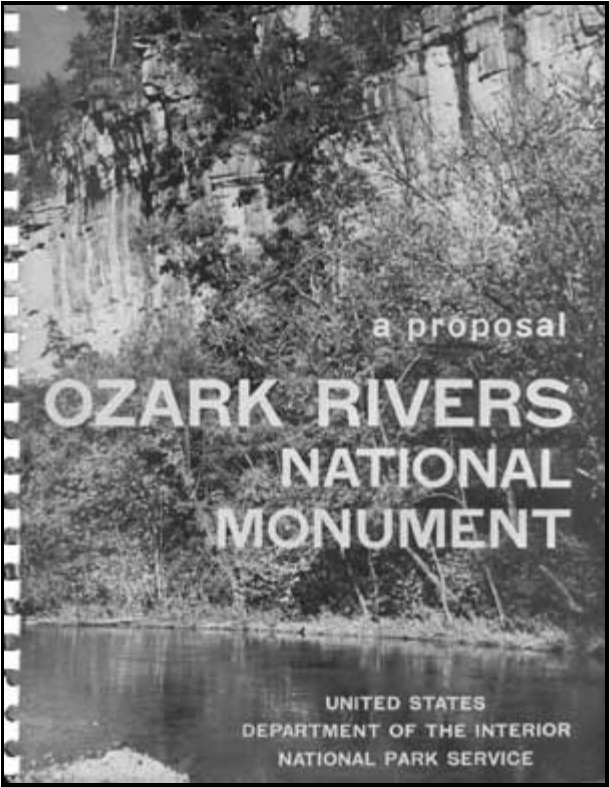


OZARK

Ozark Rivers National Monument A Proposal



OZARK RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT A Proposal

January, 1960

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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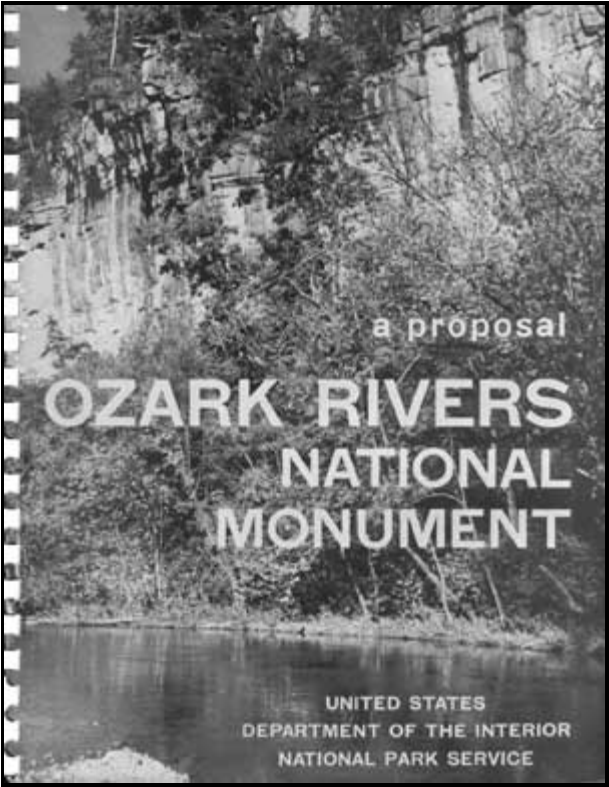
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FOREWORD

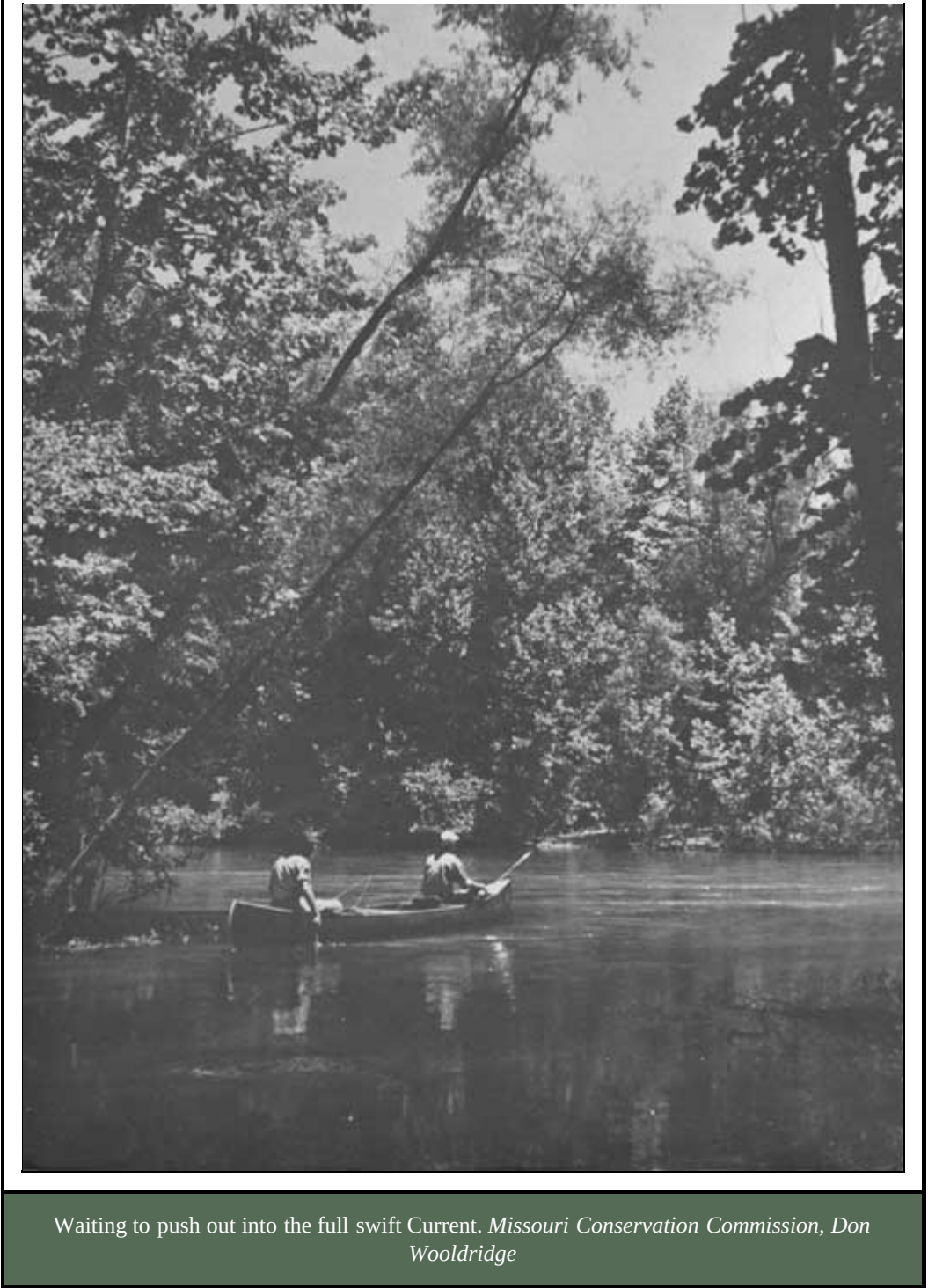
Those who know the beauty of the Current—Eleven Point Country of southeast Missouri and have seen its clear, spring-fed rivers winding among quiet hills have long cherished the hope that these streams would remain unchanged.

It was encouraging therefore when, in 1950, the State of Missouri took a position urging that certain rivers, including the Current and Eleven Point, be preserved as free flowing streams. The Arkansas-White-Red Basins Inter-Agency Committee supported this recommendation in its report of June 1955.

As follow up, the National Park Service under authority contained in the Park, Parkway and Recreational Survey Act of 1936, and with the cooperation of the interested State agencies, prepared a plan for the preservation and development of the recreation resources of the two rivers. This plan, published in 1956 by the Missouri Division of Resources and Development, recommended that a national recreation area be designated within the watersheds of the Current and Eleven Point Rivers. The Missouri State Legislature recently indicated its support of this general objective. In January 1959, it requested the Congress of the United States to enact legislation which would establish a national recreation area so that these great scenic and recreational values would be perpetually protected from destruction by man-made encroachments.

At a meeting in Washington, D. C. during February of 1959, between representatives of the State of Missouri and the National Park Service, it was decided that a further study of the Current—Eleven Point River Country was needed before definite action should be initiated on the proposal. Funds were subsequently appropriated to the National Park Service for the study, the results of which are presented in this report.





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THE STUDY IN BRIEF

Only a few miles by today's standards from St. Louis or Kansas City or Memphis lies a portion of the Ozarks still relatively wild and natural. The Ozarks are old—mellow with the beauty of great age—remnants of an ancient mountain range. Uplift and water have molded them. Climate has influenced them.

Today, this particular area houses a unique complex of springs and rivers, caves and sinks, plants and animals. Here are many springs—some giant, some small. Here are spring-fed rivers, the Current, the Jacks Fork, and the Eleven Point—cold, clear, abounding with and goggle-eye.

Here are caves created by waters of the past, many containing an unusual variety of multicolored formations, some still uncharted. Here are interesting sinks—ground surface reminders of cave roof fall-ins below. Here are found the shortleaf pine, oaks of many names, the redbud, the red wolf, the osprey, and the pileated woodpecker—overall, a surprisingly varied ecology.

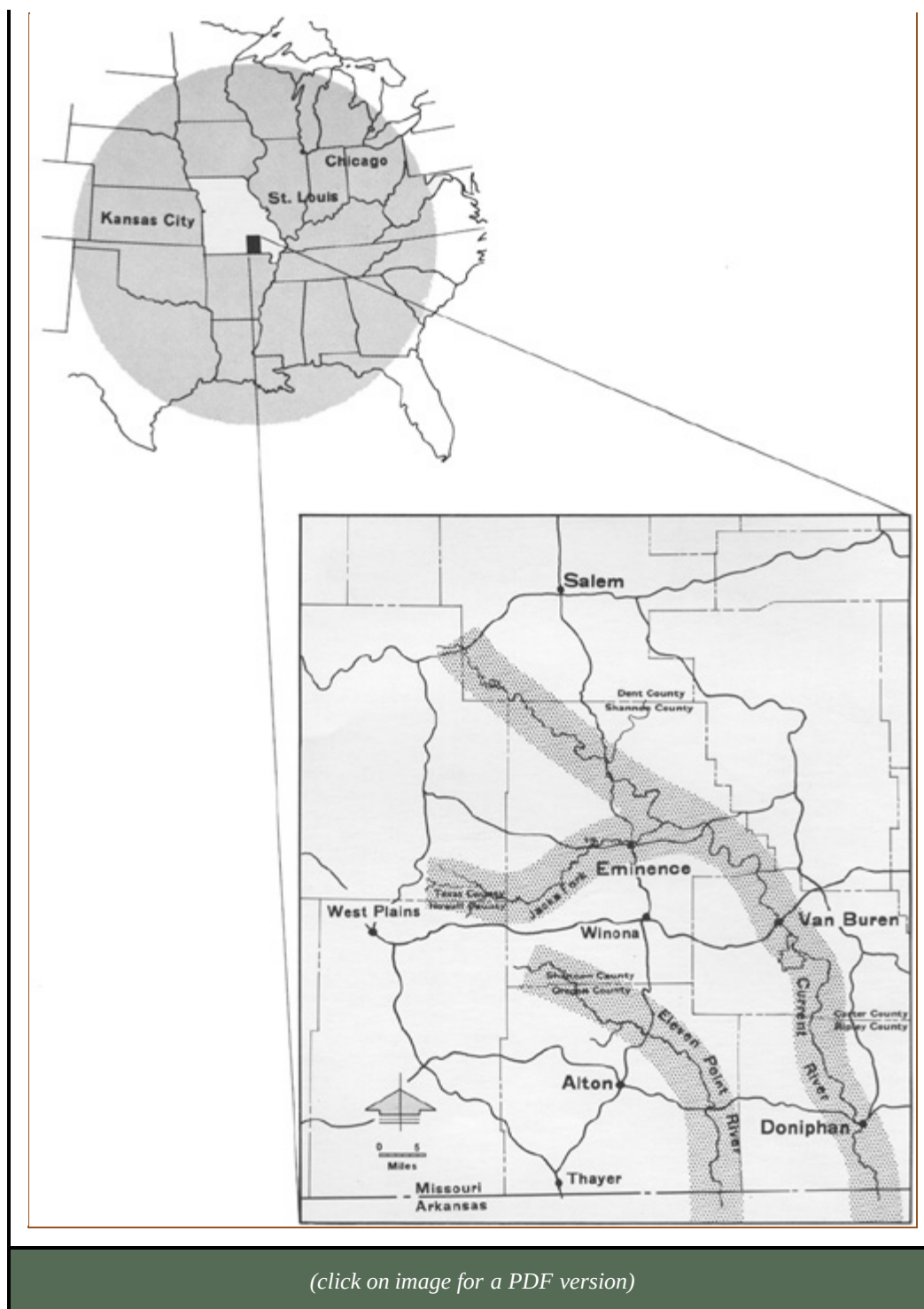
Nearly 10,000 years ago, Early Man lived beside these same waters. He too must have marveled at the springs and the rivers flowing from them. More recently, the Indian, the Frenchman, the Spaniard, the logger each had his day. Descendants of settlers who came mainly from the Appalachians now people the area. Much of the folk culture and character of early American society remains with them.

For years—largely because of this unusual combination of natural values—there has been interest in preservation of parts of this scene. Four State parks have been established—3 along the Current River and 1 along the Jacks Fork. Two wildlife areas have been set aside by the Missouri Conservation Commission.

As early as 1950, the State of Missouri recognized a need to preserve the natural qualities of the Current and Eleven Point Rivers. As recently as January 1959, the Missouri Legislature asked the Congress of the United States to establish a national recreation area to preserve the free-flowing qualities of these very rivers.

Here in the heart of the Ozark plateau, lies a unique opportunity to set aside an outstanding type of area—one not now represented in the National Park System. Here too, is the opportunity to preserve still unspoiled rivers with many miles of shoreline.





To preserve this area, establishment of an Ozark Rivers National Monument, as part of the National Park System, is now proposed. The Monument, consisting of approximately 113,000 acres, would be located along some 190 miles of the Current, Jacks Fork, and Eleven Point Rivers. This area would contain the most important portion of these scenic rivers as well as some 13 named caves, 11 geological sites, more than 40 archeological sites, several fine ecological sites, and many springs and sinks.

Natural concentration of these features in the river valleys makes possible their preservation for public enjoyment in relatively narrow strips of land. It would be difficult to find an area where so much beauty and variety can be preserved by setting aside so little. A sizable block along the Current River has been included to allow preservation of a significant example of typical Ozark topography. Preservation of the area's fragile qualities, while allowing its use,

would be the basic objective of all planning, development, and administration.

