this report was compiled from that information.

It should be emphasized again that most of these sites were located by amateurs and in most cases surface material was either not collected or, if collected, has not been examined by the Archaeological Survey. Intensive surface surveys of the area and of individual sites have not been undertaken. Consequently, the summaries of site data given below must be considered as very preliminary.

Types of Sites

Within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River two types of sites predominate: Open sites on the terraces, and shelters in the bluffs along the Buffalo River and its tributaries. In addition, six sites were found at the mouths of caves (although the caves and shelters are geologically very different features, on the basis of present evidence, archaeologically the cave mouths and shelters seemed to serve the same purpose). Also, one open site on a hill top, one open site on a high slope, and one pit (or sink hole) in which there was an Indian skeleton with no associated artifacts, were found.

Chipping debris and other archaeological material are scattered along the second terraces of Buffalo River. There probably is not a second terrace field along the river within the boundaries of the park where some chipping debris could not be collected after plowing. In addition there are definite concentrations of material indicative of intensive human activity at many locations. Based on preliminary surveys and excavations within the Buffalo National River and evidence from elsewhere in the eastern United States, it would appear that the second terrace fields along the Buffalo River and its tributaries served as temporary camp sites throughout prehistory and perhaps as the site of year-round houses and small villages during Mississippian times. Other transient activities such as hunting, gathering, manufacture and sharpening tools probably left their mark as well. The alluvial and colluvial deposition of silt on these second terrace fields has undoubtedly buried much archaeological material and it is possible that many stratigraphic cultural deposits interlaced with sterile silt remain to be found. At this time, only two stratified sites on these terraces (3NW411 and 3NW434) have been recognized so far within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. Test excavations and careful examination of terrace edges should reveal more buried material.

The shelters and cave mouths within the Buffalo National River served as ideal locations for prehistoric habitation. Deposits in excess of three meters in some of the shelters attest to their long and intensive use. Archaeologically, these sites are important because the deep, stratigraphic deposits provide information about change through time. More important, dry deposits in a few of the shelters (no more than six known presently within the park, and these are badly disturbed) preserves normally perishable material rarely found in archaeological sites which adds greatly to our knowledge of prehistoric life. Occupational debris in shelters varies greatly from a few chips to more than three meters of artifact bearing deposits. It would seem that the

shelters served both as temporary camp sites as well as more permanent, perhaps year-round, base camps throughout the Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian stages in the Buffalo National River.

Temporal Distribution of Sites

There is evidence of human occupation within the Buffalo National River for the past 10,000 years. The prehistoric occupation can be divided into three stages: Archaic (ca. 8000--500 B.C.), Woodland (ca. 500 B.C.--A.D. 700), and Mississippian (ca. A.D. 700--1541). and each can be recognized on the basis of diagnostic artifacts. Many types of large projectile points are diagnostic of the Archaic stage (including the early Archaic Dalton point, found at six sites within the Buffalo National River), clay- or grit-tempered pottery, diagnostic of the Woodland stage, and shell-tempered pottery of the Mississippian stage. Two easily identifiable types of projectile points overlap temporally adjacent stages: Gary points made in late Archaic and Woodland times and arrow points in the Woodland and Mississippian stages. Any, all, or none of these diagnostics may be found at a particular archaeological site, and thus may provide some idea of the time range during which the site was occupied. According to the site survey sheets, most of the sites did not yield temporarily diagnostic artifacts; at many no more than chert flakes were found. Since many of the sites within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River have already been visited by amateur collectors searching for projectile points and since many of the second terrace fields, where most of the sites are found, are covered with high grass and silt, this result is not terribly surprising. Intensive survey and test pitting will provide considerably more temporal (as well as cultural and environment) information.

APPENDIX E

Memoranda of Agreement, dated March 13, 1975, and December 4, 1975, between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer.

Advisory Council
On Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W. Suite 430
Washington D.C. 20005

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service proposes to adopt the Buffalo National River Master Plan and make a Wilderness Recommendation for the Buffalo National River; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service has determined that these undertakings as proposed could have an adverse effect upon cultural resources that appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and pursuant to Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, has requested the comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 C.F.R. Part 800), representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer have consulted and reviewed the undertaking to consider feasible and prudent alternatives to satisfactorily mitigate the potential adverse effects; now,

THEREFORE: It is mutually agreed that implementation of the undertaking, in accordance with the attached "National Park Service proposal to remove and/or mitigate any adverse effects on cultural resources within the Buffalo National River that might result from the Buffalo River Master Plan and Wilderness Recommendation," submitted by letter dated December 24, 1974 from Theodore R. Thompson, Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, National Park Service, will satisfactorily mitigate any adverse effect on the above-mentioned properties.

Robert R. Garvey Jr. Jan 20, 1975 (date)
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Theodore R. Thompson 2-14-75 (date)
National Park Service
Department of the Interior

W. E. Henderson 2-25-75 (date)
Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer

Rennie M. Silverstro 3/13/75 (date)
Chairman
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Council is an independent unit of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government charged by the Act of October 15, 1966 to advise the President and Congress in the field of Historic Preservation.

This proposal results from a tri-partite field consultation held at Buffalo National River on September 13 and 14, 1974, pursuant to the "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). The consultation was attended by representatives of the Advisory Council, the National Park Service, and the Arkansas state preservation officer. Basic agreement was reached between the parties as to the steps that should be taken by the National Park Service to protect the extant cultural resources. This proposal identifies the actions that will be taken by the National Park Service to locate and protect these resources.

The master plan and wilderness recommendaton constitute a combined federal undertaking that will affect potential National Register properties within the proposed boundaries of the national river. To date several projects have been undertaken, or are now programmed, by the National Park Service to identify and protect the historical and archaeological resources. These are as follows:

1. A Special History Report: Preliminary Survey of Historic Structures--Part 1, Buffalo National River in 1973 by Dr. Richard Sellars, then a historian at the Denver Service Center, National Park Service. Dr. Sellars surveyed all property acquired by the Service, to that date, and identified the historical value of all structures. Similar surveys will be conducted on all land acquired by the Service as a part of its acquisition of the Buffalo Natonal River. This report was reviewed and accepted by the state historic preservation officer.

2. By memorandum dated October 10, 1973, the regional director classified the structures identified in the special history report according to the management prerogatives regarding the structures' preservation and use. The memorandum is valuable not only in terms of specific property determinations, but also it shows the methodology used to classify properties. This methodology was further refined during the consultation. The following classification scheme will be used by the National Park Service in all historic site surveys made at Buffalo National River.

Eligible:

1. Properties meeting National Register criteria and feasible for preservation/ maintenance. These properties will be nominated to the National Register and preserved/maintained as exemplary sites and properties illustrating Ozark Plateau history, architecture, and archaeology.

2. Properties meeting National Register NPS will carefully document the removal or failure to maintain these structures per its established policy and procedures for such structures. This documentation will be submitted to the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council for comment prior to the Service initiating any adverse action with regard to the properties. Generally these will be properties that do not warrant preservation because of access, existing conditions, limited resources, redundancy, and marginal comparative historic values. The Service will record such properties, as appropriate, and salvage those materials that can be used to restore and maintain other historic structures.

Not Eligible:

1. Marginal historic-value properties not qualifying for National Register, but contributing to historic atmosphere. These properties will be retained (but not necessarily maintained), or, where appropriate, salvaged for historic building materials and photographically recorded.

2. No historic-value properties to be used or disposed of according to management needs.

3. By contract, Texas Tech University is continuing the preliminary study initiated by Dr. Sellars on properties acquired since his investigations. This study will result in National Register nominations for those structures identified in the October 10, 1973, classification as requiring further investigation, where appropriate. The

results of the Texas Tech study will be available about January 1, 1975. At that time full discussions will be initiated with the state historic preservation officer to evaluate sites and structures and receive his comments on National Register nominations. The results of these meetings will be documented and reported to the Advisory Council, and specific properties will be nominated to the National Register.

4. On a continuing basis along with the land acquisition program, the National Park Service will continue to survey properties and, as appropriate, add them to its List of Classified Structures and nominate them to the National Register.

The List of Classified Structures comprises those National Park Service structures worthy of protection and preservation funding, and such listing is an in-Service prerequisite for nomination to the National Register.

5. An emergency stabilization program for selected historic structures deemed eligible for the National Register is to be initiated. Money is being sought from special historic preservation funds which, hopefully, will be available in 1976 fiscal year. Due to limited manpower for project supervision and acute emergency stabilization problems elsewhere in the southwest region, initiation of this work has been delayed. The aim of this work will be to hold selected structures in the status they were at time of acquisition via emergency repair, roofing, bracing of walls, etc. This work, combined with no trespass signs, sealing of structures with plywood sheets, and periodic patrols by area staff, constitutes the rudimentary preservation/protection interim program, to be superseded by comprehensive preservation as soon as possible. The Joint Memorandum of Agreement of December 4, 1973, relating to this interim work program is in appendix E.

6. Lacking funds for comprehensive archaeological surveys and studies (such funds programmed, as attested by the attached Development/Study Package Proposal, but not yet forthcoming), certain interim measures have been taken to identify and avert destruction or damage to archaeological resources:

a. A contract with the Arkansas Archeaeological Survey to survey severance tracts in order to facilitate the land acquisition program.

b. A contract with the Arkansas Archaeological Survey to compile extant literature/site data prior to a full-scale survey of the national river. Published report on hand, dated July 1974. This report will be the basis for comprehensive archaeological surveys and programmed measures to protect known archaeological sites.

c. Under the Texas Tech contract, a limited amount of archaeological work is programmed to perform spot tests of proposed development sites at conceptual planning stages.

The historical resources along Buffalo National River primarily reflect the rural, isolated, generally subsistence-level living conditions which generations experienced within the narrow confines of the valley.

Most of the historically significant homes are of log or plant construction, and have numerous outbuildings built of the same materials. They are scattered throughout the length of the Buffalo Valley. As it proceeds, the historical survey will locate and evaluate the scattered structures, and those structures or sites meeting the National Register criteria (as well as the feasibility standards discussed above) will be nominated to the Register, placed on the List of Classified Structures, given comprehensive-preservation and cyclic-maintenance treatment, and included in the interpretive program.

At present, only four historic-period sites appear to have significant intrinsic, as contrasted to exemplary, historical value: the 1836 Hickman Cabin, the ghost town of Rush, the Boxley Grist Mill (placed on the National Register on July 31, 1974) and the Boxley Community Center. The first three will be acquired and preserved and the first two will be nominated to the National Register. The last will continue in private ownership, but within the scenic easement zone, which will allow the National Park Service (after purchase of easement rights) to impose basic preservation standards.

The master plan and wilderness recommendation proposes the following actions that potentially could impact the historic resources:

> To have minimal developments at river crossings--Pruitt, Tyler Bend, Buffalo Point, and Ponca--including visitor-contact stations as well as facilities for boat access, swimming, and other actvities.
>
> To permit development of recreational facilities scattered along the entire length of the park including hiking trails, horseback riding trails, and bicycling trails, facilities for boat access, and primitive campgrounds primarily for use of floaters.
>
> To allow use of mobile interpretive units in various areas along the river.
>
> To establish environmental education centers.
>
> To designate three primitive areas (Upper Buffalo, Ponca, and Lower Buffalo areas) to be incorporated in the wilderness area.

