

Appendix G - Roadless Area/Wilderness Evaluations and Wild and Scenic Rivers

In accordance with 36 CFR 219.17, a new inventory of roadless areas was completed for this plan revision, and areas of the Ouachita National Forest that met the criteria for inclusion in the roadless area inventory (Chapter 7 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.12) were further evaluated for recommendation as potential wilderness areas. The reinventory of roadless areas included previously recognized roadless areas considered during development of the 1986 Forest Plan and the 1990 Amended Forest Plan. These areas were: Beech Creek, Rich Mountain, Blue Mountain, Brush Heap, Bear Mountain, and Little Blakely. Also, two areas near Broken Bow Lake in Southeastern Oklahoma, Bee Mountain and Ashford Peak, were identified in the January 2002 FEIS for Acquired Lands in Southeastern Oklahoma. Possible additions to existing wilderness areas were also considered.

The roadless inventory for the Ouachita National Forest was updated for this iteration of plan revision using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Evaluation of the Forest for areas meeting the criterion of one-half mile of improved [National Forest System] road or less per 1,000 acres yielded a significant number of candidate polygons and all polygons over 1,000 acres in size were considered to determine if there were any possibility of expanding the area to a suitable size to warrant consideration as possible wilderness. Polygons meeting the initial criteria were further analyzed using criteria found in FSH 1909.12 (Chapter 7.11) to produce the inventoried roadless areas described in this appendix. The planning team determined that, of the former RARE II areas, the only ones that meet the criteria for inclusion in the roadless area inventory are portions of Blue Mountain and Brush Heap. The roadless analysis for this Revised Forest Plan resulted in one new area that met the inventoried roadless criteria, Irons Fork Mountain. In addition, four potential wilderness additions were identified for the Flatside, Upper Kiamichi, Poteau Mountain, and Black Fork Mountain areas. Additional information about each of these areas is provided here and in the body of the FEIS. The complete Ouachita National Forest Roadless/Wilderness analysis is described in the process record, which is available for review at the Supervisor's Office. The following tabulation shows the nine inventoried roadless areas totaling approximately 45,160 acres that were identified and evaluated for wilderness potential during Plan revision:

Name	Approx. Acres
Blue Mountain	11,678
Brush Heap	8,353
Irons Fork Mountain	8,303
Bee Mountain	7,327
Ashford Peak	7,300
Flatside Addition	620
Upper Kiamichi Addition	1,096
Poteau Mountain Addition	77
Black Fork Mountain Addition	406
Total	45,160

This appendix contains evaluations of the inventoried roadless areas located within the Ouachita National Forest and four smaller areas located adjacent to existing wilderness areas. The following section presents the wilderness potential of the inventoried roadless areas in three categories:

- Capability – Qualities that make a roadless area suitable for wilderness.
- Availability – Features and resources that are not compatible with wilderness and the demand for the area.
- Need – A review and analysis of the amount of wilderness extant in the area, region, and nation.

FLATSIDE WILDERNESS ADDITION

ID No. 09001

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	620 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	620 Acres
Total Improved Road	0 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	0 Miles

Location and Access

Flatside Addition is located on the Winona Ranger District adjacent to the western end of Flatside Wilderness (Nimrod Southeast U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map). The area is bounded by Flatside Wilderness to the east, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 124 to the south and west and the section line between Sections 5 and 32 to the north. The area is accessed by NFSR 132, also known as the Winona Auto Tour route, and NFSR 86 and 124.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Flatside Addition physical features are typical of the Ouachita Mountain region containing ridge and valley landscapes oriented on an east-west axis with distinct north-side and south-side vegetation communities. It is a part of the Fourche Mountain Subsection (M231Aa), Ouachita Mountains Section, of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. The mesic (moist) north slopes and drainages are vegetated by hardwood and hardwood-pine forests. Xeric (drier) south slopes are vegetated by mid-successional, native short-leaf pine and, on areas recently acquired in the northern portion of the parcel, non-native loblolly pine.

Drainages are intermittent or ephemeral containing no fishable sections. Wildlife species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking and hunting. Under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan, Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) could travel cross-country. The Preferred Alternative and Alternatives C and D would treat such motorized use as unsuitable.

There are significant rock outcrops in the area located along intermittent streams, and waterfalls and cascades are common during moist weather and after rain showers. The close proximity of NFSR 124 to the area allows easy access to these features, and they are frequently visited by the public.

Appearance of the Area and Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The area is natural appearing with little evidence of human use or manipulation, because the area is bounded on the east by the Flatside Wilderness. To the south and west, the area is bounded by a NFSR and general forest area which is influenced by the Winona Auto Tour, a popular scenic auto route within the Forest.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Natural processes are operating within the area but are influenced by outside forces. The majority of the area is naturally appearing with little sign of human use. Vehicles using NFSR 124 may be seen and heard while within the addition area. The addition would buffer the existing Flatside Wilderness from similar impacts and assist in providing a more primitive recreation experience within the Wilderness.