Here would be an area preserved for use of people—an opportunity to float the Current or the Jacks Fork or the Eleven Point, to watch the osprey at work, to try camping on a gravel bar, to test the boater's or fisherman's skill, to watch the Ozarks renowned fall colors pass by, or perhaps even just to loaf. Hiking along the riverbank or to some remote cave, sink, or site where man of yesterday lived; wandering through little known Powder Mill Cave or into spectacular Jam Up Cave; climbing down a shaded trail to magnificent Greer Spring—all of these and many other opportunities would be available to the visitor. A carefully developed interpretive program would add to his enjoyment and understanding of the area.

Sixteen percent of the land in the proposed Ozark Rivers National Monument is now publicly owned, with administration divided between the Missouri Conservation Commission and the United States Forest Service. The remainder is privately owned. Acquisition of this private land might cost in the neighborhood of \$5,500,000.

Based on certain premises, the University of Missouri estimated that within 5 years of the Monument's establishment, and assuming adequate development, annual tourist expenditures would increase \$5,500,000. Applying information contained in the University's report, the National Park Service estimates that assessed valuation on local tax rolls, would increase by \$8,700,000, and the annual tax return by \$300,000. This would more than compensate for the taxes lost due to removal of Monument lands from the tax rolls.

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THE AREA

Within the most scenic section of the Ozarks of southeastern Missouri lies the area under consideration. Crossed or skirted by several highways, it is readily accessible, and within an easy day's drive for more than 20 million people. It lies only 175 miles from St. Louis or 250 from Kansas City, yet it remains "off the beaten path".

Here the Current and Eleven Point Rivers flow unimpeded, within a forested landscape. Giant springs, caves and sinkholes accent an outstanding geological story. Wildlife roams the oak—hickory forest. Here, ancient and modern man have added special color.



Ozark Hills — mellow with the beauty of great age. *C. C. Brown, National Park Service*

Superficially, the Ozarks are a land of rolling hills, rivers, and forests. But more, they tell a complex and fascinating story of interrelated phenomena.

Geology is a basic chapter. The oldest rocks in the area were formed in Precambrian time, more than half-a-billion years ago. The newest deposits are the sands and gravels of today. For hundreds of millions of years in between, the land was submerged under ancient seas and then raised above them time and time again. Sediments laid down under these ancient seas, now consolidated into sandstones and limestones, form the bluffs rimming the rivers.

Streams played the major roll in wearing down these rocks to form the rolling country of today. Limestone dissolved and great series of underground caverns formed. Water trickling into these caverns joined with other waters, to emerge eventually as huge springs—thence rivers again.

The countryside is mostly rolling with forested hills rising up to 400 feet above the streams. Its surface is irregular, the eroded remnant of an ancient upland. The most rugged areas border the rivers. Valleys are usually narrow, but occasionally widen into alluvial plains. Tributaries cut smaller ravines and valleys throughout the area.

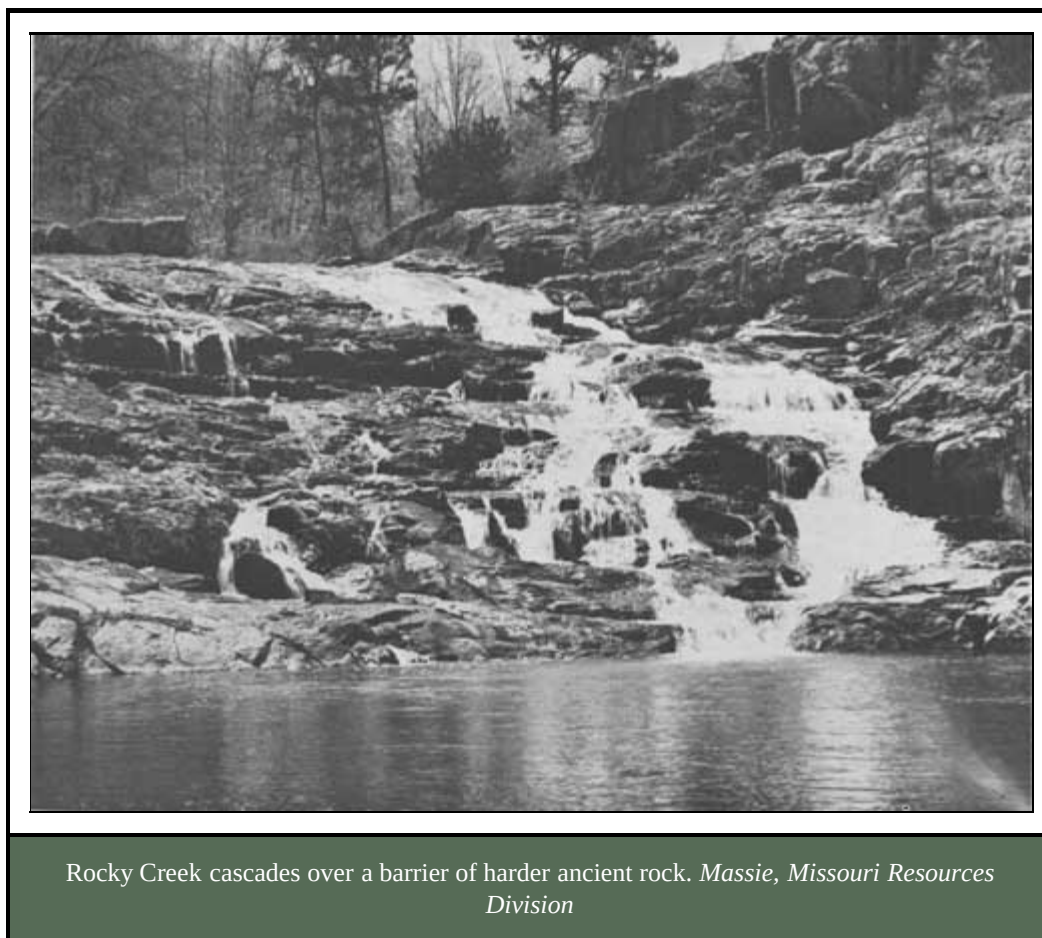


From wild and beautiful Greer Spring, flows a full-fledged stream—turquoise and white.
Massie, Missouri Resources Division

In relief, elevations above sea level vary from 1320 feet at Thorny Mountain to 300 feet where the Current River enters Arkansas. The Current itself falls 690 feet between Montauk Springs, its source, and the Arkansas line, an airline distance of about 80 miles.

The two major rivers under study—the Current and Eleven Point—are strong, and alive, and clean. Their waters are transparent, varying in color by depth and according to the hour of the day, from sapphire blue through many shades of green. Quiet waters alternate with chutes or rapids. They meander through mile after mile of scenic beauty, for long stretches under towering rocky bluffs.

The Current is the largest of these rivers. It rises at Montauk State Park in southern Dent County and flows 140 miles southeasterly through Shannon, Carter, and Ripley Counties to the Arkansas line. Born of Montauk Springs, it is fed by other giants along the way. Even during the severe drought of 1936, the Current maintained an average flow of 611 million gallons a day past Doniphan. Its major tributary is the Jacks Fork which rises In southeast Texas County and flows easterly about 70 miles into Shannon County where it joins the Current. Here along the Jacks Fork is perhaps the finest scenery, with a special wild yet intimate quality.



The Eleven Point River with headwaters in the vicinity of Willow Springs in northwest Howell County flows generally southeasterly across Howell and Oregon Counties, thence south, crossing the Arkansas State line to join the Black River about 15 miles below its junction with the Current. Its mean flow, even during 1936, was 130 million gallons a day past Riverton.

The springs are wonderful in themselves. Many are world famous for the immense volume and regularity of their flow. Some issue from rocky recesses; some well up from gravelly beds; some rush forth from caverns; others boil gently up from unknown depths. Their settings often are places of rare beauty.

Of 11 springs in the Missouri Ozarks having an average flow of 65 million or more gallons

per day, 6 are in the Current—Eleven Point country—Big Spring, Welch Spring, and Blue Spring on the Current—Alley Spring on Jacks Fork—Greer Spring and Blue Spring on the Eleven Point.

Big Spring is the largest. It has flowed as much as 840 million gallons a day, and for more than 20 years has averaged better than 250 million gallons every 24 hours the year around. The third largest spring in Missouri is Greer. Its two outlets, about 300 feet apart, are located in a beautiful, wild and forested gorge. A mile and a quarter away and 60 feet lower, it enters the Eleven Point River. For over 20 years it has flowed an average of 214 million gallons a day.

Four State Parks in this area have been established to preserve large springs and related scenic or historical values. Each bears the name of the spring involved—Big, Alley, Round, and Montauk.

Extensive dissolving of the limestone widespread in this country led to the formation of a vast series of underground chambers. Caves and caverns, springs, sinks, and other associated features all are dramatic demonstrations of the dynamic solution power of underground water.

Scattered throughout the area are numerous caves. They are of varied character—some quite extensive and magnificently decorated with dripstone. Possessing an even temperature, caves are delightfully cool in the summer, and pleasantly warm in the winter.

Some of these caves, such as Jam Up Cave, have no decoration, but the majority exhibit nearly every type of flowstone decoration to be found anywhere in the world. Round Spring Cavern ranks highest among all these. While smaller than Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth Cave, both preserved in National Parks, it equals them in the variety and color of their formations. It is the largest charted cave in the area having over 6,000 feet of passageways. Throughout the cavern are domes, stalactites, columns and stalagmites of every conceivable form.



The Current flows deep and slow under overhanging cliffs—a likely spot for goggle-eye.
Massie, Missouri Resources Division

Associated with this system of caverns is a large number of sinks and potholes dotting the uplands between the major stream valleys. Some are large elliptical depressions possibly caused by collapse of cavern roofs. Other sinks are funnel-shaped holes resulting from the dissolving of limestone around an opening in the rock, as surface water trickles to the caverns below. They range in size and form from chimney-like shafts 300 feet or more deep, to representative funnel-shaped holes up to 400 feet in diameter and as much as 75 feet deep.

A striking example of sinkhole topography can be seen in "The Sunkland." Here is a great hollow several hundred feet across and nearly a mile long, produced by the successive fall-in of several interconnected underground chambers. It is an almost classic example of this phenomenon.

The "shut-ins" are in great contrast to the general landscape dominated by limestone features. "Shut-ins" are numerous in the Current River valley east of Eminence Rocky Creek Falls, a delightfully attractive cascade, is an excellent example. Here masses of ancient dark-pink, granite-like rocks are exposed through which Rocky Creek has cut rugged gorges. The valley is wider above and below, where the stream cut through softer sedimentary rock. Oftentimes where these ancient rocks occur, they appear as relatively flat surfaces. But here the later sedimentary rocks surround, but did not completely bury, knobs of ancient rock that once stood as islands in now-vanished seas hundreds of millions of years ago.

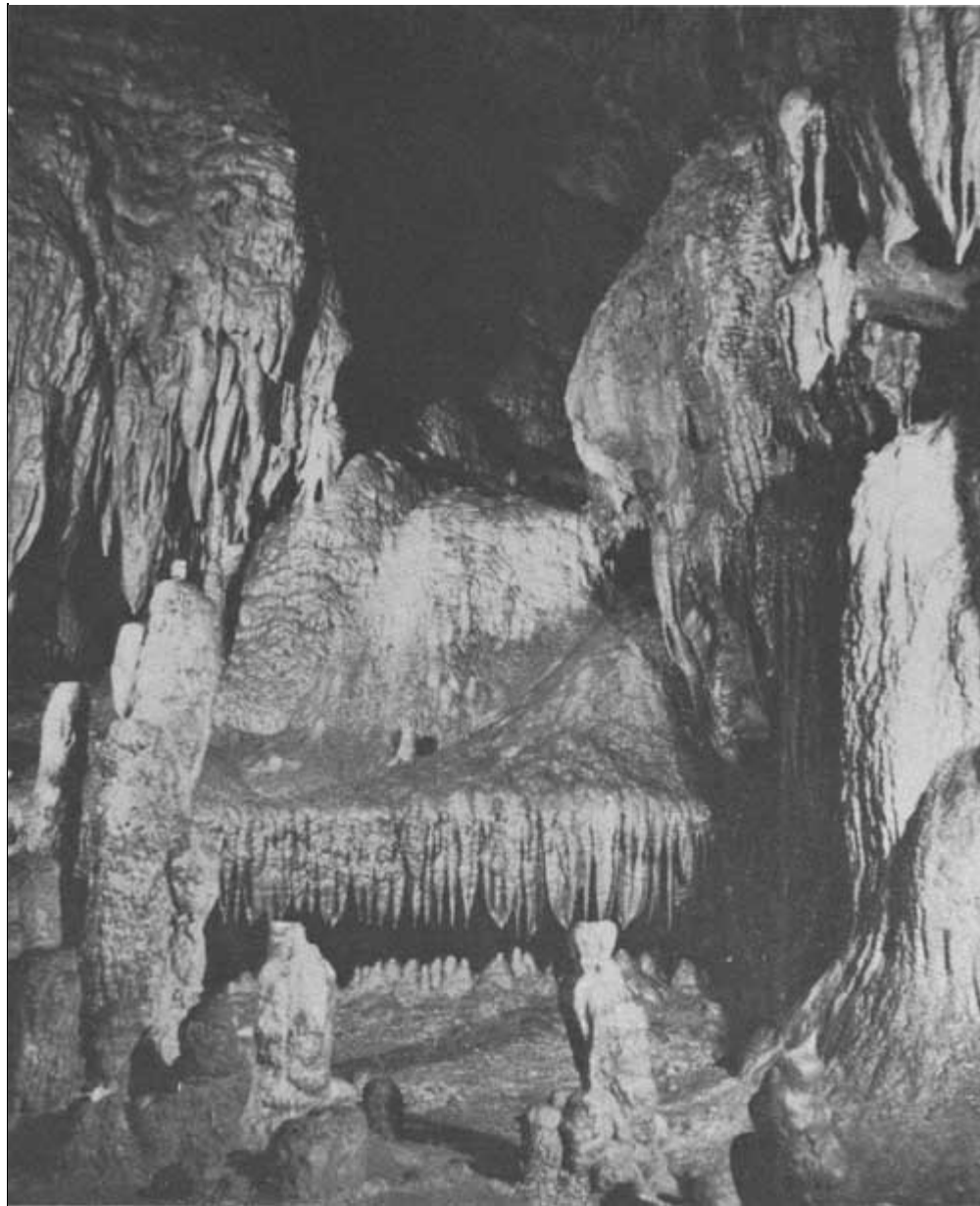
About three-fourths of the land is covered with forest. This forest is almost entirely immature "hardwoods," with oaks and hickories predominating. Here and there are a few scattered patches of nearly mature pines, but nowhere similar to the stands of 75 years ago.

Because of variations in soil, micro-climate, slope, and exposure within the area, a proper analysis of plant relationships is extremely difficult. For example, within a relatively limited area, such as a "sink," marshy pond communities exist within a relatively dry oak-hickory forest.