The proposed actions could threaten the historical resources both directly, where development will take place at historical sites, thus either obliterating them or causing very heavy use of them, and indirectly through encouraging widespread use of the park resulting in greater visitation to, and possible increased vandalism of, historical sites scattered throughout the valley. Specifically, the potential adverse effects include:

> The use of Boxley as a scenic area will bring greater visitation to the area, involving increased automobile traffic, possible parking areas, and bicycle trails, potentially causing considerable

visual pollution of the valley, which as a pastoral natural scene also has historical values. The chief historical structures, the Boxley Grist Mill and the Boxley Community Center, will be impacted probably more directly than the rest of the historical and natural setting of the valley. This will be especially true of the Boxley Mill when it is acquired and developed for interpretation.

Further development at Ponca for floater's access and for sight-seeing activities could cause considerably increased visual intrusion on the historic structures that overlook the river crossing. The use of these buildings for historical interpretation might result in further disturbance through various alterations and preparations for interpretation.

The use of Steel Creek as the location for an environmental education center and for a trailhead may adversely impact historic structures in the area should any exist.

The designation of three areas along the Buffalo River as wilderness areas could adversely impact historic structures in the area. Several structures of historical interest are known to exist within the proposed Ponca wilderness area, and further investigation could reveal additional structures that have historical value.

Facilities at Kyles Landing for the floater's access, primitive camping, environmental education, and group camps could intrude on the one known historic structure in the area, the Frank Villines Cabin, and possibly upon other historic structures should others be found upon further investigation.

Developments for recreation and sight-seeing in the vicinity of Erbie could intrude upon the integrity of several buildings in the area that have cultural significance. Other significant structures might be found in the area and they could be similarly impacted.

Development at Pruitt could adversely affect historical sites in the areas should any such sites exist.

The developments at Point Peter, near Gilbert, and in the Mouth-of-Buffalo area could have adverse effects on historic structures should any exist in these

areas. At present, there is no knowledge of any historic sites or structures in these areas.

Developments planned for Tyler Bend could intrude upon historic resources in the area.

The development of Buffalo Point as a center for varied recreational activities could have adverse effects on the historical integrity of the rustic stone buildings in the old Buffalo River State Park which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Upon further investigation more structures of significant historical interest might be found in the area, and they also would be threatened by intrusion resulting from National Park Service actions.

The developments for boat access and primitive camping at the mouth of Rush Creek might adversely impact the integrity of the historic resources now known to exist in the ghost town of Rush and its environs, as well as any other sites of historical significance which might be discovered through further investigation.

Several actions are proposed to avert potential adversities resulting from developments called for in the master plan and wilderness recommendation. Thorough and extensive historical and archaeological surveys will be conducted throughout the park. Such action is called for in the master plan, and the surveys have begun. These surveys will be especially intensive in the areas designated for development, and they will precede the development so that significant resources can be protected through salvaging (if this proves to be the only feasible and prudent alternative), or through adjusting the planned development to accommodate and protect the resources. In all cases throughout the park involving action stemming from this master plan, should the surveys discover structures or sites having significant cultural values and existing in areas affected by such action, the National Park Service will give due consideration to the value of these properties and the necessary degree of their protection from the intrusion. Tentative determinations will then be subject to review and comment by the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council.

There are many structures scattered throughout the park that have exemplary historical value; that is, they are representative types of indigenous dwellings, outbuildings, etc., such as were used by generations of people in the valley prior to the coming of standardized construction.

These structures do not have the specific, intrinsic historical values of the Boxley Community Center, the Boxley Mill, the 1836 Hickman Cabin, and the buildings at the old mining town of Rush. The exemplary values of many of the historic structures along the Buffalo allow some flexibility in determining which structures should be preserved and in what manner, and in turn, affect the degree of impact upon the historical resources in the areas to be developed. The choice of which exemplary structures to preserve and display, and how, can more or less be made to accommodate the development deemed necessary in the park. The selection of exemplary structures whose natural or historical settings are to be maintained can be made in areas to be unaffected by development. In the development areas, various methods of preservation can enable the structure to remain standing under heavier use and thus complement the overall development in the particular area. The intrusion upon the integrity of an exemplary historical site in a developed area would be mitigated by two major factors: The convenience of the site to the development, which would allow interpretation for a large number of visitors, and the fact that many other similar structures exist in areas of the park unaffected by park development and could be interpreted with minimal intrusion upon their historical and natural setting.

The philosophy and methodology of selection of exemplary sites and structures has been discussed above, but in this context it is useful to emphasize certain safeguarding criteria to be applied: Sites or structures with unique cultural values will receive intensive study and review to assure preservation of such unique values. Sites or structures that are redundant (many examples in the park) will be selected as examples on the basis of cultural-value integrity (structural, historical setting, etc.) <u>first</u>, and then with regard to <u>secondary</u> considerations such as access, visitor-use potential, preservation/protection and economic feasibility, and the like. As in the past, each incremental selection plan will be subject to review by the state historic preservation officer, with documentation provided by the Advisory Council. In all cases involving potential National Register properties--even if marginal--the Advisory Council will have opportunity for specific review and comment. With specific regard to archaeological sites, the mainly scientific values of these sites will be the principal judgmental factor should choices between sites become necessary with regard to preservation <u>or</u> salvage. As indicated above, all historic-period remains that are not chosen for preservation will be evaluated for salvage value (e.g., historic building materials), and a systematic

salvage/storage program will be set up to provide a materials bank for preservation work.

Specifically, some of the factors that will avert the potential adverse effects of action stemming from the master plan include the following:

> Any developments resulting from the use of Boxley as a scenic area will be designed to cause minimal intrusion on the pastoral setting, but especially on the prime historical structures, which will be protected from intrusion of trails, parking areas, or other facilities. The action necessitated by the use of structures for interpretation of historical values, such as perhaps restoring the Boxley Grist Mill and opening it to visitors, is mitigated by the fact that such efforts will result in preservation of the site and will add considerably to the visitor's awareness and appreciation of historical activities in the Boxley Valley. This mill is one of a very few such structures still existing in Arkansas, and the State Historian, Dr. John Ferguson, has stressed the importance of its preservation and interpretation to the people of Arkansas. To facilitate the desired development at Boxley Mill, the Park Service will acquire the mill as soon as possible, and initiate emergency protection measures. For protection of the mill and its overall setting as well as for having a complete interpretive scene, the National Park Service will seek to acquire the mill pond and mill race along with the mill itself.

The proposed action at Ponca will result in limited development at the river crossing in the vicinity of the historic Villines Cabin on the hillside east of the bridge. The structures immediately west of the bridge have potential historical value also. All of these buildings have exemplary historical value rather than intrinsic value, thus their use can be more easily combined with the development in the area, and they can serve as convenient, valuable walk-in sites for interpretation of the area's culture. Such use will justify the necessary restoration work, and will complement the recreational development at Ponca.

No survey has been made to determine if historical structures exist in the Steel Creek area; however, it is doubtful that any such structures will be found there. Should historically significant structures be found in the

area, development by the National Park Service will mitigate impacts by taking into consideration the particular historical value of each structure and making the necessary accommodations for maintaining its integrity, as indicated by its degree of significance.

The designation of the Ponca primitive area should not adversely affect historic structures presently known to exist in the area, for these structures, the William White buildings and the Williard Rudd cabin, will be left standing as discovery sites.

Potential intrusion of the developments at Kyles Landing upon the historic Frank Villines cabin will be mitigated by using the structure as a walk-in site for interpretation of local history and culture. To assure preservation of historical and interpretive values, the National Park Service will limit as much as possible any new development within visual range of the cabin.

In this Erbie area, the structures now known to possess cultural values, the Arvin Tinsley barns and the cabin on the Howard Sherratt place, should continue in their relatively undisturbed settings. The National Park Service will take this into consideration when planning development near Erbie, and mitigate the impact by placing out of view as much of the development as possible.

Presently, no historical structures are known to exist in the immediate vicinity of Pruitt where development is planned. The Floyd Hawkinsmith cabin has some potential as a historical site, but it is located far enough east of Pruitt so that its integrity should not be affected. Should further studies reveal the existence of historically significant structures at Pruitt, the structures will be given consideration during the development process so that adverse impact on them can be avoided.

Should the historical survey preceding the development near Gilbert, at Point Peter, and in the Mouth-of-Buffalo area discover any structures of historical significance, the structures will be given full consideration in the development planning so that any adverse effect on them can be avoided.

The significance of sites and structures in the Tyler Bend area will remain largely undetermined until the historical survey is completed. It is doubtful that intrinsically significant historical structures exist at Tyler Bend; however, several old exemplary structures are in the area and should lend themselves to worthwhile interpretation.

They will be preserved and adapted for interpretive purposes in their present locations where they will provide interpretation for large numbers of people, possibly in the form of a living farm. Avoidance of adverse effects will be accomplished by not allowing the proposed development in the area to come within visual range of the historic structures.

Interest in the preservation of the buildings which the Civilian Conservation Corps built at Buffalo River State Park has been expressed by Dr. John Ferguson, State Historian of Arkansas. Potential adverse impact on these buildings resulting from proposed development at Buffalo Point will be averted by continuing to use the buildings for the very purpose for which they were built, i.e., as park facilities, and by avoiding additional development in the immediate vicinity of the buildings.

Rush is the only ghost town in Arkansas, and perhaps the only ghost mining town in the entire Midwest. Dr. John Ferguson, State Historian of Arkansas, has strongly emphasized the importance of preserving and interpreting Rush. Unfortunately, the town is being sacked by vandals and local salvagers, and the terms of the court injunction prohibit immediate acquisition. As soon as the injunction is lifted (upon approval of the master plan environmental impact statement), concerted effort will be made to acquire Rush and initiate immediate emergency stabilization/repair work, along with required protection to avoid further vandalism and salvage of the remnants of the town.

By restricting development at the mouth of Rush Creek to that which is absolutely necessary, excessive intrusion by campers and floaters will be avoided. Restoration and interpretation of Rush will preserve the town and enable visitors to benefit from the historic site.

The basic premise underlying all development proposals, as they relate to cultural properties, is the application of light-touch sensitive approaches that will either insulate such properties from development sites (e.g., walk-in trails) or, if the developments are proximate to the cultural properties, will assure that developments are compatible and complementary (e.g., fitting interpretive facilities). The continuing safeguard to assure that this premise is followed is constant involvement of the state historic preservation officer at the Development Concept Plan (DCP) stage. Each developed area will go through this preliminary planning stage and a document that conceptualizes management objectives and intents will be produced. Under the Advisory Council's procedures, this document will be reviewed by the state historic preservation

officer, and documentation of the results of this consultation will be provided the Advisory Council if there is any effect upon cultural properties that are on the National Register or are eligible for it. Should adverse effects be threatened, mitigations and/or plan modification that avert such effects will be inserted into the planning process, and resulting plans will again be subject to review and comment by the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council.

With reference to potential National Register sites that might be identified in current and proposed surveys, the National Park Service proposes to adopt modes of wilderness area operation, research designs, and preservation maintenance procedures. In sum these modes contemplate the following criteria:

1. Wilderness area operation will avoid any transfer, sale, demolition, or substantial alteration of any potential National Register property or of its environmental setting.

   Any visitor access to, or to the vicinity of, any such property will take account of historical and scientific values--which may result in prohibiting any access or access development to such properties, particularly those that might possess outstanding scientific potential. Moreover, should vandalism of isolated backcountry sites result because of trail proximity, protective patrols would be instituted; or, failing that, trails would be closed or used only on a guided-tour basis.

2. Any extraction of scientific data by excavation of potential National Register sites would occur only after development of research designs that would be reviewed and agreed to by the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Such designs would provide for the least possible site destruction (given research aims), proper salvage technique, appropriate backfilling, and reservation of sectors of sites for future scientific investigation.

3. Should significant structural remains be discovered during current and proposed surveys, a programmed cyclic maintenance procedure would be instituted to assure preservation of such sites at preservation levels to be determined and defined in the park's historic resources management plan and in specific-structure preservation guides. Such documents, as they are developed to meet evolving needs, will also be subject to review by the state historic preservation officer. As to preservation of archaeological sites, the basic principle in the wilderness area will be to leave such sites alone, except in the instance of selective scientific excavation under terms of approved research designs. On the basis of existing reconnaissance and survey data, it appears that most potential National Register sites that might be discovered in the wilderness area would be archaeological sites of primarily scientific rather than interpretive value. The principle of leaving the archaeological sites alone, except for selective scientific excavation, is the best preservation method.

4. Protection of isolated archaeological sites from pot-hunting and vandalism is a function of periodic ranger patrols. Manpower limitations and logistical access difficulties preclude comprehensive protection through this means. Valuable sites that cannot be protected, despite periodic ranger patrols, will be tested by archaeologists to retrieve scientific information and artifacts and materials before looters completely destroy the stratigraphy of the sites.

The above criteria for wilderness area operation, research, protection, and maintenance--in reference to potential National Register properties--will be conducive to preservation of such properties, and, therefore, will avert or adequately mitigate any adverse effects that might flow from the proposal. This evidence of initial compliance with the Executive Order, and, by extension, with

the National Historic Preservation Act, is further guaranteed by the proviso that future proposals flowing from the current proposal and affecting potential National Register properties will be subject to review by the state historic preservation officer, pursuant to the "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources" (36 CFR Part 800).

The wilderness recommendation will not affect any nonfederally owned districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects of historical, archaeological, architectural, or cultural significance. The proposal contemplates lands wholly under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service within the boundaries of Buffalo National River and far removed from existing or potential nonfederal National Register properties being considered by the state (excepting the Boxley Mill, which will be the proposed land use in the wilderness area--in light of the type of cultural resource most likely to be found there--and will have beneficial indirect effects on these resources, due to perpetuation of relative isolation and limited visitor use in the wilderness area). The proviso that essential preservation maintenance will be conducted in the wilderness area--assuming the existence of properties requiring such maintenance -will avert the "destruction by neglect" of cultural resources.

* * * * * *

Intensive archaeological surveys in compliance with Executive Order 11593 have been programmed. A research proposal for the required surveys was submitted by the superintendent of Buffalo National River in February 1973, and was approved by the southwest regional director of the National Park Service, but funds have not been appropriated to accomplish the survey. Such an extensive survey is impossible at this time, even if funds were available, because nearly two thirds of the land of Buffalo National River is still in private ownership and not accessible to archaeologists.

In the interim, intensive archaeological surveys will be conducted in areas where developments are planned, to assure that significant archaeological resources are not damaged or destroyed by construction activities or visitor use which is brought about by developments. If sites are discovered, which would appear to qualify for the National Register, they will be nominated and will receive the protection afforded by the Section 106 process. Archaeological sites will be avoided when possible, and salvage excavations will be conducted only after demonstrating to the Advisory Council and state historic preservation officer that there is no prudent and feasible alternative to the location of proposed facilities.

The National Park Service recognizes the need for comprehensive archaeological surveys to identify the total resource base for the management and protection of these resources, which is determined partly through the planning process. Only when the total resource base is known can intelligent choices be made with respect to conservation of certain sites and development of others for the benefit of current and future visitors. Lacking such data at present, when a determination of the significance of sites is required during spot surveys, the National Park Service will consult with archaeologists having expertise in the area who can evaluate the site on the basis of their knowledge of other sites in the vicinity.

Protection of archaeological sites is hampered at present because of lack of personnel and difficult access. Protection will be improved with additional staffing and land acquisition, and when Buffalo National River is fully operational, archaeological sites will receive protection in the form of ranger patrols and guided tours where applicable. In conformance with the National Park Service policy, the locations of archaeological sites will not be publicized in order to protect these resources from the destructive actions of relic hunters.

The National Park Service would like to work with the Arkansas Archaeological Survey in developing additional measures for the protection of archaeological resources; however, present policies and attitudes of the survey, apparently derived in part from state law, are a barrier to developing any working relationship. Arkansas Archaeological Survey policy makes it very difficult for the Service to contract with out-of-state institutions to accomplish required archaeological work. A meeting between the National Park Service regional archaeologist and personnel of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey has been held in an attempt, to resolve the problem but no agreement was reached. The Service will continue its communications with the Arkansas Archaeological Survey and attempt to change its policies and attitudes. When existing barriers are relaxed, a proper working relationship can be developed and mutually agreeable solutions to archaeological problems can be found.

ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, proposes to conduct emergency stabilization on newly acquired cultural resources of Buffalo National River, Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has determined that this proposal will affect properties eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and pursuant to Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," dated May 13, 1971, has requested the comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and,

WHEREAS, representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer have consulted regarding the proposed emergency stabilization program; now,

THEREFORE:

It is mutually agreed that implementation of the proposed undertaking, in accordance with the attached letter of July 19, 1973, from Frank F. Kowski, Regional Director, Southwest Region, National Park Service, with specific conditions under which the work will be performed, to insure preservation of the historic integrity of the properties, will not have an adverse effect.

John D. McDermott (date) 11/13/73
Executive Secretary
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

F. F. Kowski 11-21-73
(date)
National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Wm E. Henderson 11-28-73
(date)
Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer

S. K. Stevens 12/4/73 (date)
Chairman
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

THE COUNCIL, *an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, is charged by the Act of October 15, 1966, with advising the President and Congress in the field of Historic Preservation, commenting on Federal, federally assisted, and federally licensed undertakings having an effect upon properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, recommending measures to coordinate governmental with private activities, advising on the dissemination of information, encouraging public interest and participation, recommending the conduct of special studies, advising in the preparation of legislation, and encouraging specialized training and education, and guiding the United States membership in the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome, Italy.*

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHWEST REGION
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 19 1973

Mr. Robert R. Garvey
Executive Secretary
Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation
1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Garvey:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11593, the National Park Service requests the Advisory Council to comment on its work program for preservation and stabilization of historic and prehistoric properties in the Southwest Region. This work is programmed mostly for 1974 F.Y., but some projects may carry over into 1975 F.Y. because of budgetary limitations.

The attached project descriptions identify each of the programmed undertakings and discuss the effects upon each cultural resource. Some of these resources are on the National Register and therefore fall under the coverage of Section 106 of the NHPA (items 14 thru 18 on Summary List); others are in process of nomination to the National Register and therefore fall under Section 2(b) of E.O. 11593 (items 1 thru 13).

The general effects of these projects fall into three classes: (1) Holding-action emergency stabilization and repair to retain existing original fabric, thus allowing future preservation treatment as will be determined by Historic Resources Management Plans, (items 1 thru 12 in the Summary List). (2) Safety provisions at historic mine shafts and tunnels (item 13). (3) Continuing stabilization and rehabilitation of basic resources in National Register properties (items 14 thru 18). Item 14--Fort Union-- is described as an emergency project because of severe damage from heavy snow and rain this past winter and spring.

To ensure that these undertakings contribute to the preservation of the integrity of the affected properties, all work will be supervised by a professional restoration specialist, historical architect, or archeologist; and all work will be performed in accordance with the standards and procedures determined by National Park Service historic preservation policies.

We are sending informational copies of this letter and its attachments to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officers, with the request that they forward any comments upon these projects directly to the Advisory Council, with copy to this office.

Should you require additional information, please contact Ron Ice or Dave Battle of this Office (505-982-3501).

Sincerely yours,

Director, Southwest Region

Enclosures

cc: Louis Wall, Advisory Council, Denver
State Historic Preservation Officers,
Arizona, Arkansas, New Mexico, Texas
all w/encls.

APPENDIX F

WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act."

WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED—STATEMENT OF POLICY

SECTION 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas", and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

(b) The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress. No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System as a separate unit nor shall any appropriations be available for additional personnel stated as being required solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely because they are included within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM—EXTENT OF SYSTEM

SECTION 3. (a) All areas within the national forests classified at least 30 days before the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "wilderness," "wild," or "canoe" are hereby designated as wilderness areas. The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

(2) Maintain, available to the public, records pertaining to said wilderness areas, including maps and legal descriptions, copies of regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Maps, legal descriptions, and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions also shall be available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forest supervisors, and forest rangers.

Classification. (b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "primitive" and report his findings to the President.

Presidential recommendation to Congress. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as "wilderness" or other

reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of all the areas now classified as "primitive" within three years after the enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years after the enactment of this Act, and the remaining areas within ten years after the enactment of this Act.

Congressional approval. Each recommendation of the President for designation as "wilderness" shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as "primitive" on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on the effective date of this Act until Congress has determined otherwise. Any such area may be increased in size by the President at the time he submits his recommendations to the Congress by not more than five thousand acres with no more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of such increase in any one compact unit; if it is proposed to increase the size of any such area by more than five thousand acres or by more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in any one compact unit the increase in size shall not become effective until acted upon by Congress. Nothing herein contained shall limit the President in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress, the alteration of existing boundaries of primitive areas or recommending the addition of any contiguous area of national forest lands predominantly of wilderness value. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may complete his review and delete such area as may be necessary, but not to exceed seven thousand acres, from the southern tip of the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area, Colorado, if the Secretary determines that such action is in the public interest.

Report to President. (c) Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness.

Presidential recommendation to Congress. The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation as wilderness of each such area or island on which review has been completed, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of the areas and islands to be reviewed under this subsection within three years after enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years of enactment of this Act, and the remainder within ten years of enactment of this Act.

Congressional approval. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Nothing contained herein shall, by implication or other-

wise, be construed to lessen the present statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within units of the national park system.

Suitability. (d) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness—

Publication in Federal Register. (A) give such public notice of the proposed action as they deem appropriate, including publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land;

Hearings. (B) hold a public hearing or hearings at a location or locations convenient to the area affected. The hearings shall be announced through such means as the respective Secretaries involved deem appropriate, including notices in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the area: *Provided.* That if the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies;

(C) at least thirty days before the date of a hearing advise the Governor of each State and the governing board of each county, or in Alaska the borough, in which the lands are located, and Federal departments and agencies concerned, and invite such officials and Federal agencies to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or by no later than thirty days following the date of the hearing.

(2) Any views submitted to the appropriate Secretary under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to Congress with respect to such area.

Proposed modification. (e) Any modification or adjustment of boundaries of any wilderness area shall be recommended by the appropriate Secretary after public notice of such proposal and public hearing or hearings as provided in subsection (d) of this section. The proposed modification or adjustment shall then be recommended with map and description thereof to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to such modification or adjustment and such recommendations shall become effective only in the same manner as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

USE OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SECTION 4. (a) The purposes of this Act are hereby declared to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which national forests and units of the national park and wildlife refuge systems are established and administered and—

(1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215).