Despite these fairly complex relationships, four forest types are recognized. The oak-hickory type is the dominant upland forest of the Ozark plateau. Within the four general types, there are other plant associations, each quite different. The above-mentioned marshy pond is one good example. Another distinctive association grows on the drier limestone bluffs. The "shut-ins" contain a still different assortment of plants. Besides the oaks and hickories, other common trees of the forest are maple, shortleaf pine, tulip tree, black tupelo, sweet gum, and birch. Others notable for their flowers or fruit are hawthorn, bittersweet, dogwood, redbud, rose azalea, and bush hydrangea.

In all, 1,500 different kinds of plants are reportedly found here. This great variety is due to several factors, one of the most important being the long period of time that the Ozarks have stood free as land masses. Glaciation, too, brought climatic changes which induced northern plants to migrate south. With the retreat of the ice sheet, southern plants moved northward.

Likewise, due to the area's central location on the continent, plants spread here from both the east and west. Thus cool bluffs contain plants characteristic of the Appalachians; marshes around potholes contain plants similar to those of the South; and dry sites contain plants with a southwestern affinity. The combination of all these characteristics make this an outstanding area botanically.

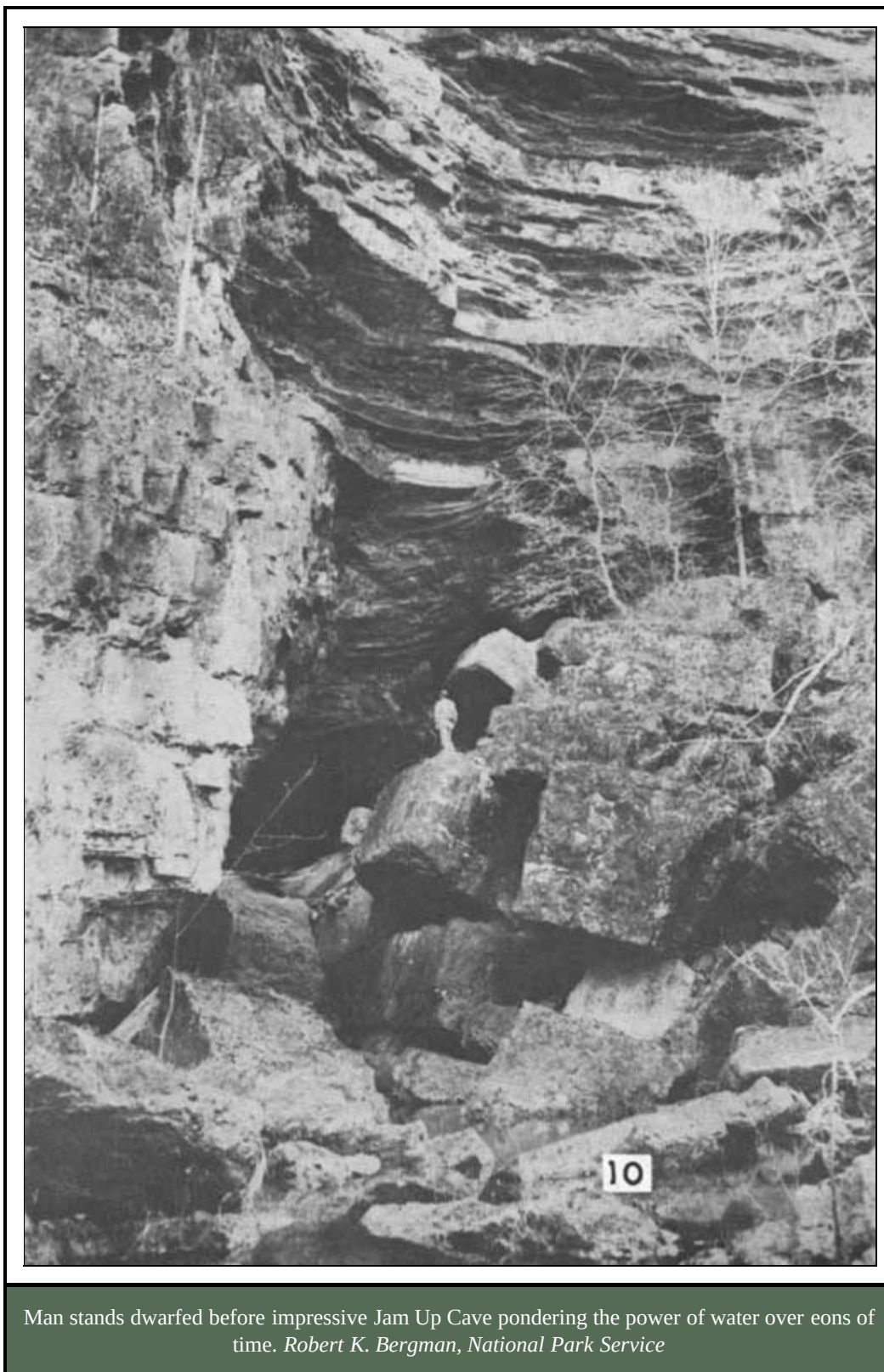


Dragon's Mouth - Round Spring Cavern. *Massie, Missouri Resources Division*

The forests provide homes for many mammals and birds. White-tailed deer, gray and fox squirrels, raccoon, opossum, and skunk are quite plentiful. Less common are red and gray foxes, bobcat, mink, muskrat, and cottontail rabbit. Badgers are occasionally seen. The rare red wolf is still found here.

Birdlife is abundant. The more common birds to be seen along the waterways are the kingfisher and the little green heron. Numerous songbirds make this area their summer home. Teal and wood duck nest here. Wild turkeys are making a comeback. Perhaps the most spectacular bird of the area is the crow-sized, pileated woodpecker. Many other birds are visitors, pausing here on their northward and southward migrations.

The Current, the Jacks Fork, and the Eleven Point Rivers are among the best smallmouth bass streams left in Missouri. Ninety-three species of fish have been reported from these rivers. Rock and smallmouth bass are the most abundant native game species. Largemouth bass, walleyed pike, and chain pickerel are fairly common. Ozark blindfish would possibly be found if further studies were made in caves where they were once reported.



In general, river valleys the world over were logical locations for the development of prehistoric cultures. The valleys under consideration are no exception.

The ever-flowing streams, the springs, and the forests, with their ready abundance of drink,

fuel, and food, were irresistible attractions to the prehistoric hunters, fishers, and gatherers. The fertile bottoms attracted those who grew maize, beans, and squash. Here they established camps on the level terraces of the valleys, and sometimes they occupied the inviting caves. Some erected earthen mounds over their dead.

Prehistoric man was living in the Ozarks well before the Christian Era, in fact, nearly 10,000 years ago. Limited investigations by archeologists reveal that Indians continuously occupied some sites from about 8,000 B.C. down to historic times—running the whole gamut of Mississippi valley archeology from Paleo-Indian (Early Man) through Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippi Cultures, to historic tribes first seen by De Soto in 1541.

The Ozark Plateau Culture, with special manifestations in the Current—Eleven Point region, developed at a crossroads between the Arkansas and the Mississippi valleys by borrowing some traits from various cultural centers of both areas. This culture is an especially unique expression, combining cultural traits from such sources as the great Cahokia Center of East St. Louis, Illinois, yet developing its own variations, such as distinctive serrated spearpoints.

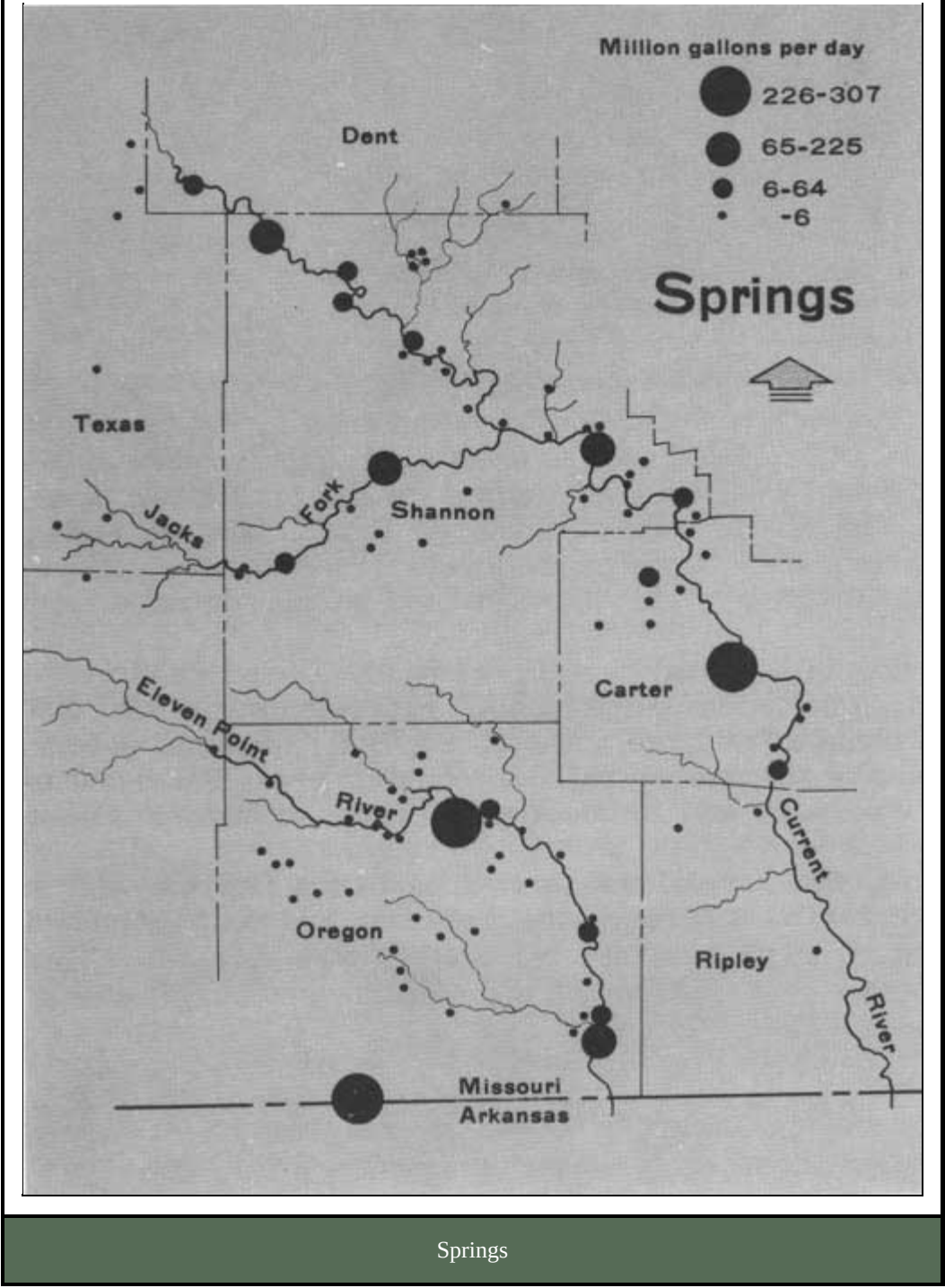




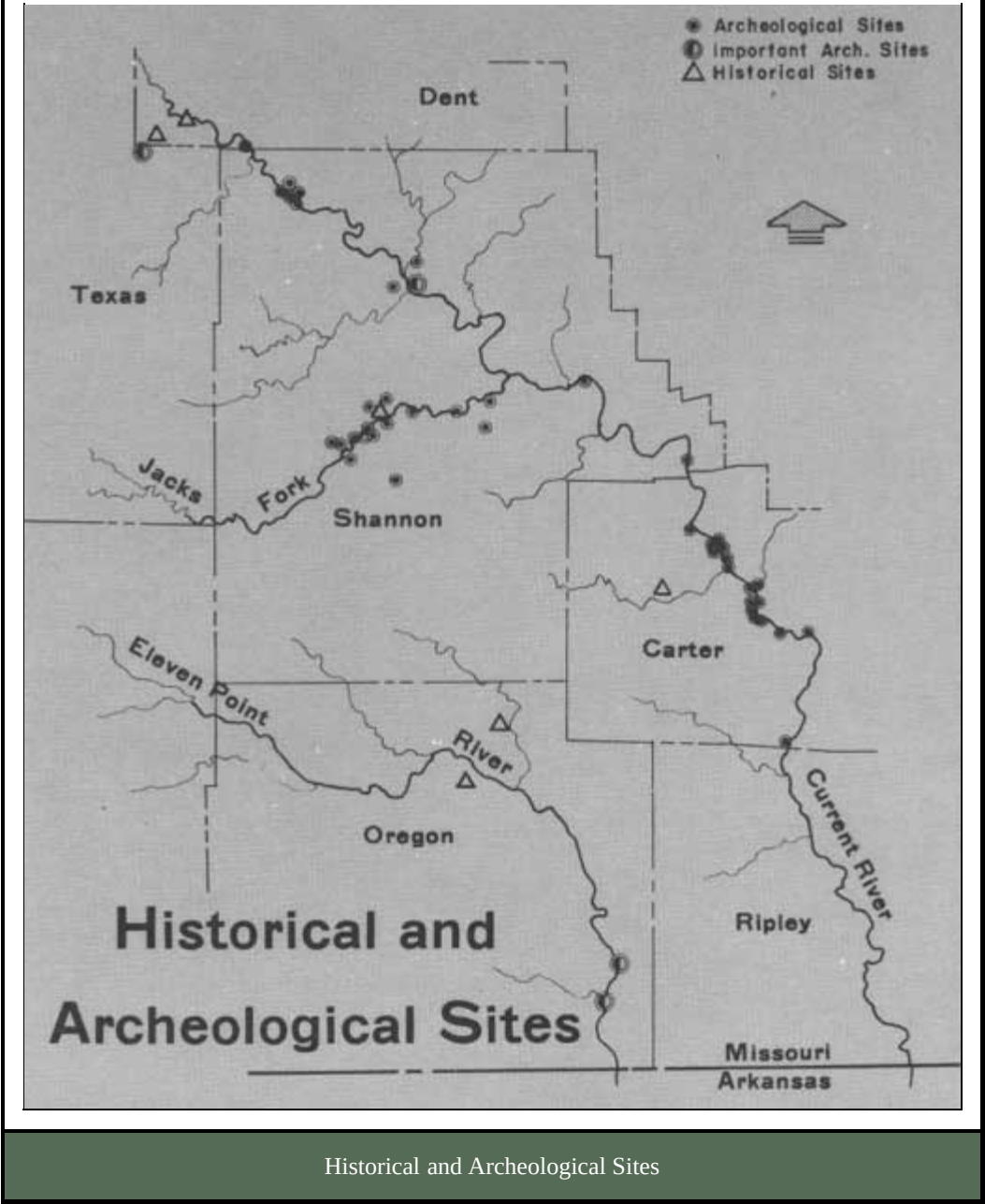
Oak forests furnish food and shelter for Ozark wildlife. *Missouri Conservation Commission, Don Wooldridge*