(2) Nothing in this Act shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act (Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, July 10, 1930; 46 Stat. 1020), the Thye-Blatnik Act (Public Law 733, Eightieth Congress, June 22, 1948; 62 Stat. 568), and the Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andresen Act (Public Law 607, Eighty-fourth Congress, June 22, 1956; 70 Stat. 326), as applying to the Superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including, but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made:

(1) Within wilderness areas designated by this Act the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as

may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

Mineral leases, claims, etc. (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to the effective date of this Act, extend to those national forest lands designated by this Act as "wilderness areas"; subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture consistent with the use of the land for mineral location and development and exploration, drilling, and production, and use of land for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, or facilities necessary in exploring, drilling, producing, mining, and processing operations, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment and restoration as near as practicable of the surface of the land disturbed in performing prospecting, location, and, in oil and gas leasing, discovery work, exploration, drilling, and production, as soon as they have served their purpose. Mining locations lying within the boundaries of said wilderness areas shall be held and used solely for mining or processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto; and hereafter, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States affecting national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas shall convey title to the mineral deposits within the claim, together with the right to cut and use so much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if the timber is not otherwise reasonably available, and if the timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products thereof, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining or prospecting shall be allowed except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act: *Provided*, That, unless hereafter specifically authorized, no patent within wilderness areas designated by this Act shall issue after December 31, 1983, except for the valid claims existing on or before December 31, 1983. Mining claims located after the effective date of this Act within the boundaries of wilderness areas designated by this Act shall create no rights in excess of those rights which may be patented under the provisions of this subsection.

Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within national forest wilderness areas designated by this Act shall contain such reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

Water resources. (4) Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this Act, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use or uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) Other provisions of this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, formerly designated as the Superior, Little Indian Sioux, and Caribou Roadless Areas, in the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, shall be in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the general purpose of maintaining, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber, the primitive character of the area, particularly in the vicinity of lakes, streams, and portages: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall preclude the continuance within the area of any already established use of motorboats.

(6) Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

(7) Nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

SECTION 5. (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given

such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture:

Transfers, restriction. Provided, however, That the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the State or private owner relinquishes or causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

Acquisition. (c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this Act as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress.

GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION. 6. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall become part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this Act, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this Act.

ANNUAL REPORTS

SECTION 7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make.

Approved September 3, 1964.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS:

No. 1538 accompanying H. R. 9070 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs) and No. 1829 (Committee of Conference).

SENATE REPORT:

No. 109 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 109 (1963): April 4, 8, considered in Senate.
April 9, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 110 (1964): July 28, considered in House.
July 30, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H. R. 9070.
August 20, House and Senate agreed to conference report.

APPENDIX G

Departmental Guidelines for Wilderness Proposals

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

United States Department of the Interior

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20240

June 24, 1972

Memorandum

To: Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Director, National Park Service

From: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Subject: Guidelines for Wilderness Proposals – Reference Secretarial Order No. 2920

In the course of developing wilderness proposals we should strive to give the areas under study wilderness designation but not at the expense of losing the essential management prerogatives that are necessary to fulfill the purposes for which the areas were originally intended. Although each area under study must be considered separately, with special attention given to its unique characters, the following criteria should be adhered to when determining the suitability of an area for wilderness designation.

Management

An area should not be excluded from wilderness designation solely because established or proposed management practices require the use of tools, equipment or structures, if these practices are necessary for the health and safety of wilderness travelers, or the protection of the wilderness area. The manager should use the *minimum* tool, equipment or structure necessary to successfully, safely and economically accomplish the objective. When establishing the minimum tool

and equipment necessary for a management need within wilderness areas economic factors should be considered the least important of the three criteria. The chosen tool or equipment should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently.

For the purpose of this paragraph, accepted tools, equipment, structures and practices may include but are not limited to: fire towers, patrol cabins, pit toilets, temporary roads, spraying equipment, hand tools, fire-fighting equipment caches, fencing and controlled burning. In special or emergency cases involving the health and safety of wilderness users or the protection of wilderness values aircraft, motorboats and motorized vehicles may be used. Enclaves, buffer zones, etc., should not be established if the desired management practices are permitted under these guidelines.

Visitor Use Structures and Facilities

An area that contains man-made facilities for visitor use can be designated as wilderness if these facilities are the minimum necessary for the health and safety of the wilderness traveler or the protection of wilderness resources. An example of a wilderness campsite that could be included is one having a pit toilet and fire rings made of natural materials and tent sites. A hand-operated water pump may be allowed. This kind of campsite would not be considered a permanent installation and could be removed or relocated as management needs dictate. Facilities that exceed the "minimum necessary" criteria will be removed and the area restored to its natural state. (See section on Exceptions.)

Areas containing campsites that require, for the protection of the adjacent wilderness values, facilities more elaborate than those allowed in a wilderness campsite should be excluded from wilderness designation.

Prior Rights and Privileges and Limited Commercial Services

Lands need not be excluded from wilderness designation solely because of prior rights or privileges such as grazing and stock driveways or certain limited commercial services that are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

Road and Utilities – Structures and Installations

Areas that otherwise qualify for wilderness will not be excluded because they contain unimproved roads, created by vehicles repeatedly

traveling over the same course, structures, installations or utility lines, which can and would be removed upon designation as wilderness.

Research

Areas that otherwise qualify need not be excluded from wilderness designation because the area is being used as a site for research unless that use necessitates permanent structures or facilities in addition to those needed for management purposes.

Future Development

Those areas which presently qualify for wilderness designation but will be needed at some future date for specific purposes consistent with the purpose for which the National Park or National Wildlife Refuge was originally created, and fully described in an approved conceptual plan, should not be proposed for wilderness designation if they are not consistent with the above guidelines.

Exceptions

Certain areas being studied may contain structures such as small boat docks, water guzzlers and primitive shelters that ought to be retained but may not qualify as minimum structures necessary for the health and safety of wilderness users or the protection of the wilderness values of the area. When an area under study for wilderness designation would otherwise qualify as wilderness a specific provision may be included in the proposed legislation for this area, giving the wilderness manager the option of retaining and maintaining these structures. Necessary management practices such as controlled burning shall also be mentioned specifically in the proposed legislation.

Areas being considered for wilderness designation will not be excluded solely because they contain hydrologic devices that are necessary for the monitoring of water resources outside of the wilderness area. When these devices, either mechanical or electronic, are found to be necessary, a specific provision allowing their use will be included in the legislation proposing the wilderness area being considered. For the installation, servicing and monitoring of these devices the minimum tools and equipment necessary to safely and successfully accomplish the job will be used.

Areas being studied for wilderness designation will not be excluded solely because they contain lakes created by water development projects if these lakes are maintained at a relatively stable level and the shoreline has a natural appearance. Where this occurs and there is no other reason for excluding the area, a specific provision describing the water development project and its operation will be included in the proposed legislation along with the recommendation for including it in the wilderness area. Other minimal development of water resources may be suggested for inclusion in wilderness if specific reference is made to them in the proposed legislation. These provisions will allow present maintenance practices to continue.

Areas that contain underground utilities such as gas pipelines and transmission lines will not be excluded from wilderness designation solely for this reason. Where this occurs the areas may be included by making specific mention of them in the proposed legislation indicating that this use would continue and previously established maintenance practices would be allowed to continue.

When non-qualifying lands are surrounded by or adjacent to an area proposed for wilderness designation and such lands will within a determinable time qualify and be available Federal land, a special provision should be included in the legislative proposal giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate such lands as wilderness at such time he determines it qualifies.

Nathaniel P. Reed

APPENDIX H

Comments received on the Environmental Statement for the Buffalo National River Master Plan which are pertinent to the wilderness recommendation.

August 5, 1974

Superintendent Buffalo National River
P. O. Box 1173
Harrison, Arkansas 7260

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed your draft environmental statement, proposed master plan, Buffalo National River, Arkansas and offer the following comment.

Page 17, 4. Resource Management
The third sentence of the second paragraph tends to add confusion rather than information.

Page 57, (1) "Erosion along the riverbank -."
This impact can be mitigated to some extent by coordination between the Ozark National Forest and the Buffalo National River on fencing those areas where National Forest grazing allotments join the National River boundary.

An additional subject area we'd like to see addressed is the relationship of the proposed master plan to other land use plans, policies and controls for the affected area. Under this category coordination with the Ozark National Forest could be discussed to cover in particular the following items:

--National Forest camping facilities are inadequate to provide for National Forest visitors and cannot absorb National River visitors. N.P.S. should plan to develop enough campground capacity to handle those visitors who cannot be accommodated in private facilities.

--The National Hydrological Benchmark Program could be used to provide background data on the effects of certain national forest resource management activities on water quality. Such studies could suggest modification of management options in the portion of the Buffalo River watershed under national forest management.

--Coordination of access routes and trails will be essential

to both agencies for adequate protection and management of resources.

--We believe a discussion of the Off-Road Vehicle Policy would be appropriate to include in the environmental statement.

Very important, in our view, is the need to discuss the relationship of the Buffalo National River to other land use plans and proposals in the area. The following contiguous units in particular should be described.

--The proposed Upper Buffalo Primitive Area (3000 acres), within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, joins the proposed Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area (10,000 acres), situated within the Buffalo Ranger District, Ozark National Forest.

--Also within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, the proposed Lower Buffalo Primitive Area joins an area of 7000 acres, within the Sylamore Ranger District, Ozark National Forest, currently being managed as the Leatherwood Special Interest Area. Adjacent to the Leatherwood Special Interest Area, there is an area proposed for inclusion in a state natural areas system.

Thanks for the opportunity to review this statement and be assured of our full cooperation in coordination of future planning efforts.

DAVID F. JOLLY
Regional Environmental Coordinator
Environmental Evaluation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SUITE 800, 1720 PEACHTREE ST., N. W.
ATLANTA, GA. 30309

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
South Central Regional Office
Patio Plaza, 5000 Marble N.E., Room 211
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Buffalo National River

From: Regional Director, South Central Regional Office

Subject: Draft environmental statement, proposed master plan, Buffalo National River, Arkansas (DES-74/45)

We have reviewed the subject draft statement and offer these comments for your consideration.

General Comments

In general, the draft adequately discusses the recreational areas and opportunities along the river and describes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Specific Comments

I. Description of the Proposal

B. Legislative Background and Legislative Constraints on Planning

The first paragraph describes the National River as 132 miles long excluding the first 16 miles lying within the Ozark National Forest. This is also described in the second paragraph on page 24. However, all the maps enclosed in the draft indicate the proposed National River boundary is all the way to the mouth of the Buffalo where it joins the White River. This is confusing and should be clarified in the final.

C. Concepts of the Master Plan

It is noted on figure 7, page 13, that several areas plotted on the map (Bat Cave, Bolin Cave and others) were not described in the text on pages 14-17, as were the other locations. Likewise, several features described in the text were not plotted on the map. These locations were "Hemmed-in-Hollow", "Steel Creek" and "Lower Buffalo Primitive Area". Although some of these locations were described and located later in the text, others were not. It would aid the reviewer by having all the locations on the same map with a complete discussion of each area.

In the middle of page 22, the statement mentions 920 acres of Forest Service land is being transferred to the National Park Service. A map in the statement should specifically locate and identify these Forest Service lands. Also, the draft might include a discussion that a portion of the River falls within the United States Forest Service's Blanchards' Spring Composite and that a number of acres within this composite have been purchased under the Federal Land Acquisition Program utilizing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. According to our maps, many acres acquired with these funds lie directly adjacent to the River itself. It is not known if the Forest Service Composite is being transferred to the National Park Service or if the land is the 16 mile portion excluded from the 132 mile National River. The draft should identify all Federal acreage acquired and more specifically identify which lands are in the proposed National River boundary.

VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

On page 84, "Boundary Deletions", Hemmed-in-Hollow Primitive area is described as "largely inaccessible". However, all the maps in the draft show State Highway 43 paralleling almost the entire western boundary of this area. The draft should address this highway as a possible detriment to this primitive area due to possible overuse and violation of the primitive setting. This impact should possibly be discussed more thoroughly in Section III of the draft. Although the statement generally discusses the environmental impacts, more specific attention might be given this particular primitive area due to the location of the highway.

Rolland B. Handley
Regional Director

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIRECTOR • CHARLES R. MCGIMSEY III
STATE ARCHEOLOGIST • HESTER A. DAVIS

Coordinating Office
University of Arkansas Museum
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
June 5, 1974

Superintendent
Buffalo National River
P. O. Box 1173
Harrison, AR 72601

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and of the Master Plan for the Buffalo National River. It is with dismay and a sense of failure that I find the reports to be exactly as they were when I first commented on them, without even copies of my earlier comments attached.

For 10 years I have been writing official letters and comments to the National Park Service concerning the archeological resources of the Buffalo River area. The only evidence that any of this was received is the statement that there is evidence of 9,000 years of occupation in the area. The frustration I feel is aggravated by the fact that the only conclusion I can draw is that the National Park Service is ignoring its responsibilities. I thought I had said everything there is to say about the nature, amount, and potential significance of the resources in the several comments I have written in the past few years. In addition, since the draft environmental statement is unchanged with regard to information on the archeological resources, approach to the resources, or reference to on-going contract work from the version I commented on in November 1973, the enclosed comments are essentially the same as the earlier ones.

I wish to emphasize again however, the incorrectness of the statement that archeological surveys are now being conducted which will provide information for the assessment of the resources. The current contract with the Arkansas Archeological Survey is for a records check, literature summary, and that is all. This will <u>not</u> provide an adequate amount of information on the total resources of the basin for an impact statement. It is my understanding that an on-the-ground survey will be completed by Texas Tech for the historic resources with some initial recording of prehistoric sites if they are stumbled upon in the course of the historic survey. The statements on pages 68 and 75 indicating that an archeological survey is now in progress, is simply not true, and I pointed this out in November.

My comments on the master plan are similar to those which I forwarded to Mr. Henderson, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, when he asked that I review the plan during the Advisory Council consultation.

We consider both the Master Plan and the draft EIS to be inadequate with regard to assessment of the archeological resources of Buffalo National River. Further, it is difficult to escape the feeling that sending this information is a fruitless waste of time.

Sincerely,

Hester A. Davis
State Archeologist

cc: Council on Environmental Quality
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Denver
Regional Director, Southwest Region, NPS
State Historic Preservation Officer
Dan Wolfman, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Arkansas Tech
William Mayer-Oakes, Texas Tech
Robert Utley, Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation, NPS
Ernest Connally, Associate Director, National Park Service
Arkansas Technical Review Committee
State Clearing House

HAD/aps

Enc: comment on master plan, Buffalo National River
comment on draft environmental impact statement, Buffalo National River

June 6, 1974

Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Buffalo National River

The few places in this document where archeological resources are mentioned indicate only the most meagre awareness of the number, size, and significance of the archeological resources of the Buffalo River area. In addition, it is mentioned at least twice that archeological surveys "now in progress" will provide information necessary for assessment of impact and for use in preservation and interpretation. If this refers to the current contract with the Arkansas Archeological Survey, this is not true. The Survey is making a literature summary and records check, and the resulting report will not be adequate for an assessment of impact of the development of the National River on the archeological resources.

Until an intensive archeological survey and assessment of the total area is completed, there is no way to evaluate adequately the impact of development of the area on this particular nonrenewable resource. For example, what will be the effect upon the archeological resources of the hiking and bicycling trails to be developed? Presumably it will bring people in much closer contact with prehistoric village and camp sites on terraces at the edge of the river, and to bluff shelters. Federal prohibition in itself has demonstrably not stopped people from stripping the surface of Indian sites in these circumstances, to say nothing of doing illicit digging. And how can the Park Service protect resources which have not yet been identified by a scientific intensive locational survey?

Until we know specifically and in detail where all the sites are, what their conditions are, what their size and cultural content are, the impact upon them can not be assessed. Conversely, until final development plans are made for the River, assessment of impact will be difficult. Approximately 270 archeological sites are already on record with the Archeological Survey (a fact not mentioned anywhere in the report). These have been located principally by amateurs or floaters, essentially by accident. No effort has been made to look systematically for sites, so there are large portions of the area which are essentially unknown archeologically; yet we already have preliminary evidence of continued, varied, and unique uses of the Buffalo River and its environs during the last 10,000 years.

In sum, until an intensive archeological survey and assessment is completed, an environmental impact statement will be considered inadequate with regard to this particular resource.

Hester A. Davis
State Archeologist
Arkansas Archeological Survey

Arkansas

STATE COMMITTEE ON STREAM PRESERVATION

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT DRAFT
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DATED MARCH 1974

We wish first of all, to compliment the National Park Service on the Draft Environmental Statement and Master Plan for Buffalo National River. These documents demonstrate a positive concern for maintaining the "natural free-flowing" character and wild-river characteristics of the Buffalo. These features are, of course, the basic and inherent features which provide this beautiful river with its exceptional beauty and recreation potentials. The main objective is to pursue future plans for management along these lines.

We also recognize the difficulties whichwill attend these efforts because of the potential impacts of the thousands of people which will use this stream for recreation and enjoyment in the future. We would affirm that preservation of the quality of this stream could not be accomplished without public ownership of the stream and its adjacent watersheds.

We will comment, briefly, on some of the problems and recommendations which have been presented. These include the following:

1. We fully accord with standards which will put private developments outside the National River area; otherwise, the river zone would be exploited and degraded.

2. Development of a nature center at Harrison and other education centers is highly desirable. We recommend that additional efforts should include a program for "safty education," which will reduce dangers associated with river recreation. In addition, the provision of information on other recreation facilities in the area will be most useful and may, to some degree, limit the numbers of visitors to the Buffalo Park area.

3. Developments of roads should be minimal, and we would much prefer use of the "south" route (already established) to and from the confluence of the River with the White.

4. Proposals to limit camping above the flood plain should be considered in relation to potentials for creating eroded (impact) areas resulting from potential use by campers.

5. We question the use of motor boats on the lower reaches of the River--and suggest that if motor boats are approved, that they be confined to electrically driven motors, except for official use.

6. We accord with proposals to re-introduce animal species which were once indigenous to the region, but strongly oppose introduction of exotics into the stream or its watershed.

7. We believe more emphasis should be given to surveys and plans for preservation of archeological, geologic and historic features of the riverway.

RECYCLED PAPER

8. We appose structural, mechanical, chemical or other management methods for fisheries or other management purposes, which could reduce water quality or the natural biology of the River system, by State, Federal, private or other agencies or agents. We particularly oppose any plans for impoundments on the main stream or its tributaries, since these would bring about alterations in ecological systems characteristic of the River.

9. Primitive areas should be left roadless, and development of bicycle trails (except in heavy use zones) is to be avoided because of potential uses by motorized vehicles.

10. We commend the decision to include the Pruitt area in the River zone. To do otherwise would invite overuse, pollution, and degradation of the river and its watersheds.

11. The Park Service State and local government entities should collaborate to preserve and protect the watershed, including all tributaries running into the River, since alterations of the watershed (clearance, impoundments, commercial, and residential developments, etc.) could lead to pollution and serious alterations in flow patterns, water quality, hydrology and other natural systems essential to preservation of the Buffalo in a natural State and condition--which is a primary purpose of the plan of management.

With these comments we wish, again, to commend the Park Service on the excellance and general adequacy of its Environmental Statement and Master Plan. We will anticipate working with the Service in development of future plans and in the protection and management of the Buffalo as a free-flowing and natural stream.

Prepared by: Harold E. Alexander
Arkansas Department of Planning
July 18, 1974

For: The State Committee on Stream Preservation

STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
400 TRAIN STATION SQUARE • VICTORY AT MARKHAM
LITTLE ROCK 72201

DALE BUMPERS
GOVERNOR

CHARLES T. CROW
DIRECTOR

August 23, 1974

Mr. Donald M. Spalding
Superintendent
Buffalo National River
P. O. Box 1173
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Dear Mr. Spalding:

The Department of Planning has reviewed the Draft Environmental Statement Buffalo National River Master Plan submitted by the National Park Service Southwest Regional Office.

This agency has determined that the document demonstrates a positive concern for maintaining the "natural free-flowing" character and wild-river characteristics of the Buffalo. These basic and inherent features provide the river with its exceptional beauty and recreational potentials. The main objective is to pursue future plans for management along these lines. We affirm that the preservation of the quality of this stream could not be accomplished without public ownership of the stream and its adjacent watersheds.

Problems and possible solutions as seen by the Department of Planning are as follows:

1. The use of motor boats on the lower reaches of the river are questionable. It is suggested that if motor boats are approved, they be confined to electrically driven motors, except for official use.

2. We advocate the proposal to re-introduce animal species into the once indigenous region, but strongly oppose introduction of exotic species into the stream or its watershed.

3. We believe more emphasis should be given to surveys and plans for preservation of archaeological, geologic and historic features of the riverway.

4. Primitive areas should be left roadless, and development of bicycle trails (except in heavy use areas) is to be avoided because of potential use by motorized vehicles.

5. Proposals to limit camping above the flood plain should be considered because of the small carrying capacity of the area.

With these comments we wish to commend the Park Service on the general adequacy of its Environmental Statement and Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Crow
Director

CTC/mrm

APPENDIX I

Comments received on the Buffalo National River Preliminary Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20250

2320

DEC 19 1974

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

We have reviewed the Wilderness Study environmental assessment for the Buffalo National River and have the following comments.

The discussion on wildlife, pages 34-37, while it appears generally adequate, has omitted references to several species of reptiles such as the blue racer, black snake, copperhead, cottonmouth, and timber rattler snakes which we believe to be indigenous to the region.

On page 35, reference is made to the red wolf as a threatened species. Actually this species is classified as Endangered. Also, on page 36 the Bald Eagle is mentioned. If this is the southern race, it, too, is classified as Endangered.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the assessment.

Sincerely,

for JOHN R. McGUIRE
Chief

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Post Office Box 2323, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

November 8, 1974

Mr. Joseph G. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service
Post Office Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

Einar L. Roget has transferred to the U. S. Forest Service and I have replaced him as State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Arkansas.

I have received your notice of a public hearing on the Buffalo National River Wilderness. I will not be able to attend the hearing; however, Paul Whittington, area conservationist at Harrison, will attend.

The Soil Conservation Service in Arkansas will not plan to make a statement at the hearing; however, if upon completion of our review of the assessment we have comments, they will be forwarded to you within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

M. J. Spears
State Conservationist

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Post Office Box 2323, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

January 6, 1975

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director
Southwest Region
National Park Service
Post Office Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

We have reviewed the Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment which you prepared and also had a representative attend the public meeting which was held at Harrison on December 5, 1974.

We would like to suggest that if a plan is developed to include wilderness areas, existing primitive roads should be retained and left open to vehicular travel.

In addition, we would like for you to consider the following comments:

Page 45, paragraph 2, sentence 2

Area	Percent of Land Area Forested	
	1959	1969
Newton and Searcy Counties	84	82
State of Arkansas	62	54

The Buffalo River area does not follow the pattern of the state closely with respect to percentage of total forested land.

Page 45, paragraph 2, sentence 3

Area	Standing Hardwood Sawtimber (mbf)		
	1959	1969	
Newton and Searcy Counties	529	831	+ 57%
Baxter, Boone, and Marion Counties	467	810	+ 73%

Hardwood sawtimber stock has been cut less rapidly than growing stock can reach maturity.