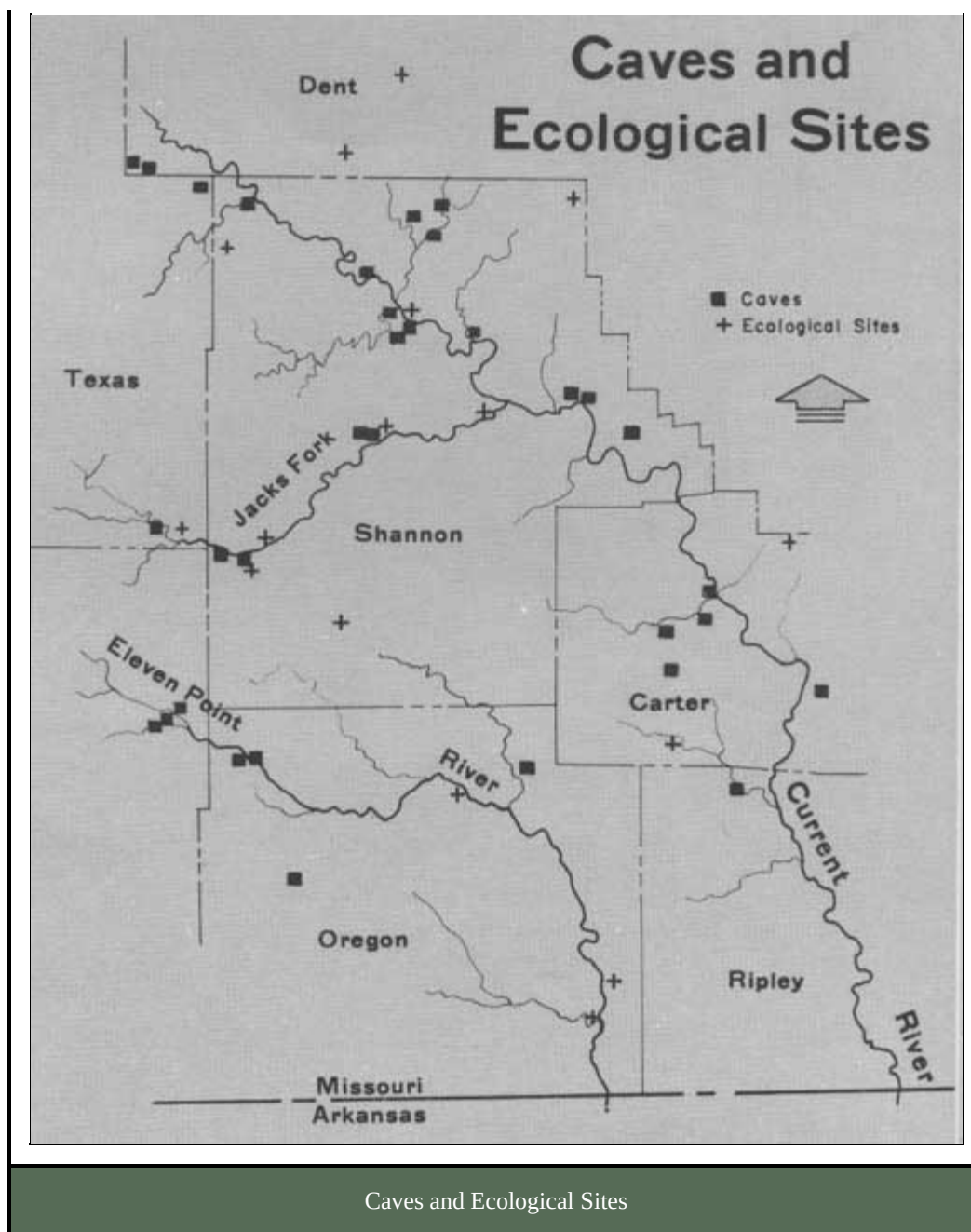
Four prehistoric sites are of special interest. Pigman Mound, by its shape, size, and surface indications, was a ceremonial center of the Mississippian Culture. Ashley Cave shows special development of a more northerly culture. Morgan Mound and associated sites provide evidence of early inhabitants. At Round Spring, in Round Spring State Park, Middle Mississippian burials have been found and weapons and tools of Early Man have been washed to the surface.

The modern history of the region is similar to that of the Ozark country as a whole. This area was originally claimed by the French and Spanish. However, neither left much of an impact on the Ozarks. The region was settled primarily by Anglo-Saxon groups from the eastern uplands. Lumbermen later exploited the region.



Springs





No nationally significant historic sites are known. The self-sufficient economy of the people from the mountain sections of the east which readily adapted itself to the Ozarks, has left a dominating imprint on the culture and economy of the region. Other influences such as the recovery of nitrates during the War of 1812, have played their part in the country's development.

Certain features help tell this story—Ashley Cave, with its relationship to nitrate mining; Snider House, which served as a temporary hospital during the Civil War; Turner's Mill, Falling Spring Mill, an interesting overshot type, and Greer Mill, operated remotely by a system of long shafts and gears; and the three current-propelled ferries. The Red Mill at Alley Spring State Park has been restored.



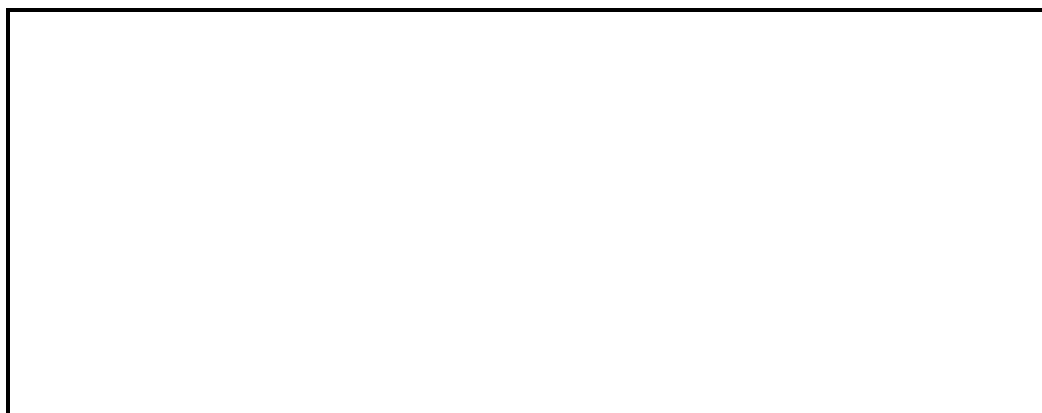
"Gravel bars are clean and dry - good spots for camping." *Missouri Conservation Commission, Don Wooldridge*

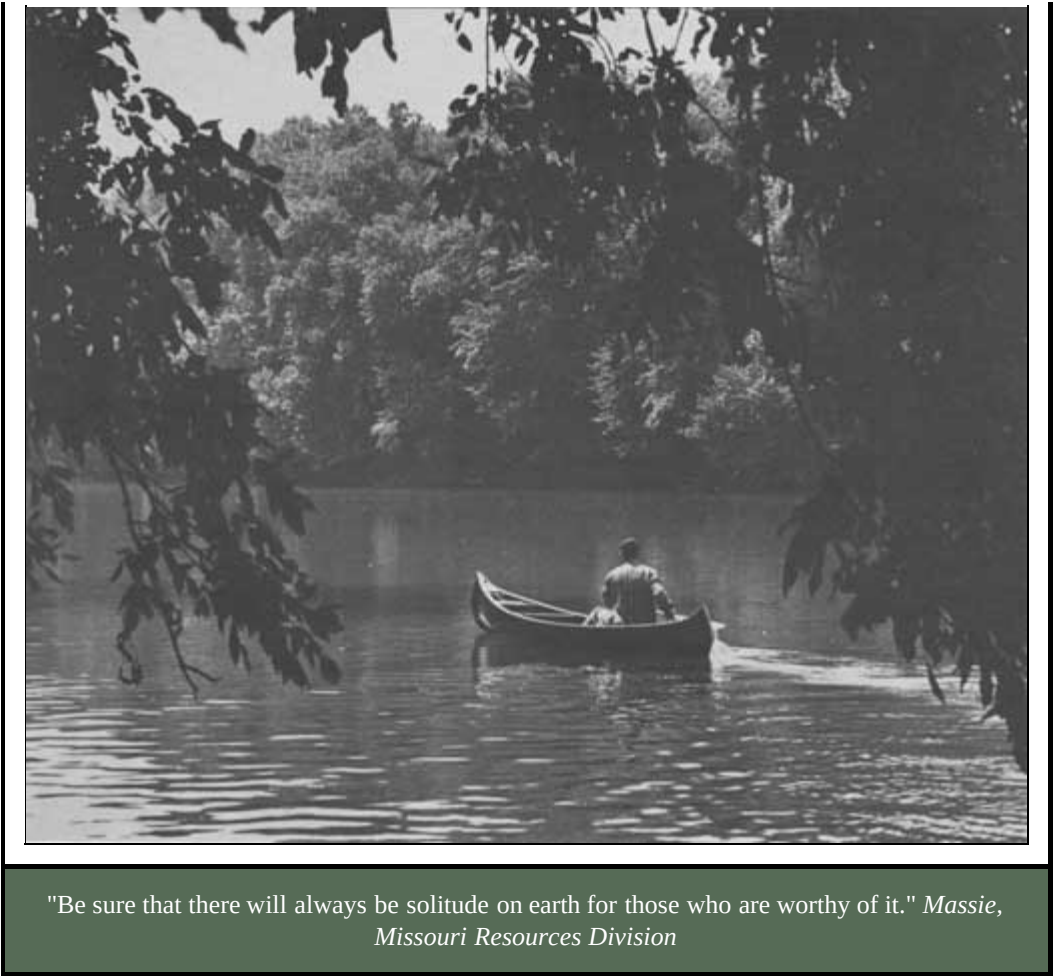
Four marked seasons occur, spring—short with delightfully crisp clear days; summer—hot, with occasional extremes but cooler in the hills; fall—a pleasant season, with a gradual decline from the summer highs; winter—cold, with an occasional zero temperature, but with many sunny days.

Weather Bureau records indicate that the Current—Eleven Point River country is warmer during the winter months than either St. Louis or Kansas City, and, except for the lower portion of the Current around Doniphan, cooler during July and August.

Most summer rains come as heavy thundershowers of short duration. Spring rains are lighter and longer. The heaviest snowfall occurs in February. The major source of this precipitation is the result of warm, moisture-laden air from the Gulf of Mexico coming into contact with cold Arctic air masses.

In summer, this area is the coolest part of southern Missouri, but periods of high relative humidity make the area uncomfortable at times. On some winter days, temperatures remain below freezing while on many others, they stay above.





"Be sure that there will always be solitude on earth for those who are worthy of it." *Massie, Missouri Resources Division*



Greer Spring Branch. *Massie, Missouri Resources Division*

In this part of Missouri, developed State Parks have received the same sharp increase in public use experienced over the country. The rivers themselves, however, have remained somewhat "off the beaten path." River use is still relatively light and largely by local people. It has developed special Ozark flavor in keeping with its history. Here John-boats were adapted to "floating" and "float-fishing." Alternating rapids or chutes and quiet waters were ideal. The current does the heavy work and full attention can be given to a variety of fishing, watching the scenery, or just plain relaxing.

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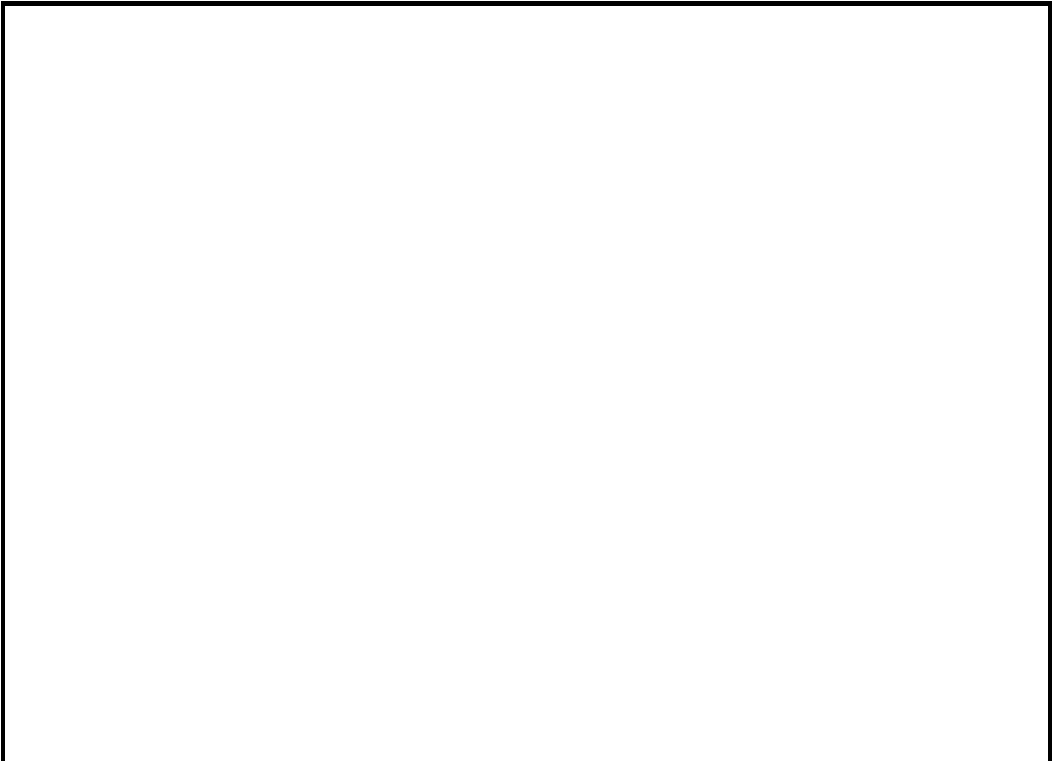
THE OPPORTUNITY