Page 45, paragraph 2, sentence 5

Conclusion may be in error, according to the data on standing timber and timber removed.

Page 86, paragraph 1

A discussion of the requirements for National Park Service approval of private and/or public agency projects would assist the reader to further evaluate impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity of reviewing and commenting on this assessment.

Sincerely,

M. J. Spears
State Conservationist

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 5, 1974

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director
Southwest Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
Post Office Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

The Department of Commerce has reviewed the Department of the Interior's report entitled "Buffalo National River Arkansas, Wilderness Study Environmental Assessment".

The Wilderness Study states that their are known deposits of lead and zinc in this region. Other mineral resources found in the four county area of the study include tripoli, manganese, pyrite, uranium, marble, copper, and fullers earth.

It is our understanding that there have been no comprehensive mineral surveys conducted in the study area. This Department has consistently argued that if the United States is to maintain a strong domestic minerals position, large areas of the public domain should not be considered for withdrawal from exploration and development without a thorough assessment of the mineral potential of the area. We therefore urge that no recommendation be made on the basis of this study until a thorough mineral survey has been undertaken and the results evaluated.

Sincerely,

Sidney R. Galler

Sidney R. Galler
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Affairs

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
REGIONAL OFFICE
1100 COMMERCE STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

January 20, 1975

REGION VI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6ME

Your Reference:

L48

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service
United States Department of The Interior
Post Office Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has reviewed the Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment; and, as was indicated in our earlier review response to the draft environmental impact statement for the subject project, we do not have comments regarding this proposed action.

Sincerely,

Travis Wm. Miller
Environmental Clearance Officer

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
South Central Regional Office
Patio Plaza, 5000 Marble N.E., Room 211
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

DEC 03 1974

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region, National Park Service

From: Regional Director, South Central Region

Subject: Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment

This is in reply to your letter requesting our review and comment on the subject study/assessment. We have divided our comments into the specific areas noted below:

Comments on the Assessment

Page 18, first paragraph, the document mentions the Buffalo River flowing eastwardly across five counties. After following the route of the river on several different maps we find that the Buffalo does not cross Boone County. It does, however, traverse the other four counties. This error should be corrected in subsequent documents.

Also, on page 18, second to the last paragraph, the assessment states, "Other Ozark streams, shorter in length than the Buffalo, but generally regarded as outstanding in quality, include the following:". The document lists the White River in this category. This is confusing in that the White River is one of the longest and largest rivers in Arkansas. This should be clarified.

Comments on the Study

This office supports the dedication of appropriate lands for wilderness status as a permanent addition to our national system of recreation lands. Since public recreation is a primary purpose of wilderness areas, it is our opinion that alternative 7, that of no wilderness, is the least desirable alternative. We cannot identify, at this time, which of the remaining six alternatives is the best.

In the "consultation and coordination" section of the study, it is noted that the Arkansas Department of Planning was not listed. It is our recommendation that during the preparation process of a document such as this, that this State agency be contacted not just informally but

formally as well for their input and/or coordination. The Department of Planning has just published the 1974 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for Arkansas. This document contains all the current information on demand, supply and need for recreational opportunities in the State as well as certain policies and recommendations which may influence your planning decisions.

These comments are made on a "technical assistance" basis only. If we can provide any additional information or assistance, please call upon us.

Rolland B. Handley

cc:
BOR, WASO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 13 1974

D7223-Buffalo National River
Wilderness Study

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

From: Asst Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

Subject: Buffalo National River Wilderness - Environmental Assessment

This will acknowledge your recent letter and enclosures concerning the public hearings to be held on the subject.

We understand you have furnished similar material to our Albuquerque Regional Office. Therefore, our Regional Director will respond directly to you.

A. H. Underhill

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
17 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, N. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329

FEB 1 1975

Hearing Officer
Buffalo National River
P.O. Box 1173
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Dear Sir:

Our comments concerning the wilderness suitability of study areas delineated in the "Buffalo National River Wilderness Study, Environmental Assessment" are provided in response to the October 22 notice of public hearings from Mr. Richard Curry, Associate Director, National Park Service.

In its descent toward confluence with the White River, the Buffalo River passes through beautifully rugged terrain of the rural and sparsely populated counties of Newton, Searcy, and Marion in the north central Arkansas Ozarks. The headwaters and the first 16 miles of the Buffalo River lie in the Ozark National Forest, also the site of origin for such major tributary streams as the Little Buffalo, Big Cave, and Richland creeks; the remaining 132 miles of the river course and associated ecosystems is contained within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, established in 1972.

The Act establishing the Buffalo National River expressly provides for hunting and fishing within its boundaries, activities not precluded by the establishment of wilderness. Good primary access to the area is abetted by the presence of a number of gravel surfaced State routes and unsurfaced county roads for adequate lateral circulation. Usage to the point of encroachment of wilderness values, as defined in the Act, is enabled by the variety of alternative outdoor recreational facilities currently available to the area. Twelve major conservation reservoirs in the Ozarks of Missouri, Arkansas, and northeastern Oklahoma provide a total area of 295,000 surface acres, and over 20 other large impoundments in Arkansas and Oklahoma provide water-based recreation opportunities. In addition to the Buffalo River, the Ozarks include such notable streams as the White, Mulberry, Kings, and Spring rivers in Arkansas; the Eleven Point River in Missouri and Arkansas; and the James and North Fork rivers in Missouri. National forests in

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

the Ozarks serve recreation needs with 2 million acres in the Arkansas-Missouri Ozarks as do thousands of acres of State forests and numerous other facilities within the Ozark region.

The Buffalo River is noted for its excellent smallmouth bass fishery, a fishery complemented by the presence of rock bass, green sunfish, longeared sunfish, redhorse, suckers, trout in larger spring outflows, and such unusual species as the studfish, chestnut lamprey, darter, and gar. Primary access to the river is good but entry is often discouraged by steep and densely vegetated bank slopes.

Generally typical of vegetation of the Arkansas Ozarks, plants along the river are extremely luxurient and diverse. Climatic conditions, soils, and topography contribute to the survival of over 1,500 plant species that include the monkey flower, blue larkspur, Indian mallow, Ozark chinquapin, and spring flowering witch hazel--species endemic to the Ozarks. The presence of "fern falls" in the area, reported in the Environmental Assessment, is particularly appealing.

The Buffalo River traveler may sight white-tailed deer, black bear, grey and red foxes. The timber wolf, elk, and the bison, former residents of the area have been eliminated by man and probably the mountain lion and the red wolf have met the same fate. Still, beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, and numerous smaller mammals inhabit the Buffalo River environs. The rich faunal complement includes a number of Ozark plateau endemics.

Over 250 species of birds frequent the area of the Buffalo National River as residents or as migratory visitors. Bald eagles, golden eagles, and ospreys are conspicuous during migrations. Among other interesting species, the roadrunner and pileated woodpecker are occasionally sighted. The reintroduced eastern wild turkey, in company with the ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, and various migratory waterfowl, comprise the area's principal gamebird species.

A maximum of three wilderness units within the confines of the Buffalo National River are proposed in the first five Environmental Assessment alternatives. All lands within the boundaries of the units selected would be characterized merely as potential wilderness until all non-Federal rights and all nonconforming uses are extinguished a minimum of 25 years hence. The additional mantle of protection provided by wilderness designation within the Buffalo National River would be unduly deferred.

Alternative 6, applicable to each of the foregoing, would recommend to Congress that all Federal lands within the selected boundaries of the proposed units (upper Buffalo, Ponca, and lower Buffalo) be immediately

designated as wilderness and all non-Federal lands therein, potential wilderness additions. A special provision would be recommended in the legislative proposal giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate these potential wilderness lands as wilderness at such time as he determines they qualify. The legislation designating immediate wilderness within the Buffalo National River would have to recognize existing non-Federal rights whereas Alternatives 1 through 5 provide for National Park Service recognition of those rights until their expiration and designation of the lands as wilderness.

Alternative 7 makes no provisions for wilderness designation.

In summary, the alternatives developed are:

1. potential wilderness, two units (Ponca and lower Buffalo) conforming to land classification plan of the draft master plan;

2. potential wilderness, two of three units (upper Buffalo, Ponca, and lower Buffalo) excluding primitive access roads;

3. potential wilderness, maximum in three units;

4. potential wilderness, maximum Ponca and upper Buffalo/minimum lower Buffalo;

5. potential wilderness, Ponca and upper Buffalo/no lower Buffalo;

6. instant wilderness with potential wilderness additions, applicable to each of the foregoing; and,

7. no wilderness.

We suggest that incursions and limitations on wilderness extent are unnecessarily imposed in other than the delineations provided in Alternative 3. Therefore, the following comments relate favorably to wilderness unit boundaries therein proposed.

An upper Buffalo River unit of 2,200 acres would include all lands within the Buffalo National River south of an irregular line formed by a county road and by properties that are to remain in private ownership with scenic easement. The upper unit's extremely rugged terrain and relative lack of development are supportive of wilderness

designation; in association with a 9,400 acre tract of the adjacent Ozark National Forest, proposed for wilderness designation in Senate Bill 316, the unit would assure protection of the entire Buffalo River headwater area.

A second area to the north and east, the Ponca unit, maximally encompasses 11,400 acres within the Buffalo National River which contain densely vegetated slopes, scenic tributaries to the Buffalo River, and a 200-foot waterfall at Hemmed-in-Hollow. (For the Ponca unit, as well as for the lower Buffalo unit, we reject as incompatible with the intent of the Wilderness Act, incursions for motorized access to remote wilderness areas so we approve the delineation provided in Alternative 3.)

Just above confluence with the White River is the area termed the lower Buffalo unit, maximally comprised of 22,100 acres. Portions of its south and east boundaries abut the Leatherwood area of the Ozark National Forest, a potential for wilderness designation and thereby protection for a greater area of the Buffalo River watershed. (The Forest Service will recommend the Leatherwood area as a wilderness study area.) We recommend wilderness delineation provided in Alternative 3.

We recommend immediate wilderness designation of all properties not expressly precluded by terms of the Act within the units delineated in Alternative 3, believing that latitude accorded to the Secretary of Agriculture in Special Provisions of the Act and that terrestrial access presently provided preclude the further necessity for incursions on areas otherwise suitable for wilderness designation.

If motorboat use is contemplated, we urge confinement of that usage to the lower reach of the Buffalo River (to the upstream limit of District Headquarters near Gilbert as depicted in the map entitled Plan for Visitor Use). We recommend the exclusion of use of any motor greater than 10 horsepower.

We submit that little activity is affected since motor-powered travel on the upper river is precluded much of the year by the fluctuating character of the stream. We suggest motor size regulation is imperative since some White River traffic moves into the Buffalo by motors that could conceivably be other than "light" as Environmental Assessment reported on page 59. Benefits would derive from reductions in motor-roiling of the river bottom, destruction of aquatic vegetation, and disturbance of wildlife that used the river. More convenient egress from the lower river would be facilitated.

Scenic amenities and stream fish habitat could be adversely impacted by streambank erosion and coliform pollution caused by livestock grazing. Therefore we recommend that grazing be excluded within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River, particularly in the upper Buffalo unit. If this is not feasible, provision should be made to fence critical stream reaches where banks are susceptible to damages from livestock.

For the wilderness areas we recommend complete exclusion of timber cutting. We concede the possible propriety of controlled burning and recommend provisions be included for its accomplishment as agreed by the various interested agencies.

We apologize for submitting these comments late and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the wilderness study for inclusion in the transcribed hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Ray L. Vaughn

Deputy Regional Director

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

November 14, 1974

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

Thank you for your brochure on the review of the Buffalo National River Wilderness Study and environmental assessment, Arkansas, and the invitation to attend public hearings on December 5, 1974, at Harrison, Arkansas.

The brochure correctly states the mineral resources of the area, of which lead and zinc are of importance. The U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Bureau of Mines have not made a mineral survey of the area. We know that numerous prospects and mines occur in and near the area, but have no information of the potential of these minerals in the area. We also have no information on igneous intrusions in the general area.

We will not have a representative attend the hearing.

Sincerely yours,

Melville R. Mudge
Wilderness Coordinator

Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Trust Facilitation
EQ

Memorandum

DEC 10 1974

To: Regional Director, National Park Service
Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

From: Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities

Subject: Review of Buffalo National River Wilderness Study (Arkansas)/Environmental Assessment

In accordance with your request, we have reviewed the subject environmental assessment. The subject project does not involve any Indian trust lands that are under the jurisdiction of this Bureau. We, therefore, have no comments.

Martin E. Seneca

CONSERVE AMERICA'S ENERGY

Save Energy and You Serve America!

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY
REFER TO: 739
121.

NOV 21 1974

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southwest Region,
National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

From: Assistant Commissioner of Reclamation

Subject: Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment

This responds to your recent letter concerning the subject wilderness study. We have reviewed the study with interest; however, since it is not within our area of jurisdiction, we have no specific comments to offer.

cc:
Director, National Park Service

CONSERVE AMERICA'S ENERGY

Save Energy and You Serve America!

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 14, 1975

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Buffalo National River, National Park Service, Harrison, Arkansas

Through: Deputy Assistant Secretary--Energy and Minerals

JAN 29 1975

From: Director, Bureau of Mines

Subject: Review comments on wilderness study environmental assessment, Buffalo National River, Arkansas

Personnel of our Intermountain Field Operation Center, Denver, have reviewed this wilderness study environmental assessment relative to minerals resources and their existing and potential development in the Buffalo National River area.

The subject document pertains to designation of boundaries for the Buffalo National River area in Baxter, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties, in north-central Arkansas.

Our comments of August 7, 1974, concerning the draft environmental statement for the proposed master plan remain valid. The only difference between the two documents is that wilderness Alternative 5 in the draft EIS excluded the abandoned mining town of Rush from the Buffalo National River area. The current assessment does not specifically mention such an alternative, although Alternative 3 of the current document indicates that Rush would not be included in the Lower Buffalo Unit. This office remains opposed to including within the Buffalo National River area that vicinity in and around the town of Rush until a mineral study similar to those the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines conduct on forest wilderness candidate area is completed.

Director

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 19 1974

Mr. Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr.
Regional Director, Southwest Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Reference: L48

Dear Mr. Rumburg:

This is in response to your letter addressed to Chairman Nassikas and received on November 7, 1974, with which you furnished a wilderness study - environmental assessment for the Buffalo National River in Arkansas.

According to the cited study, three separate areas, the Lower Buffalo, the Ponca, and the Upper Buffalo, within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River were identified as potential wilderness units. The study considered seven alternatives for wilderness designation which would involve different combinations of the three potential wilderness units of various sizes, and included a no wilderness alternative.

The staff of the Commission's Bureau of Power has reviewed the wilderness study to determine the effects of the considered wilderness on matters affecting the Commission's responsibilities. Such responsibilities relate to the development of hydroelectric power and assurance of the reliability and adequacy of electric service under the Federal Power Act, and the construction and operation of natural gas pipelines under the Natural Gas Act.

The Commission staff review indicates that there are no existing hydroelectric power plants within the three potential

wilderness units. Section 4 of Public Law 92-237 establishing the Buffalo National River prohibits the construction of dams and hydroelectric power plants on the national river. There are no existing, and no known plans to construct steam-electric plants, or bulk power transmission lines within the areas considered for wilderness designation. Also, there are no jurisdictional natural gas pipelines located in the considered wilderness areas. No natural gas reserves are known to exist within the areas under consideration.

In summary, it does not appear that designation of the three areas within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River as wilderness would have any adverse effect on matters of concern to the Commission.

Very truly yours,

T. A. Phillips
Chief, Bureau of Power

.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATIO
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGION SIX
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102
819 Taylor Street

December 6, 1974

IN REPLY REFER TO
06-00.8

Mr. Donald M. Spalding
Superintendent
Buffalo National River
P. O. Box 1173, 113 E. Rush
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Dear Mr. Spalding:

We have reviewed your environmental assessment for evaluating the suitability of the Buffalo National River as a wilderness area.

We have no comments to offer on your assessment.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. White
Regional Administrator

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VI
1600 PATTERSON, SUITE 1100
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

December 3, 1974

Mr. Joseph C. Rumberg, Jr.
Regional Director
Southwest Region
National Park Service
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Rumberg:

We have reviewed the Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment. The assessment presents alternative proposals for public comment and input concerning the proposed wilderness area.

We regret that we will be unable to attend the public hearings on December 5, 1974, in Harrison, Arkansas; however, we offer the following comments for your consideration in further developing the proposal. As pointed out in the assessment, fecal coliform counts at some stations are incompatible with use of the water as a water supply. Also, the data indicates that the water in some reaches of the river might be unsuitable for primary contact (swimming), and limited contact (boating, fishing) activities. The Arkansas Water Quality Standards, September 1973, state that "the fecal coliform content shall not exceed a log mean of 200/100 ml." The fecal coliform levels which occur at times at the Hasty and Jasper stations could pose a hazard to public health. We would suggest that the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology be notified of this matter. Also, it may be necessary to restrict these areas from primary contact use until such time as the fecal coliform counts again reach levels which are safe for recreational purposes.

Thank you for allowing us to review this document. We appreciate you keeping us informed of such actions.

Sincerely yours,

Clinton B. Spotts

Clinton B. Spotts
Regional EIS Coordinator

DALE BUMPERS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LITTLE ROCK

November 7, 1974

Mr. Monte Fitch
Acting Regional Director - Southwest Region
National Park Service
United States Department of Interior
P. O. Box 728
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

RE: L 48

Dear Mr. Fitch:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 1974, containing a copy of the Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment.

I note that written statements may be submitted at any time up to and including January 4, 1975.

The study/assessment has been referred to our Department of Planning for coordination of comments by the State of Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Dale Bumpers

Dale Bumpers

DB:acd

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Arkansas
Game and Fish Commission

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

December 6, 1974

Mr. Donald M. Spalding, Superintendent
National Park Service, Buffalo National River
115 West Central Avenue
P. O. Box 1173
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Dear Mr. Spalding:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 1974 and the enclosed Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment. These comments are forwarded for inclusion in the record of a Public Hearing held December 5, 1974 at Harrison, Arkansas on this subject matter.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, in past actions on similar proposals, has recognized the validity and desirability of Wilderness units within larger management areas. Such proposals add recreational and habitat diversity and generally compliment overall wildlife management objectives when properly coordinated with habitat manipulation activities designed to increase overall production potentials for management species of wildlife. In this regard, your alternative Number 2 which designates Wilderness units and retains primitive access roads appears to have merit over alternatives which would exclude vehicular access entirely. As one of the objectives of the National River is to provide hunting opportunities, and as the white-tailed deer is one of the principal species sought by hunters in this portion of the state, limited access to permit transportation of harvested big game animals from Wilderness units would appear to be feasible, at least during open big game seasons.

The section of the study entitled Wildlife on pages 34 and 35 states that the last reported kill of a mountain lion in Arkansas occurred in the Ouachita Mountains in 1949. We recorded a kill from Ashley County during the 1968-69 hunting season (this was an illegal kill, as the mountain lion is completely protected by Game and Fish regulation in Arkansas). Your Wildlife section further states that white-tailed deer are increasing rapidly in the area. Conversely, reports from our Biologists indicate a stable population in the Buffalo River area. Your report also refers to the reintroduction of beaver from Minnesota. Beaver in the Buffalo area probably extended their range from releases made in Missouri. We also note that your report refers to the ruffed grouse. We have termed our efforts to reintroduce the ruffed grouse in this part of the state a complete failure and we have no recent records of sightings. If you have data on rough grouse sightings, we would appreciate receiving copies of this material.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment and we will look forward to continued cooperative activities with the Park Service on the Buffalo River in implementing objectives expressed in P.L. 92-237.

Very truly yours,

Andrew H. Hulsey,
Director

AHH:RWB:ac

cc: State Planning & Development Clearinghouse

Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr., Reg. Director
National Park Service, Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM
PARKS DIVISION

Dale Bumpers
Governor

William E. Henderson
Director

1510 Broadway Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 Telephone (501) 371-1633

Jack E. Miller
Director of State Parks

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER/WILDERNESS STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY ARK. STATE PARKS JANUARY 3, 1975

BACKGROUND

At the request of the Superintendent of the National River Mr. Don Spaulding, Arkansas State Parks was invited to evaluate the feasibility of wilderness areas within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River. After a thorough review was conducted a representative from our agency attended the public hearing at Harrison, Arkansas December 5, 1974, and aired the general concensus of opinion of those within State Parks regarding the proposed wilderness alternatives.

Further review and research by this agency resulted in the specific proposals for potential wilderness areas as outlined elsewhere in this review. Our basic justification for establishing wilderness areas may be found in the public hearing statement attached to this final review. Wilderness designation will cause wider recognition of the fact that potential wilderness areas exist within the watershed of the Buffalo National River. This recognition will help support measures for future resource protection, including acquisition of additional watershed, if necessary.

SELECTION OF WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Careful consideration was given to each of the alternatives and its associated impacts as presented in the Wilderness/Environmental Assessment.

Throughout our final process of review and research the interrelationship between each proposed alternative and how it would effect implementation of overall management necessary for (1) resource protection and for (2) visitor use and enjoyment of the National River was closely evaluated.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of our review we recommend that the proposal for maximum wilderness in three units, Alternative #3, with application of "Instant Wilderness" Alternative #6 be implemented.

Recommendations for modifications and other suggestions follow:

Ponca Unit

Roads: We recommend that a road corridor be provided to allow access for put-in, take-out use by floaters at Camp Orr. Elimination of an access point to the river in this location would deprive many visitors from enjoying a one day float on perhaps the most beautiful stretch of the entire river. Should it prove politically or economically non-feasibile to use Camp Orr for public access, then Kyles Camp should be used. However, due to the fragile environ of the area at Kyles Camp, it should only be used if it is completely impossible to secure Camp Orr access.

The noise, pollution and disruption attendent to the operation of vehicles by the public is highly undesireable within wilderness areas. However, the need for providing access for visitor use and enjoyment and protection must also be given high priority at this location due to the basic purpose of the Buffalo as a National Recreational River.

KYLE'S CAMP

Existing facilities at Kyles Camp are too near the river and should be eliminated. We recommend location of the proposed environmental education facilities outside of wilderness areas within the National River. Only primative camping and boater access should be located here.

LOWER BUFFALO UNIT

The proposed road into the vicinity of the mouth of Big Creek should be used for emergency or patrol use only; not for the general public. This will allow a relatively undisturbed two-day float from rush to the mouth of the Buffalo.

LOWER BUFFALO ACCESS

A road corridor should be provided for possible future use, if determined desireable, for a road near the mouth of the Buffalo for public access. Until such time as public use is allowed this road should remain closed except for emergency use.