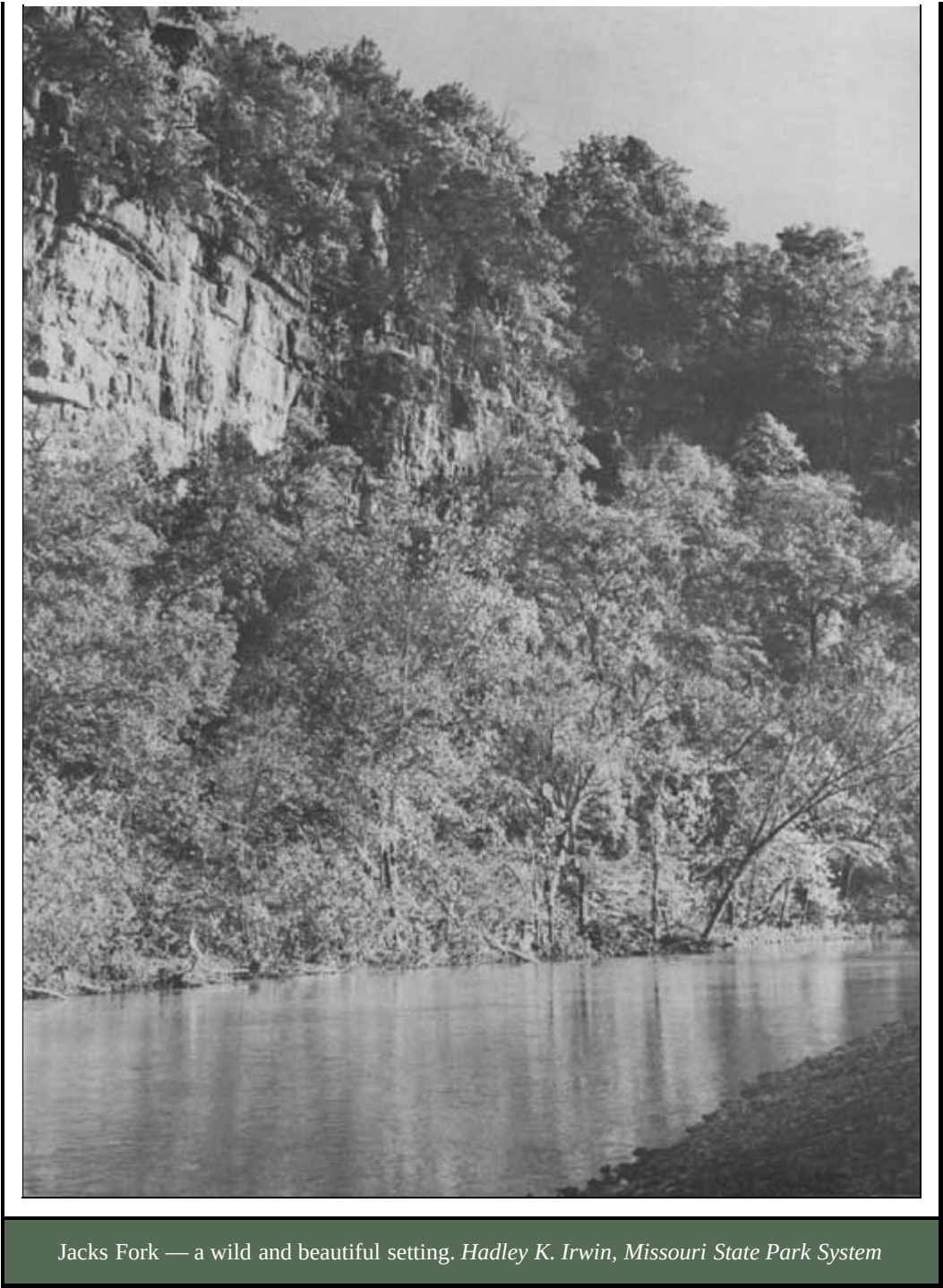
Within the last few years, the urgency for setting aside in public ownership, portions of rivers still unspoiled and shoreline, whether ocean, lake or river, has received increasing attention. The Current and Eleven Point Rivers represent an outstanding opportunity. These stream valleys contain an unusual variety of features which collectively are of outstanding quality and in some respects unique. Springs, waterfalls, caves, sinks, forests and wildlife along with the rivers tell a wonderfully diversified story within an area of modest size. A wealth of prehistoric evidence and colorful history add interest.

Surprisingly here in the eastern half of the United States, this area and in particular the rivers and outstanding formations are still relatively unspoiled. The whole setting, in fact, retains an unusual feeling of naturalness and, in places, the quality of wilderness.

This combination of characteristics related as it is to attractive water, a matter of increasing interest, is clearly a resource of value to the country at large. It is judged to be of national significance—a complex not now represented in the National Park System. Preservation of these values in public ownership while the opportunity still exists would be in the public interest.

This area now, by modern standards, is within a comfortable one day's drive of over 20 million people. It represents a resource rapidly being lost and increasingly needed. It could represent a wonderful heritage for added millions in future generations.





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THE PROPOSAL

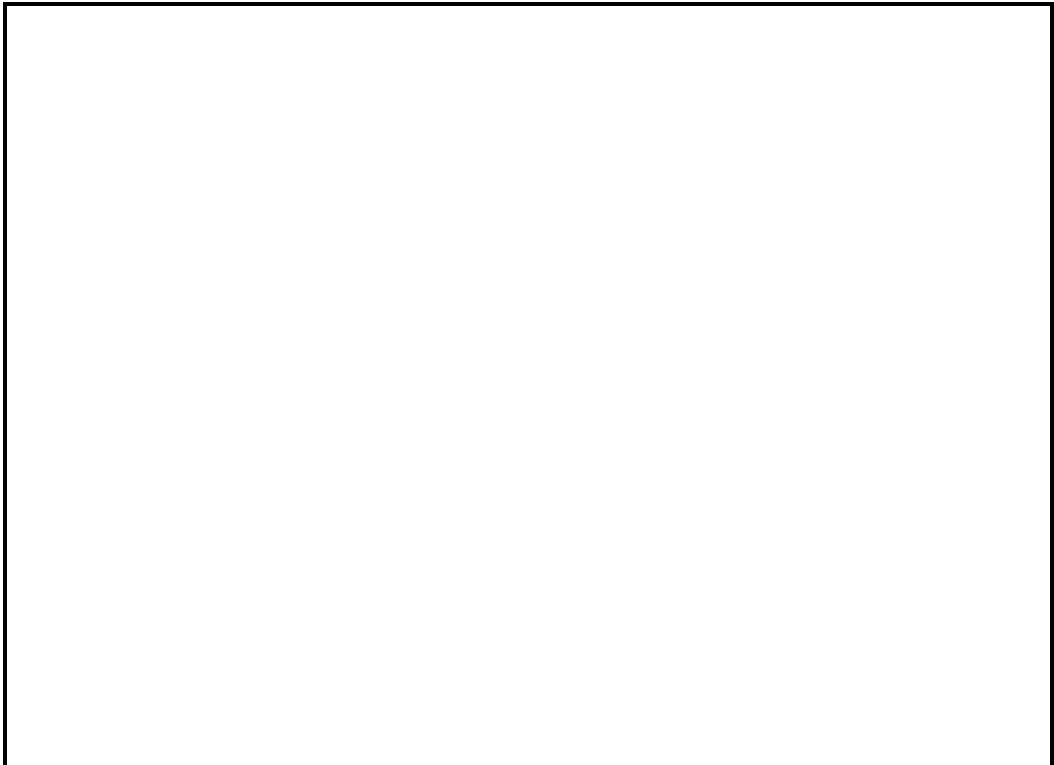
To preserve outstanding portions of this area, it is proposed that an "Ozark Rivers National Monument" be established as a part of the National Park System.

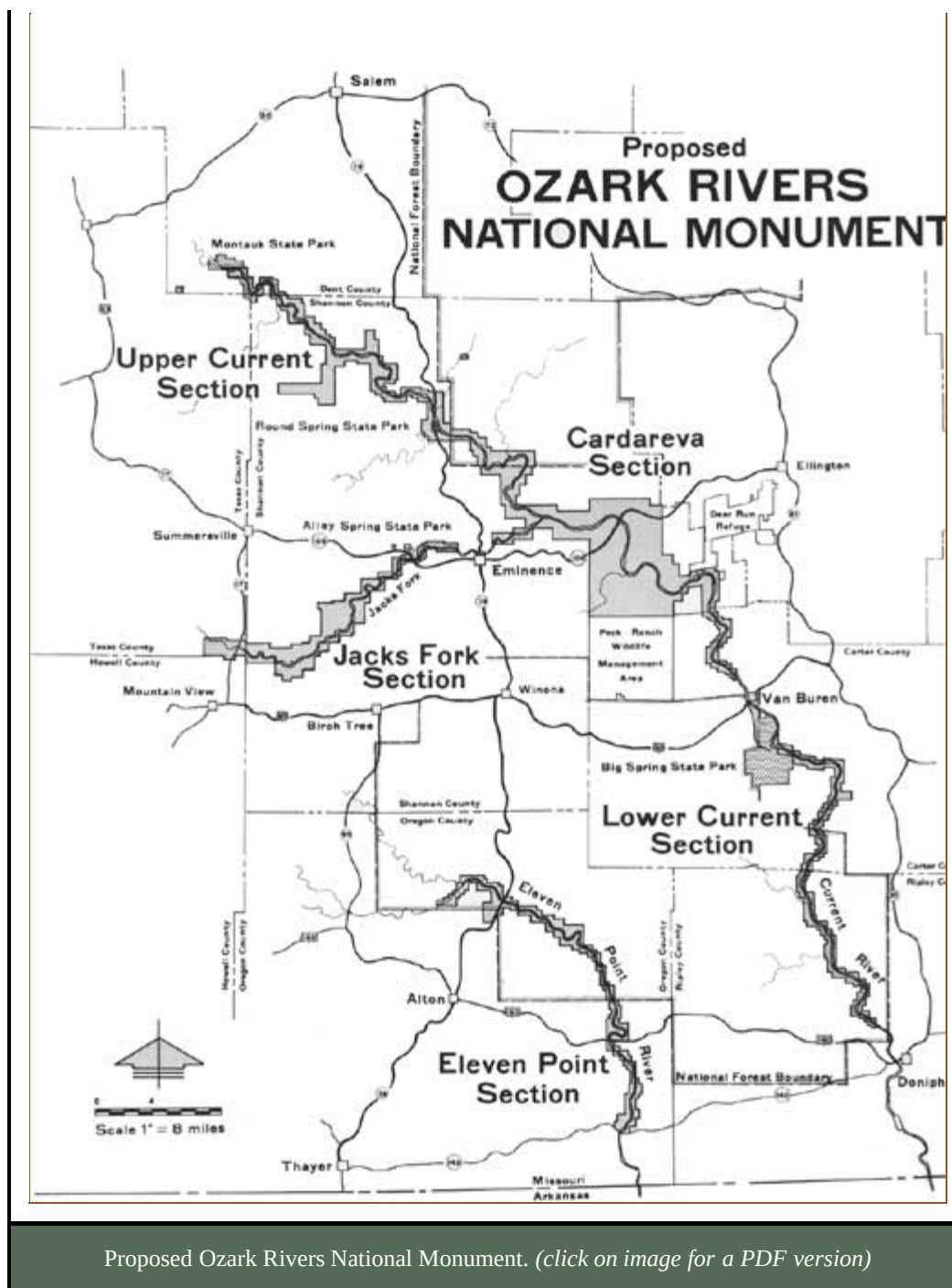
The objective, under the 1916 Act establishing the National Park Service, would be preservation for the public enjoyment of this and future generations, of scenic, scientific, and historical values which are sufficiently outstanding or unique to be of interest to the country as a whole.

The proposal contemplates setting aside in public ownership as one administrative unit approximately 113,000 acres. These are disposed generally as narrow strips along the Current and Eleven Point Rivers and Jacks Fork, with minor extensions to include important features. One centrally located larger block incorporates a fine section of typical Ozark county. It recognizes preservation as basic and proposes a zoned approach, to that end, for public use, management, and development.

Certain planning considerations stand out in arriving at the basic proposal and in considering preliminary ideas for public use and development.

The still relatively unspoiled character of the area, the definite feeling of wilderness in part, and the unusual diversity of outstanding natural features, including some of the finest remaining free-flowing streams, lead straight to preservation as the important consideration.





In determining what should be included, the rivers themselves as the physical, emotional, and recreational backbone of the area, carry major weight. Also, by the very nature of geologic processes, springs, caves, rock formations, even the better scenery are concentrated along the major streams. As a result relatively narrow strips can be proposed—sufficient only to protect important values and features and minimize undesirable encroachments. One larger central block to round out the picture of typical Ozark hills is the only exception found necessary. Breaks are left at Van Buren and Eminence to allow elbow room for growth. Montauk, Round Spring, Alley Spring, and Big Spring State Parks, though contiguous to the Monument, are not included. These would continue to play a complementary part in providing for public enjoyment and in preserving fine areas and features.

There is increasing need to consider quality of experience in providing for the public's likes and interests. The existing situation, natural and manmade, points to the logic of a zoned planning approach. The distribution of natural values, the degree to which they now remain

unspoiled, the ability of the rivers to stand public use without damage to their particular qualities, the distribution of population, towns and highways, all support the soundness of this conclusion. Jacks Fork and portions of the Upper Current River, for example, have the wild, intimate, and fragile qualities suitable for wilderness-type experience with a minimum of intrusive development. Between Van Buren and Doniphan, in contrast, the Current, grown much larger though still very attractive, could absorb greater and more diversified use and development.

"Floating" and "float-fishing" will continue to have a special appeal for some. To a degree it will set a pattern of relaxed and pleasant river use.

Public ownership of lands within the National Monument is found to be essential to this proposal. This is based on the need to protect important features, exercise reasonable scenic control, guard against possible encroachments, and provide the type and quality of experience the public should have a right to expect now and in the future.

Consistent with National Park Service policy, anticipated developments within the area would be limited to those required for access, for the various types of activity, for a fuller understanding and enjoyment by the public through interpretive programs, plus those needed for control and management. It is anticipated that normal overnight, eating, and shopping facilities would be provided through private enterprise in the nearby communities.

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THE PLAN

Shown on the accompanying plate is a preliminary land-use and development plan for the proposed National Monument. While the boundaries are tentative, they define the shape and size of an area on the Current and Eleven Point Rivers necessary for the protection of natural values, and adequate for anticipated development.

The proposed Monument comprises approximately 113,000 acres of land. Of this, about 16 percent is now owned by either the State or Federal governments; the other 84 percent is in private ownership. About 190 miles of river are included. Of this, 117 miles would be on the Current—84 miles of it in one continuous stretch—39 miles on Jacks Fork and 34 miles on the Eleven Point. Within these boundaries, would be 13 named caves, 11 interesting geological sites, more than 40 archeological sites, 4 of which may prove important, a number of fine ecological sites, and a great many springs. Six springs, having a flow of 65 million gallons or more per day, are included within the proposed Monument boundaries or in adjacent State parks. There are 13 others of considerable size and many smaller ones.

The selection and development of areas for public use and enjoyment will be governed by a number of factors. As tentatively designated on the accompanying drawings, weight was given primarily to the locations of important points of interest—some to be developed for public use, others to be left undisturbed—to river use which might normally be expected to develop, and to an analysis of the distribution of areas which would effect zoning for preservation and use.