ADDITIONS

Possible addition of the proposed Leatherwood Wilderness area of the U.S. Forest Service would give added protection and enhancement as part of the Lower Buffalo Unit.

UPPER BUFFALO UNIT

Some of the most rugged and spectacular terrain along the Buffalo is found in its headwaters area, of which the proposed Upper Buffalo Unit would be a part. A high level of protection on the upper watershed is essential and the Upper Buffalo Unit would be adjacent to the possible Upper Buffalo Wilderness of the Ozark National Forest.

STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
400 TRAIN STATION SQUARE • VICTORY AT MARKHAM
LITTLE ROCK 72201

DALE BUMPERS
GOVERNOR

CHARLES T. CROW
DIRECTOR

January 7, 1975

Mr. Donald M. Spalding
Superintendent
National Park Service
Buffalo National River
115 West Central Avenue
Post Office Box 1173
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

Re: Buffalo National River
Wilderness Study/
Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Spalding:

The State Planning and Development Clearinghouse submitted copies of the above mentioned document to State Agencies charged with the responsibility for reviewing proposals which affect the natural environment of the State.

The comments of the responding agencies are enclosed for your consideration. We request that particular attention be given to the Game and Fish Commission and the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Bertram Wakeley
Director
Office of State Planning
Coordination

BW:FK:js

Enclosures

cc: Charles T. Crow
John P. Saxton

STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
400 TRAIN STATION SQUARE • VICTORY AT MARKHAM
LITTLE ROCK 72201

DALE BUMPERS
GOVERNOR

CHARLES T. CROW
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Planning and Development Clearinghouse

FROM: Charles T. Crow

SUBJECT: Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment

DATE: December 13, 1974

The Wilderness Study Environmental Assessment for the Buffalo National River/Arkansas sets out alternatives for determining which areas along the river are suitable for wilderness designation. Seven alternative proposals for wilderness designation are presented in the plan. The Arkansas Department of Planning feels that the alternatives are comprehensive and the information contained in the environmental assessment is adequate.

CTC/mrh

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIRECTOR • CHARLES R. MCGIMSEY III
STATE ARCHEOLOGIST • HESTER A. DAVIS

Coordinating Office
University of Arkansas Museum
Fayetteville, AR 72701

To: Mr. John P. Saxton, Chairman, Technical Review Committee

From: Hester A. Davis, State Archeologist

Date: 11 December 1974

Re: Buffalo National River Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment.

The section on historic and archeological resources (pages 50-51) in this wilderness study/environmental assessment includes a listing of 16 historic sites being considered for the National Register of Historic Places and a comment that 254 archeological sites have been located. The discussion of the significance of these resources is absolutely minimal. There is no description or discussion of these resources or of the prehistoric/historic background of the river area and as a consequence it is not possible to make an assessment of the impact of the project on these resources. Also included in this section is the statement that "Historical and archeological surveys are in progress or have been programmed to assure compliance with Executive Order 11593" but there is no information given on the nature or status of these surveys. To our knowledge, no archeological surveys are in progress.

The 254 sites mentioned are those on record in the total area of the proposed National River property, not just within the wilderness study area. No recognition is made of the fact that designation of wilderness areas does not necessarily mean protection of the archeological resources; nor is there mention of the fact that before measures for protection or preservation can be decided upon the resources must be located and assessed.

This wilderness study/environmental assessment should include details of these survey plans stating when and by whom the surveys will be done and the methods and objectives involved. Plans for preservation and interpretation of the historical and archeological resources should be made in the earliest stages of planning so that the use or preservation of these resources is compatible with the overall plans. The preservation procedures discussed in Appendix F cannot be implemented to protect the resources until an intensive survey by professional archeologists is conducted.

Dr. Dan Wolfman, of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, was at the public hearing on December 7 and expressed these views.

cc: State Planning and Development Clearinghouse
Dan Wolfman

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES
1200 WESTPARK DRIVE, ROOM 308
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

NORMAN F. WILLIAMS
ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE

JOHN P. SAXTON
DIRECTOR
(501) 371-1611

January 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Crow, Chairman
Governor's Cabinet Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: John P. Saxton, Chairman
Technical Review Committee

RE: Buffalo National River Study/Environmental Assessment (D-11-8)

This office has reviewed the above referenced report and find it to be adequate in regard to a report of the soil and water resources of the area. We have not received any comments which express any inadequacy of the report, except for those submitted by the Archeological Survey.

Therefore, we are recommending to the State Clearinghouse that the comments submitted be returned to the sponsoring agency.

JPS:ADF:cc

cc: State Planning & Development Clearinghouse

ARKANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
4815 WEST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK

December 2, 1974

Division of Soil and Water Resources
1200 West Park, 3rd Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Attn: Mr. John P. Saxton

Re: Technical Review Committee
Review Request
Buffalo National River Wilderness
Study / Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Saxton:

This office has received and reviewed the above referenced study. This information supplied with this document does not indicate that there is any particular health significance, and therefore, there are no comments.

This information will be retained for our files.

Yours truly,

BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES

G. T. Kellogg, P.E., Director
Chief Engineer

GTK:TAS:BK:jt

STATEMENT BY MRS. HANNON, MAYOR OF PRUITT, ON DECEMBER 5, 1974.

MRS. HANNON: I have a bad cold.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I am Lucille Hannon, Mayor of the incorporated town of Pruitt, Arkansas, and also owner of a lifetime paid up leasehold on the Shady Grove Trailer Park at Pruitt.

My reasons for supporting Alternative 7, that no wilderness areas be designated within the proposed boundaries of the proposed Buffalo National River, explained more in detail resource-wise by Marjorie B. Koerner, Chairman of the Resource Committee in the proposed Pruitt Priority Area, are going to be more direct, and yet very simple to understand.

I haven't always used my eight years of college theory in the three sciences of logic, ethics, and metaphysics; meaning correct reasoning, moral good way, and man's relations to God and God's relation to man, because I have at times been most selfish myself, knowing always the truth however.

They say God is the essence of simplicity, the Creator of all things and people. And I believe that God is the Creator of this truthful means by which I should live this short, temporal life upon this earth.

Some of you don't believe in God, yet you embrace all of these three sciences of philosophy, but you have a right to freedom of religion, freedom to own private property, to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness.

Happiness isn't guaranteed, but it's guaranteed that we can pursue it. And all of these rights come under the Constitution, and federal, state, and the Bill of Rights, and other subsequent and prior laws of this land.

I shall consider Public Law 92-237, the National Buffalo River Bill, made law in March of 1972, as the whole part of this cause and law. It's a part of it, and this whole law, cause and law being the same.

I shall consider the Wilderness Study/Environmental Assessment, required by Section 6 of the Buffalo National River Bill in compliance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 to determine if any portion of the proposed Buffalo National River should be designated Wilderness Areas, as a part of this whole cause, and this whole law.

Secondly, if any part or all of a whole cause or law is false, illegal, unconstitutional, immoral, illogical, non-metaphysical, then the effects and the results of this whole case or law, or any part of it, is also false, illegal, unconstitutional, et cetera.

Is this so complicated to understand? You must can't start out with a false cause, or law, and wind up with a true effect and result.

Logically, gathering the material to determine a true analysis of whether this whole, or law, meaning the Buffalo National River Bill, we reason in this manner. Did the legislators, the various federal and state governmental authorities, the National Park Service, and others approving the implementation of this whole cause or law, uphold all prior federal and state, Constitutional, Congressional, Bill of Rights, et cetera, which would have prevented legislation, much less a Congressional law? No, they didn't, and are not.

The above true reasoning seems to wrap up the whole cart-before-the-horse activity that's been going on now even before the sub-committee hearings in Washington, carts before horses.

Are we to continue to completely ignore the fact that the Public Law 92-237 has been questioned in the federal courts as to its legality and constitutionality for almost three years now by over two hundred of private water and land owners, known as the Buffalo River Conservation and Recreation Council, of which I, personally, was one of the three who founded this organization. And it was certainly founded upon truth.

That many thousands of dollars and many thousands of hours have already been expended in our efforts to gain freedom from oppression from these Buffalo River -- for these Buffalo River people and its watershed from such questionable causes and laws?

Are the people of this nation to continue expending billions of dollars of the taxpayer's money and thousands of dollars and hours fighting these cart-before-the-horse causes and laws?

I think not, if every individual and state and federal agency who has had any part in forming this legislation and trying to see that it's implemented, would just sit down and use some simple, correct reasoning, one of the three sciences -- love of neighbor, and deep, conscience and soul-searching, even if you don't believe in God.

These true theories are now to live this most temporal life upon this earth, and I try to do it.

Are we to completely ignore that five land owners on this Buffalo River this past year entered a class action suit questioning Public Law 92-237, or at least its agency, the National Park Service, as to what right they had to accept donation of the two state parks, or what right the state agencies had to donate this land?

I understand that state and federal judiciary are involved in this class action suit. The Wilderness Act law states that these lands have to be federally owned; otherwise, we've got the cart-before-the-horse again -- all have to be federally owned.

Why hold hearings on designating the private water and land owner's property when 80 percent of this entire proposed National Buffalo River still is private ownership?

Again, we have the cart-before-the-horse, trying to implement a part of a whole cause. I'm coming back to a scientific theory now. Part of a whole cause or law is what this Wilderness Act is, when the whole of the cause and the law is in federal and state court litigation. It has been for almost 3 years.

I think I speak for all the citizens of the town of Pruitt, and 95 percent of the past and current Buffalo River water and land owners that no form of negotiation with the National Park Service, nor any other federal or state government, nor their agencies is acceptable regarding the use of our private waters and lands; more especially for univited public use, or restrictions or zonings of any nature. This action should be legislated at the local level only.

The terminologies, "wilderness areas," Regional land use," "preserve and conserve for the enjoyment of future generations," "environmental impact," "pollution," and so forth, are great expresions, but all so far have led to complete economic chaos in this nation and this whole world; resulting in the worst energy crisis the workd has even known.

The continuous completition by all governments with private enterprise -- I had to close my trailer park up, a fifteen to $20,000 investment. They come and say to me, "Is this the national park, is this a state park?" No, thank you, be seeing you. I just threw that in.

The speedy federal and state ownership of more than half of the nation's lands, and last, but not least, the constitutional and legal rights of the nation's people are now in the greatest of jeopardy. I've got one more little paragraph.

I'm nervous, are you?

MR. PRESTON: No, I'm doing fine.

MRS. HANNON: A federal court order in May of 1973 prohibited the National Park's operation -- keep that mind -- keep that name -- I mean that word operation in mind -- operation of any of its acquired waters and lands, but a subsequent court ruling allowed them to operate the two acquired state parks only.

Yet, the three former private campgrounds in Pruitt, now owned by the National Park Service, has operated full-force since this injunction, and caused all manner of disturbance and vandalism, and what-have-you. I could tell you some true-to-life experiences right on the riverbank there what I've had to put up with, but I won't waste the time.

Come one, come all and float these private waters and roam these private lands is the verbal and nationally advertised motto of all, except the private water and landowner.

Let us see that these cart-before-the-horse activities and implementations are stopped until Public Law 92-237 is ruled both by the federal and state judiciary as being a true cause, and a true law.

THE PLANNING TEAM

John W. Bright	Team Captain--Assistant Manager, Denver Service Center
Paul Kalkwarf	Landscape Architect, Denver Service Center
Joel V. Kussman	Wildlife Biologist, Denver Service Center
John W. Henneberger	Associate Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office
Donald M. Spalding	Superintendent, Buffalo National River

Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs of the Denver Service Center. NPS 1168

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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