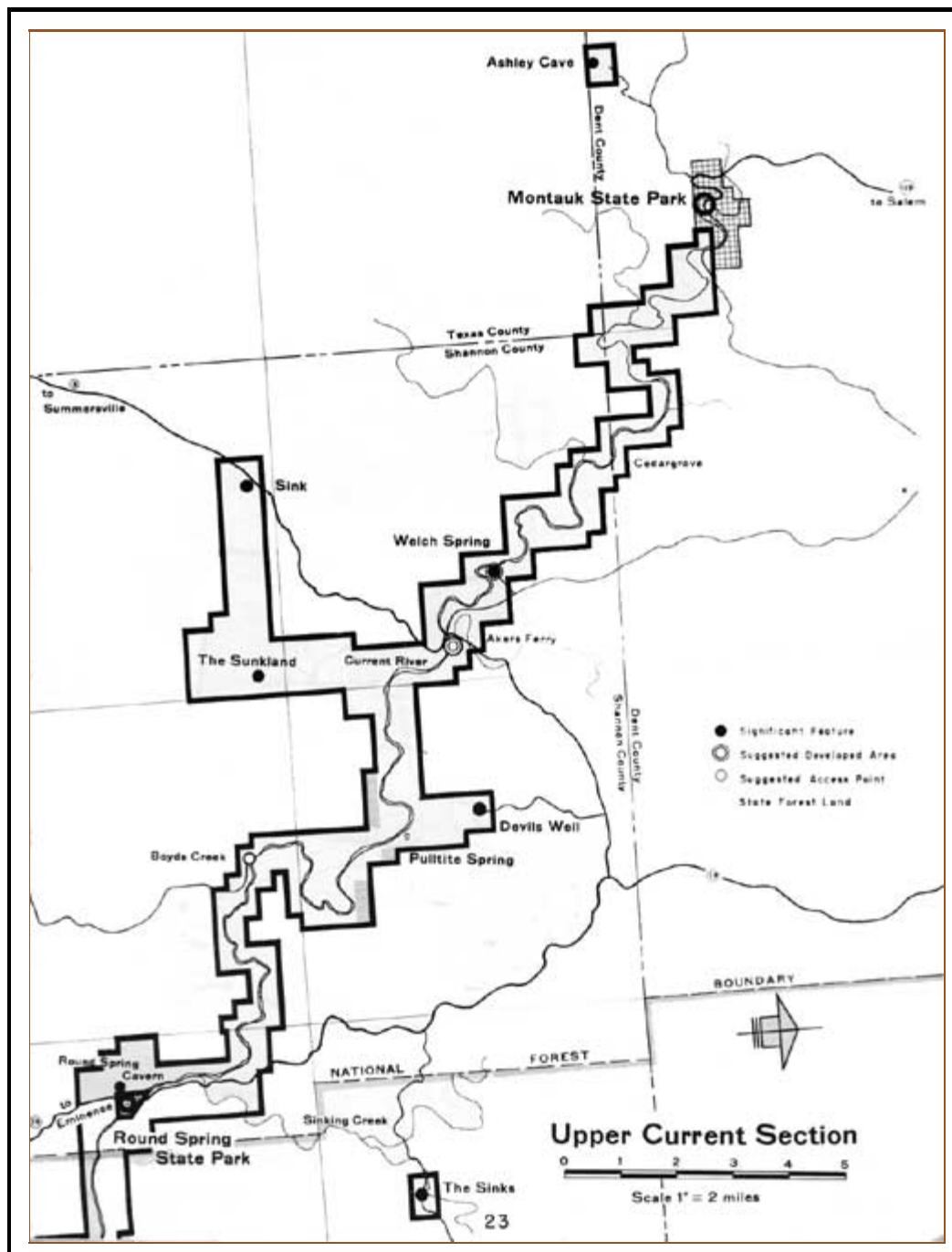
As a general pattern, developed areas are distributed about 15 to 20 miles apart. A somewhat heavier concentration is suggested in the central Cardareva Section where, because of its location, size and variety of attractions, heavier public use and more diversified development would be logical.

These developed areas would vary in size and scope. Each would probably contain interpretive facilities, campgrounds, picnic areas, boating facilities, and possibly concessions for meals and supplies. Each would probably be served by trails for hiking and perhaps horseback riding. One, perhaps at centrally located Owls Bend, might represent the center for the interpretive program and contain, therefore, a visitor center plus necessary administrative facilities.

Additional access points, in effect minor developed areas in most cases, are scattered generally with an average spacing of 7 or 8 miles. In the more primitive sections, they would be farther apart and with less refinement. In the more heavily used sections, they might be closer together and with simple development providing access, parking, and perhaps for boat landing and picnicking. They would serve also as access to trail systems.

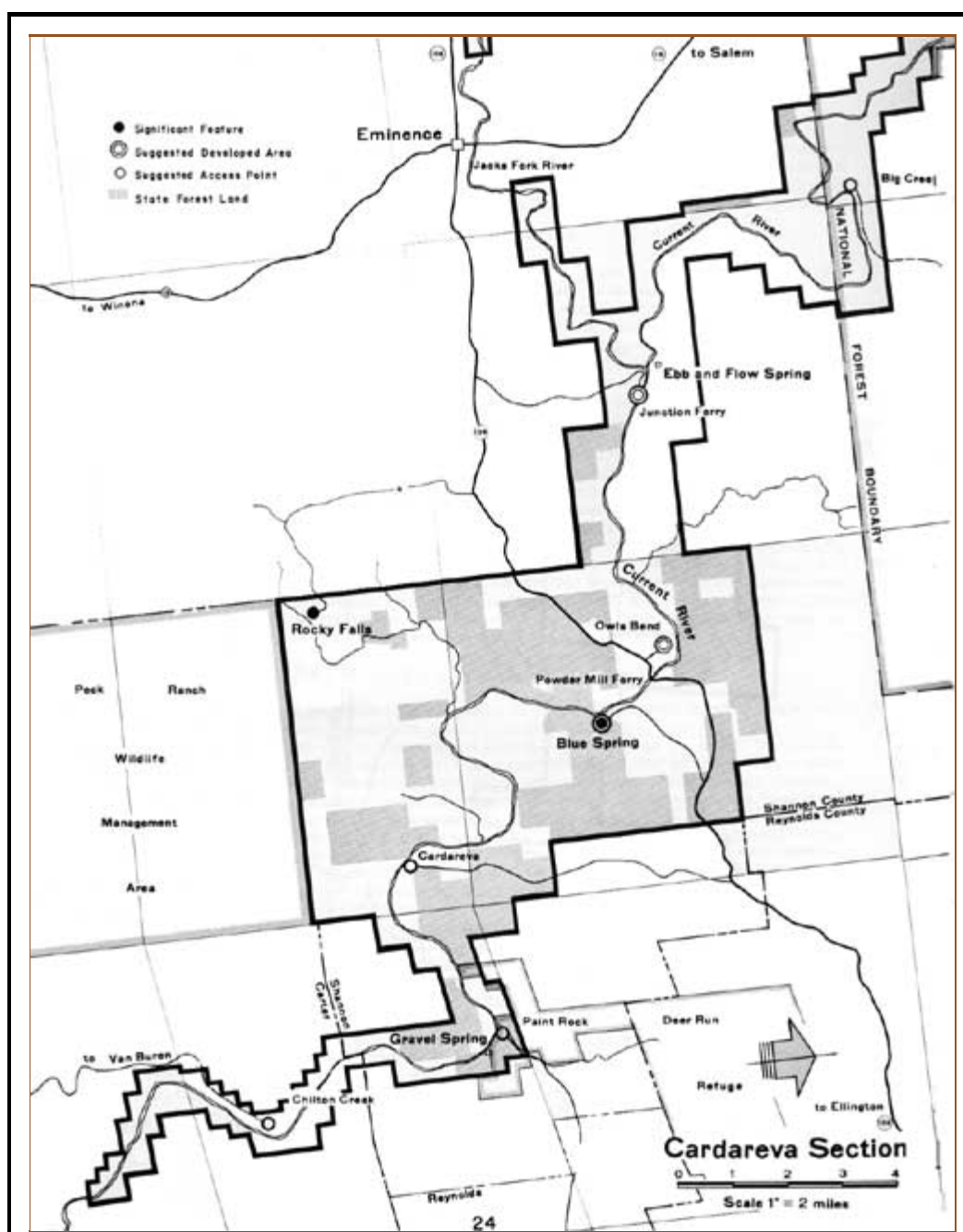
For convenience, more detailed discussion of the plan follows, by section, as covered in the accompanying drawings.

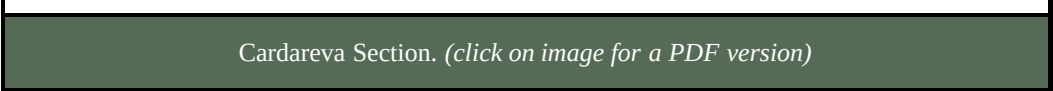
This section at the headwaters of the Current River would contain approximately 21,000 acres. It, together with Cardareva Section, would provide an uninterrupted publicly-owned 90 miles of river from Montauk State Park to a point near Van Buren on the Current and up Jacks Fork to a point near Eminence. The preservation of outstanding scenery and a fine feeling of wilderness would be paramount here. Developments would be kept few and simple. This section incorporates also a number of very fine features—Round Spring Cavern, Ashley Cave, Welch Spring, The Sunkland and Sink, Devils Well, and the Sinks. Each of these would be points of public interest and would require access by trail or road and at least minor interpretive developments. Existing Montauk and Round Spring State Parks, not part of the Monument but contiguous to it, would continue to serve the public as major developed areas. Additional development is suggested at Akers Ferry and access at Boyds Creek, possibly with minor facilities.



Upper Current Section. *(click on image for a PDF version)*

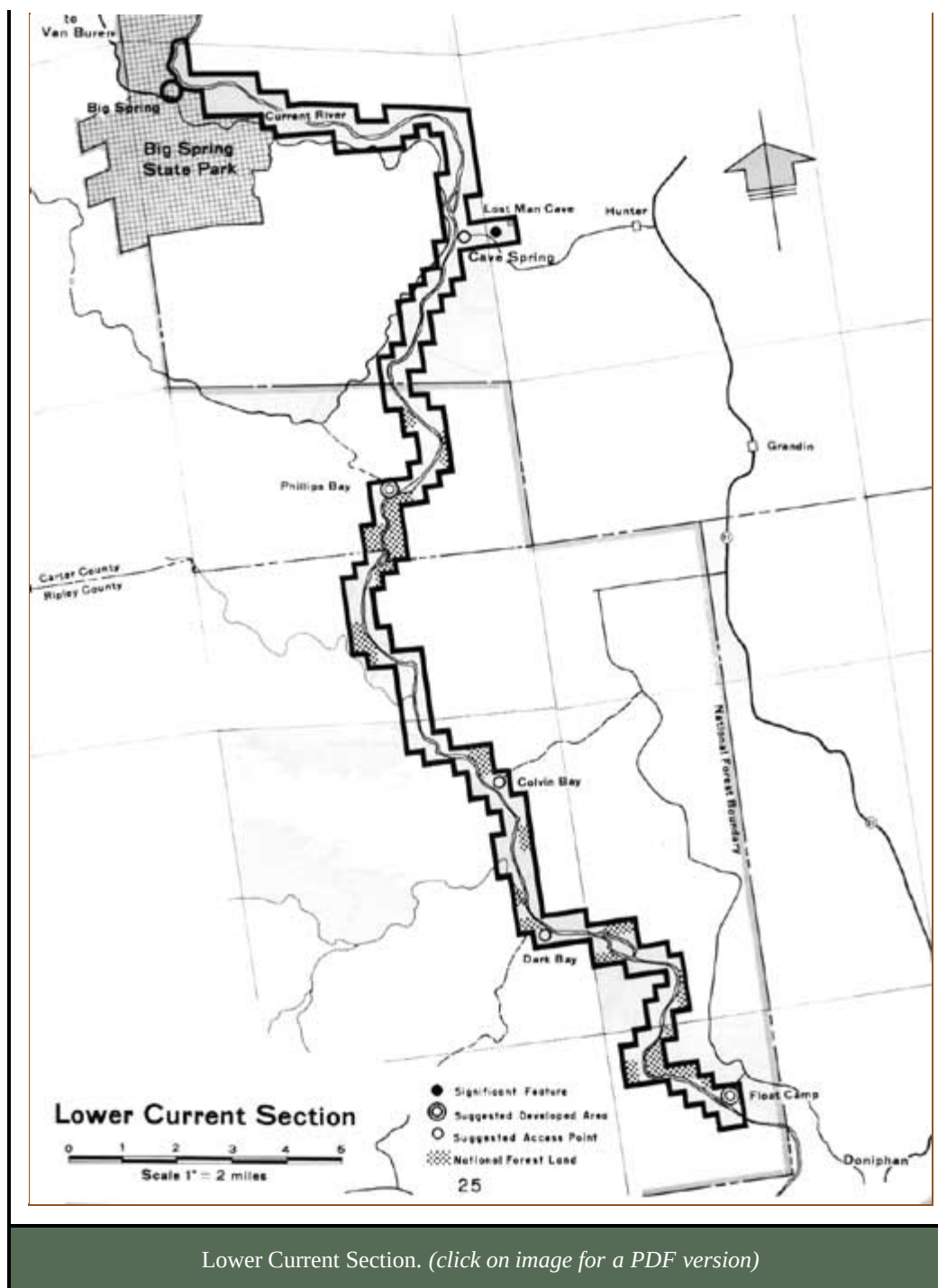
This centrally located section contains the largest block of land for inclusion in the proposed Monument, amounting to some 49,800 acres. Here Jacks Fork joins the Current, offering a natural center for river boating. Here too are a variety of interesting sites and the space and topography suitable for more concentrated use—Blue Spring, Rocky Falls, Cardareva Mountain, Paint Rock, Big Creek, and Chilton Creek. Tentatively it appears that major use and development might be at Owls Bend, serving as interpretive and administrative center for the Monument. Junction Ferry and Blue Spring are also suggested for development. From these sites also would radiate major trail systems along the rivers and through the wooded hills themselves. Access and minor development as needed would serve the other points of interest—possibly at Big Creek, Cardareva, Paint Rock, and Chilton Creek.





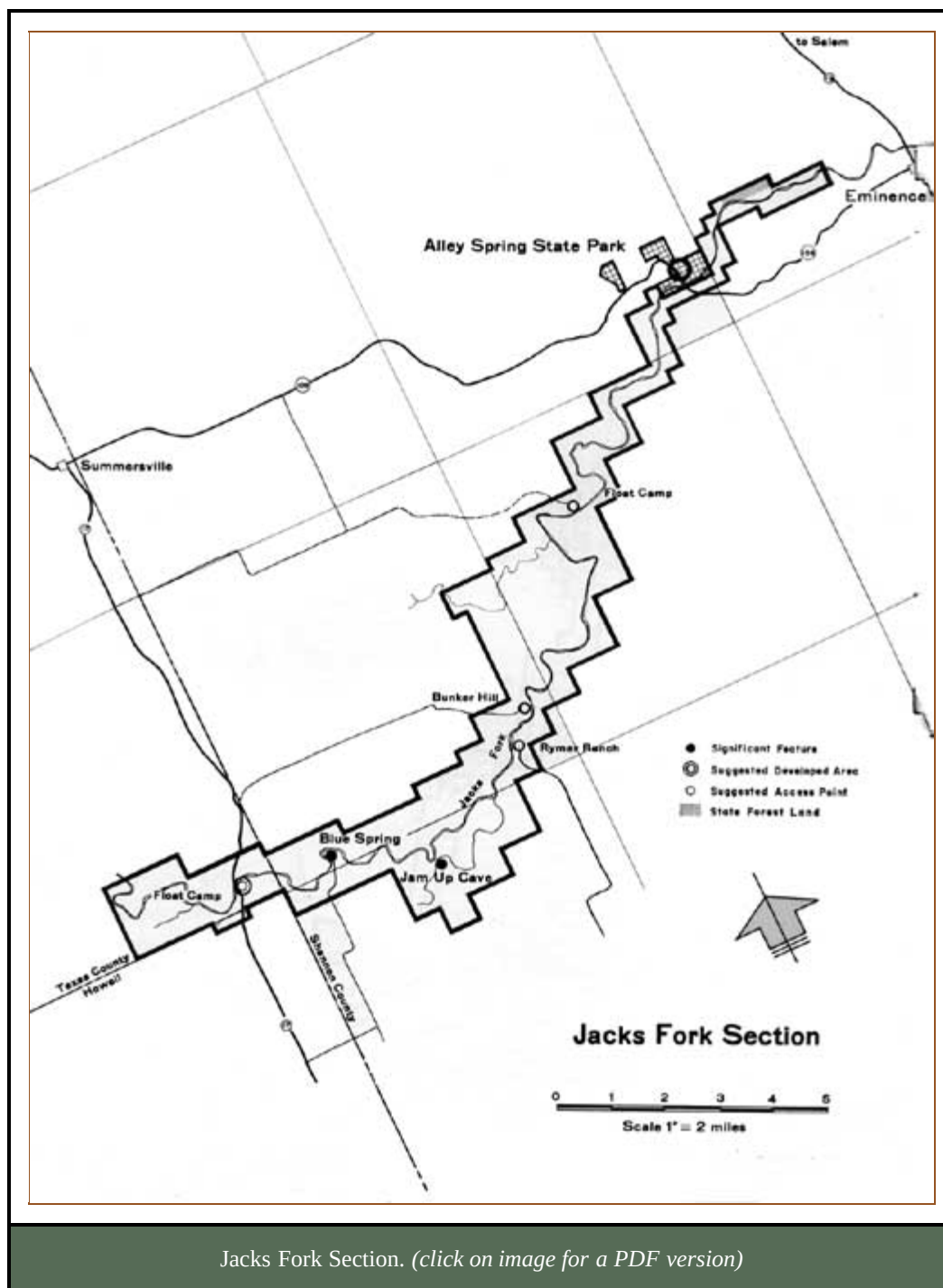
Below Van Buren,, the Current River broadens into a wider stream and the valley through which it flows for 32 miles takes on a more open character though still highly attractive. For much of this distance, the proposed Monument area lies within Clark National Forest in an area where the U.S. Forest Service recognizing its value for recreation has zoned it for that purpose. Running between Van Buren and Doniphan as it does, this section offers a natural opportunity for float or boat trips readily accessible and of a length which should prove popular. Because of these characteristics, the river could stand more public use than in the upper reaches and as a result, would serve in part to relieve pressures on those more fragile and primitive areas. One of the major and well-developed State parks, Big Spring, lies at the northern end of this section and would continue to serve as a major center for public use and enjoyment. An additional development area is suggested near the southern end of the section in the vicinity of Float Camp #7, now developed and managed by the U. S. Forest Service. A third area might be located at Phillips Bay. An existing float camp nearby provides limited picnic and camping facilities. These several areas plus access and possibly minor development at Cave Spring, Colvin Bay, and Dark Bay would provide a flexible variety of recreation opportunities for large numbers of people.





Approximately 39 miles of river in 17,160 acres would be contained in this section. Jacks Fork, a branch of the Current River, is probably the wildest and least accessible country within the proposed Monument and includes outstanding scenery and a number of fine features. Development in this section should be limited to providing a minimum number of access points necessary for river use plus a few minor-day use areas. In fact, no development of any great consequence would be considered above Alley Spring State Park. The latter will continue to provide for a variety of activities along with preservation of Alley Spring and related Red Mill, now restored. Jam Up Cave, one of the most striking and unique features of the Monument, would be a point of considerable public interest. Access and interpretive aids would be provided to make it available to the public. Minor developments are suggested for

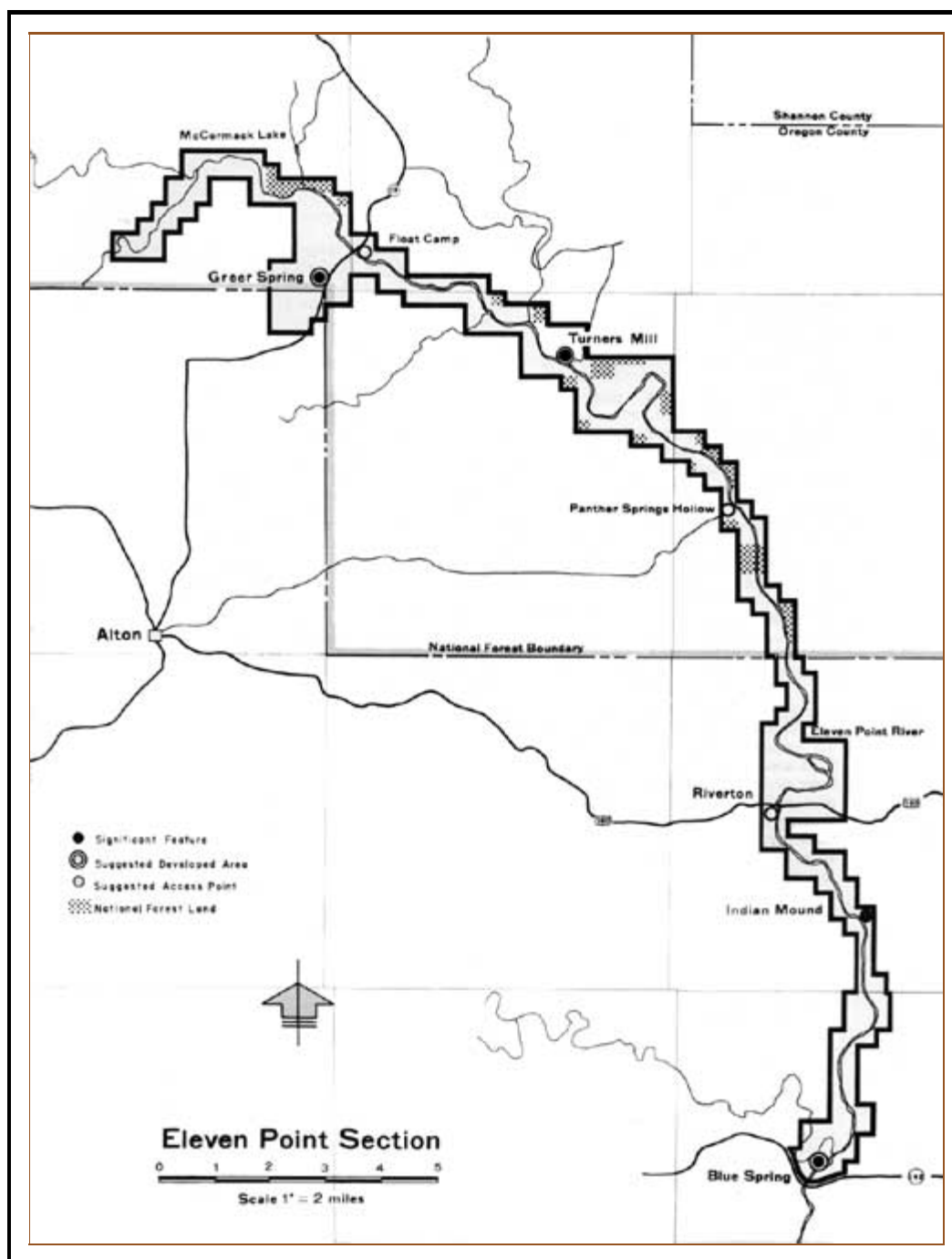
Blue Spring and near the Highway 17 crossing. Access is suggested in the vicinity of Rymer Ranch-Bunker Hill and at one other point which might serve as a float camp. Preservation of the fragile wilderness quality of this stream and its beautiful setting would be paramount in planning for both public use and facilities.



This section is somewhat separated from the other four, lying in a different drainage which joins the Black River farther south in Arkansas. Upstream, it is quite similar to the Jacks Fork and Upper Current and of nearly the same quality. Approximately 34 miles of river and 14,000 acres of land are included extending from a point several miles above Greer Spring downstream to Highway 142. Roughly two-thirds, by river miles, lies within Clark National

Forest. No existing facilities for public use have been provided; however, as in the case of the Lower Current, the U. S. Forest Service has zoned a stretch along the river for recreation, recognizing that as the primary value.

The Eleven Point Section includes a number of interesting spots and features—extremely attractive Greer Spring and Mill, historically interesting Turners Mill about midpoint, and Blue Spring at the southern end not far from the Arkansas line. Development is suggested at Turners Mill because of its location and the surrounding open and relatively level land. The general locations of Greer and Blue Springs also appear logical for development. Minor areas where access and simple development may be desirable, primarily in connection with float trips, include Panther Spring Hollow, a location near Riverton where U.S. Highway 160 crosses the river, and one additional float campsite. Indian mounds at Blue Spring and Pigman Ranch may prove to be of considerable archeological significance. On further investigation, provision of on-site interpretive facilities where this story can be told may be desirable.





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Last Updated: 04-Nov-2009

OZARK

Ozark Rivers National Monument A Proposal



EFFECT ON OTHER PUBLIC AREAS

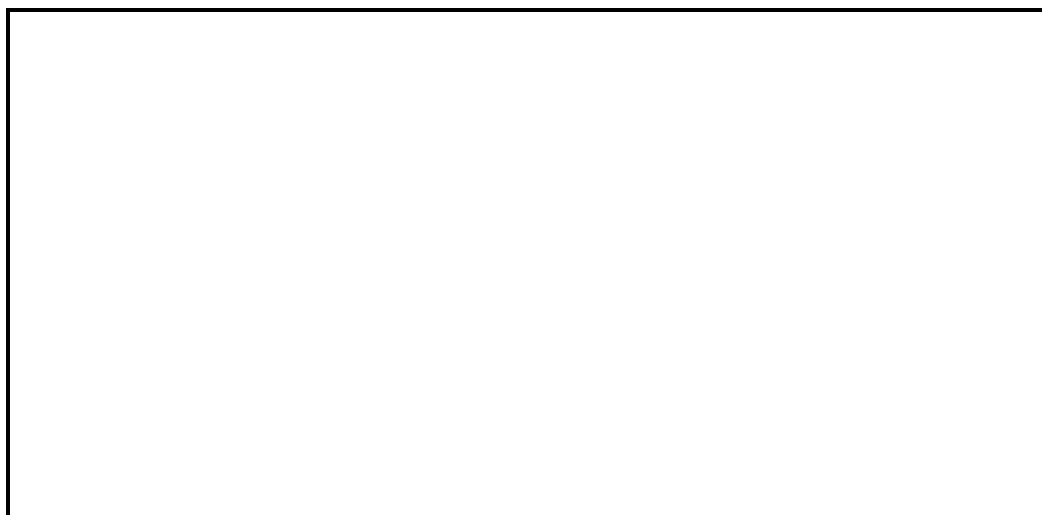
The National Monument as proposed includes or adjoins certain lands now administered by State agencies or the U.S. Forest Service.

Portions of the Lower Current and Eleven Point Sections lie within the boundary of Clark National Forest. A total of approximately 2,600 acres in these sections are in Federal ownership and administered by the U. S. Forest Service. Located as they are along or near the rivers, the Forest Service recently gave recognition to recreation as the dominant value of these lands. Under this designation, or zoning, no timber harvest for commercial purposes would be allowed within 1,000 feet of the river bank.

The corner of Clark National Forest also overlaps the proposed Monument along the Upper Current; however, no lands in Federal ownership and administered by the Forest Service are involved.

No State park land is included within the proposed boundary; however, Round Spring State Park is surrounded by the Monument and three others are contiguous to it—Big Spring, Alley Spring, and Montauk. The Federal and State areas, in this situation, should complement and supplement each other to good advantage in the public interest. Cooperative planning in their respective development, management, and interpretive programs would effectively further this opportunity.

The State Conservation Commission would be more effected, in a sense, since approximately 15,000 acres of lands they administer are included. These are managed for forestry purposes and comprise a crazy quilt pattern of scattered tracts in the Cardareva Section. Peck Wildlife Management Area lies just outside the proposed boundary south of the central Cardareva Section. Of the Deer Run Refuge, now administered by the Commission for forest management purposes, approximately 200 acres bordering the Current River lie within the proposed Monument.





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OZARK

Ozark Rivers National Monument A Proposal



ECONOMIC EFFECT

The Current-Eleven Point River Country was settled largely in the third and fourth decades of the 19th Century, mostly by people of English ancestry from the mountain regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. They hunted, fished, and raised corn on small tracts of land in the river valleys, and were undisturbed by the main stream of westward migration which bypassed them. During the Civil War, the people were divided in their loyalties. As a result, their settlements were plundered by guerilla bands and by Union and Confederate forces alike.

After the eastern forests were depleted, lumber interests turned to the Ozarks for new and untouched sources of timber. Railroads were built, great lumber mills established and the exploitation of the last frontier in Missouri began. Lumbering flourished from 1875 to 1915, but by 1919 the land had been so cut over that the Ozark lumber industry died and with it, the economy it supported.

Some people then turned to cutting immature trees and farming the hill lands. Neither of these provided more than mere subsistence. Hill farming was unsuccessful because the topsoil soon eroded away after cultivation, leaving gravelly, droughty soil low in nutrients. Even now, farming is difficult on the bottomlands because mechanical farming equipment just can't be used efficiently in the narrow valleys. As farming becomes more mechanized, the farmers in the Current and Eleven Point River valleys find themselves in an increasingly poor competitive position. In 1955, the cash income of 40 percent of farm families in this area was less than \$1,000. Even so, agriculture is still the major source of income for Carter, Oregon, Ripley, and Shannon Counties. Data from the 1950 census show that the median family income in this area is only 42 percent of the average for the State of Missouri.

Forests cover approximately three-fourths of the land within Carter, Oregon, Ripley, and Shannon Counties. Their quality is somewhat less in the Ozarks than in the remainder of the state primarily because of the lower productivity of land. Since the establishment of Clark National Forest in 1934 and the State Conservation Commission's Division of Forestry in 1938, gradual rehabilitation of the forest has been occurring. As a result of new practices, annual growth rate in the Clark National Forest has increased from 36 board feet per acre in 1946 to 93 in 1956. Cutting timber on a sustained yield basis from large land tracts may be profitable; however, the income farmers get from timber and timber products is negligible. Less than 3 percent of the total farm income in the area is derived from the sale of forest products.

Up to the present time, very little industry has moved into this area. In June 1959, Carter, Oregon, Ripley, and Shannon Counties, containing 97 percent of the Monument area, had a total of 27 firms employing 585 persons. Employment opportunities in industry appear limited at the present time.

The population peak for this area occurred in 1910 during the lumber boom. Since then, there has been a steady decline except during the depression years when some unemployed city

workers returned to their former homes in the Ozarks. The population now is only about 70 percent of what it was 50 years ago. Also relatively few people of working age live here, having gone to places where employment opportunities are better.

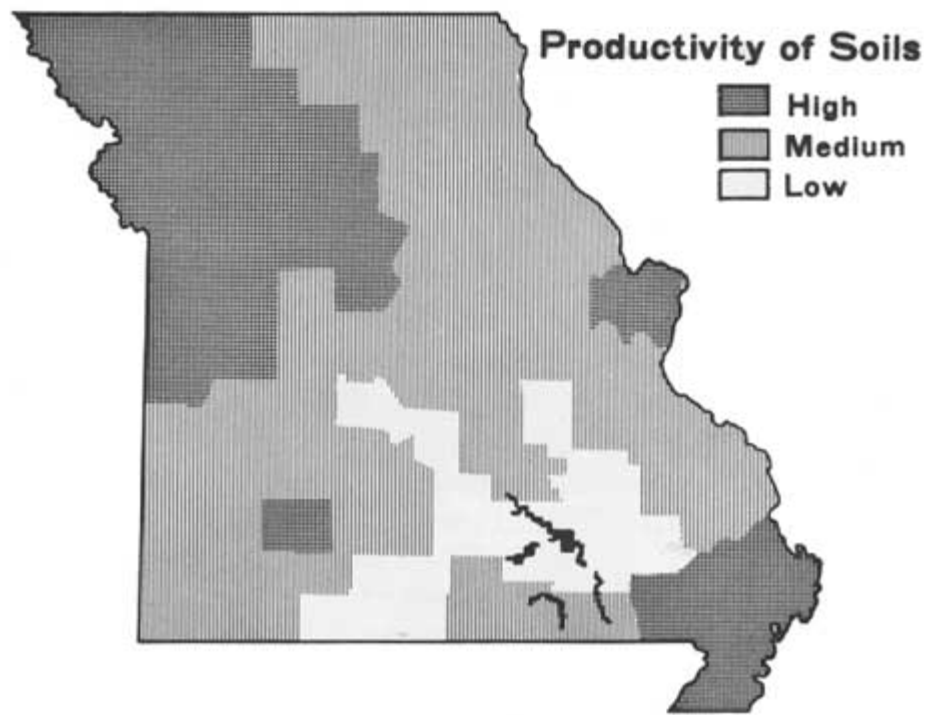
The National Park Service secured the services of the University of Missouri to make an economic study of the Current—Eleven Point River Country and to determine the effect of the proposed National Monument upon the local and regional economies. This study was based upon certain premises such as size of area, number of visitors, and time required for development.

Major conclusions resulting from the University study are that five years after establishment of proposed Monument, assuming adequate development, over 800,000 additional visitors would be attracted to the region annually and they would spend \$5,500,000; that new motels, hotels, and other tourist facilities costing \$33,000,000 would be required to accommodate the increased number of visitors; and that \$10,000,000 of assessed value would be added to the county tax rolls assuming current assessments on urban property in the area are about 30 percent of actual value.

Current assessed valuation of lands within the proposed Monument is estimated at \$1,300,000. The conclusions of the University, therefore, indicate the tax base for the counties involved would gain approximately \$8,700,000, and the annual tax return might increase by \$300,000 if the National Monument were established.

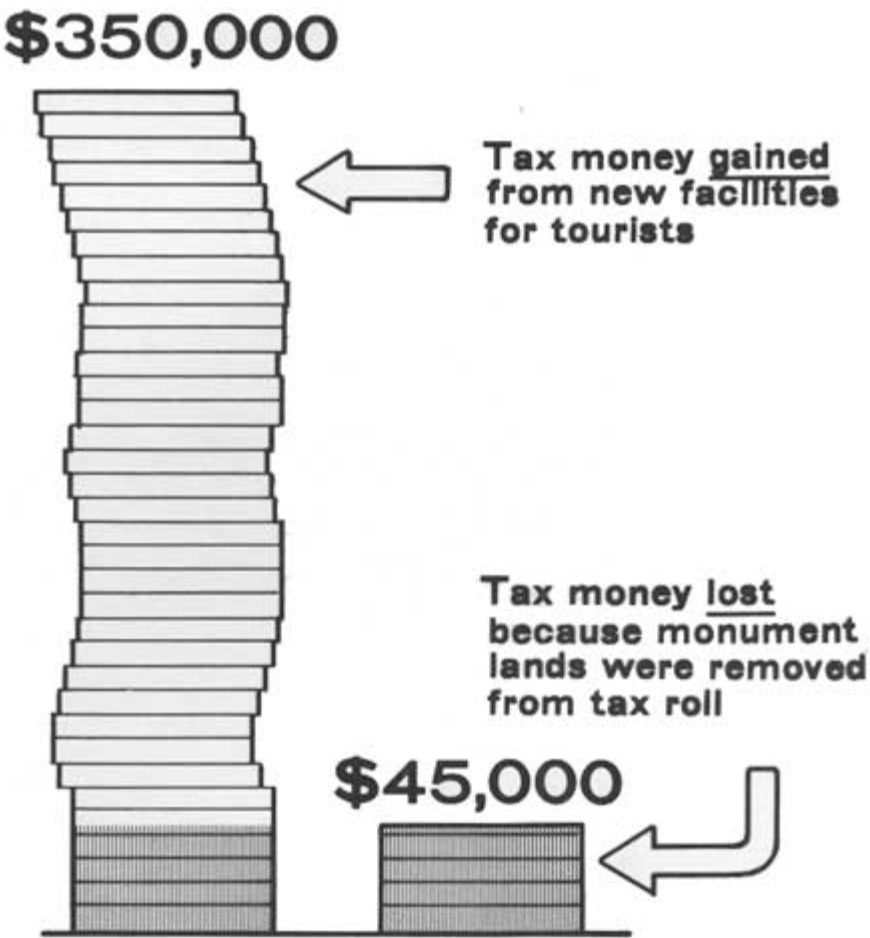
These estimates appear reasonable after reviewing information developed by the University of Wyoming for the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce. It reveals that Teton County depends in large part upon tourists who began visiting in great numbers after Grand Teton National Park was enlarged. Acquisition of lands for the National Park did not destroy the tax base, in fact additional tourist facilities more than made up for the loss of park lands from the tax rolls.

Lands proposed for inclusion in the Monument total approximately 113,000 acres. Of these, 84 per cent or about 95,400 acres are in private ownership. Appraisal sampling indicates a considerable variation in cost. Considerations such as severance values add to the difficulty of making close estimates at this stage. In round figures, a total in the neighborhood of \$5,500,000 might be anticipated.



Soils Have Low Productivity In The Area Where The National Monument Would Be Located

**from Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station,
Research Bulletin 465, 1950**



Effect of National Monument Establishment on Local Tax Income

1959 Economic Study of the University of Missouri

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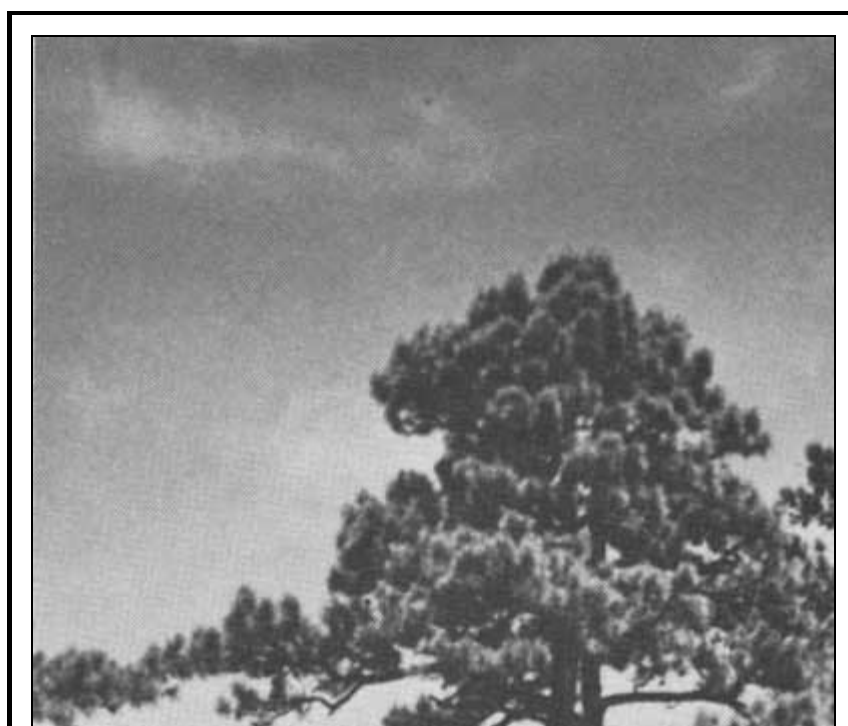


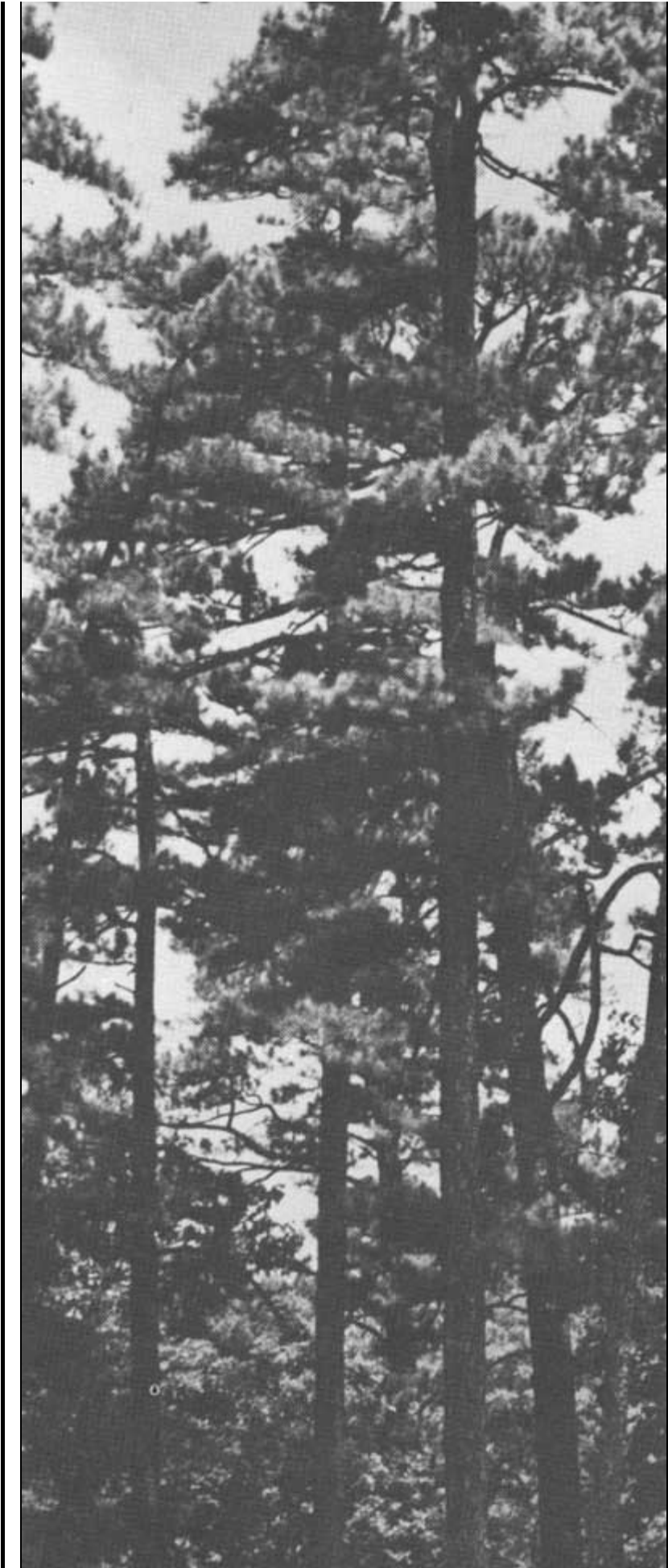
RELATED PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Monument contemplates one administrative unit and proposes no administrative jurisdiction outside its boundaries. At the same time, obviously, the Monument would play one part in the total public land management programs, Federal, State, and local, operating in this general region. Collectively, they have a common goal in sound stewardship of public interests. Clearly therefore, cooperation could pay dividends.

Specifically for example, at Eminence, Van Buren, and above Doniphan, sections of the river were purposely excluded from the Monument proposal to provide space for the growth of towns. In these excluded sections, it is recommended that, through enforced local zoning, river frontage be protected from unsightly or otherwise undesirable developments and from land practices which might cause erosion.

Anticipating increased tourist travel through this region and public enjoyment of travel through the Ozarks, special roadside treatment is considered desirable. It is recommended therefore that the State Highway Department and other public agencies administering land adjacent to highways give consideration to certain roads connecting units of the Monument—State Route 19 between a point 10 miles north of Round Spring State Park and the town of Alton; State Route 106 from a point 5 miles west of Alley Spring State Park to a point 5 miles east of the proposed Monument; and U.S. Highway 60 between its intersections with State Highways 17 and 21. This could take the form of widening rights-of-way to minimize unsightly developments, clearing for vista purposes and provision of overlooks at certain vantage points.







Shortleaf Pine, reminders of early virgin stands. *Walker, Missouri Resources Division*

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OZARK

Ozark Rivers National Monument A Proposal



STATEMENT ON PROPOSED OZARK NATIONAL RIVERS

The attached report proposed preservation of approximately 113,000 acres located along some 190 miles of the Current, Jacks Fork and Eleven Point Rivers. Bills were subsequently introduced in the Senate (S. 1381) and House of Representatives (H.R. 5712), 1st Session of the 87th Congress to authorize establishment of such an area. Hearings were held in July 1961 by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on S. 1381. Subsequently, through personal visits to the area, members of the Senate and also Secretary of the Interior Udall learned first hand of the extraordinary beauty of this country. In his Conservation Program message to the 87th Congress, President Kennedy urged favorable action on this legislation. However, the 87th Congress adjourned with no action taken.

On January 14, 1963 two new bills were introduced in the 1st Session of the 88th Congress, S. 16 in the Senate by Senators Symington and Long of Missouri, and H.R. 1803 in the House of Representatives by Representative Ichord. However, some major changes were included in these bills. They propose establishment of the area as an "Ozark National Rivers," the first proposal to carry this new classification. Because of considerable opposition, the entire Eleven Point River and a portion of the Lower Current are no longer included. Eliminated from the proposal are 19,120 acres in Ripley, Oregon and Howell Counties. The area proposed by these new bills now comprises approximately 94,000 acres in Carter, Shannon, Texas and Dent Counties along the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers as depicted on the attached map No. NR-OZA-7000. This new legislation further provides for acquisition of scenic easements with the consent of the owner.

By preserving this unique and beautiful river country as it is today—virtually untouched by the material exploitation that has swallowed such a great portion of America's natural beauty—we will be making a lasting contribution of unmeasurable value to present and future generations.

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