Opportunity for Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation would not be significant within the 620-acre Addition. A net positive effect for visitors using Flatside Wilderness would be gained, because the Addition would buffer, the existing Wilderness and increase the visibility of the revised wilderness boundary. In addition, a simplified and more visible wilderness boundary at this location would aid in administrative management of the Wilderness. Desirable landform and geologic visual features located in the Addition would be protected under wilderness management and maintained for the public's continued use and enjoyment.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The Flatside Addition is located in the Fourche Mountains Subsection of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. This 620-acre area, combined with the adjacent Flatside Wilderness, Black Fork Mountain Wilderness, Upper Kiamichi Wilderness, and Caney Creek Wilderness, would comprise nearly 1 percent (0.84 percent) of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. The proposed Flatside Addition would encompass portions of the prominent and geographic feature called Flatside Pinnacle, as rugged formation popular for climbers and hikers.

Size, Shape and Manageability

The Flatside Addition would add acres to the western end of the existing Flatside Wilderness area. The use of NFSR 124 as the western boundary for the total wilderness would aid in the manageability of the wilderness by rendering the boundary more visible for both the public and Forest Service employees.

Boundary Conditions, Needs, and Management Requirements

Flatside Addition is bounded to the east by Flatside Wilderness and to the south and west by NFSR 124. The north boundary is the section line between sections five and thirty-two. The north boundary does not follow a readily visible and identifiable route but was necessary so that a portion of a previously planted non-native loblolly pine plantation would not be included in the recommended Addition.

Availability

Recreation and Tourism

The addition of these 620-acres to the Flatside Wilderness would not be expected to appreciably impact recreation opportunities or tourism in the area.

Wildlife

There are no occurrence records of Federally Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened (PET) species, nor records of Forest Service Sensitive species within the Addition. There are no designations of essential or critical habitat within or adjacent to this parcel. The Ozark Chinquapin, a Regional Forester's Sensitive Species, is known to occur within the Wilderness directly adjacent to the Flatside Addition.

Water Availability and Use

Streams in the Flatside Addition are intermittent or ephemeral and do not flow year-round. There are no known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation.

Livestock, Timber, Minerals, and Land Uses

There are no livestock grazing allotments inside the Addition or adjacent to the Addition.

The Flatside Addition has high minerals potential for hard rock minerals. Should the Flatside Addition be designated as wilderness, the designation would eliminate the possibility of minerals exploration and development from the designated lands as both the land surface and subsurface (mineral rights) in the area are federally owned. There are no rights-of-way, easements or other encumbrances on the land.

The area is not frequently entered for silvicultural treatments, and the small size of the proposed addition would represent an almost imperceptible reduction in overall forest timber resources. Under the 1990 Amended Plan, the area is located in Management Area 14, General Forest Area.

Management Considerations (Fire, Insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

As a part of a larger fire sub-climax ecosystem, the Flatside Addition has been managed using prescribed fire as a management tool. Should a wilderness designation be granted for the Addition, use of prescribed fire and associated beneficial uses could be lost or significantly curtailed. Wilderness designation would also preclude the creation of wildlife food plots and ponds and would severely limit or eliminate maintenance of existing plots and ponds.

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation would make insect and disease treatment more difficult and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

BRUSH HEAP

ID No. 09002

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	8,353 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	8,353 Acres
Total Improved Road	0 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	21.3 Miles

Location and Access

Brush Heap is located on the Caddo Ranger District east of Polk County Road 64 and Shady Lake Recreation Area and north of and abutting the south proclamation boundary of the Forest. The area is found on the Athens, Big Fork, Nichols Mountain, and Umpire U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map and is bounded by Polk County Road 64 and Caney Creek Wilderness to the west, NFSR 502 and Viles Branch to the south and the Little Missouri Wild and Scenic River to the east and NFSR 106 to the north. The area is accessed by all-weather NFSR 106 and 502 and Polk County Road 64.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

This area takes its name from Brush Heap Mountain. Also enclosed within the Brush Heap boundary are Blaylock, Fodderstack, and Raspberry Mountains. This steep east–west oriented mountain and valley terrain is vegetated with mesic hardwood forests on the north slopes and dry-xeric Pine Oak Forests on the south slopes. Large novaculite glades, woodlands, and talus areas are located along the ridge tops. Seven pine plantations totaling 442 acres with age classes from 7 to 35 years exist within the area. Also, several southern pine beetle outbreaks have occurred in the recent past – the largest occurring on 122 acres.

Drainages are perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral and include the major streams of Viles Branch, containing no fishable sections. Wildlife species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking, nature study, fishing, and hunting. Under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan OHVs, due to the Little Missouri Watershed closure order, may not use this area for cross-country motorized recreation.

Brush Heap contains the following trails:

- The Athens-Big Fork Trail, a hiking-only trail, traverses 10.1 miles from south to north across the midsection of the Brush Heap area. The trail begins at the southern trailhead off NFSR B23F and terminates at the northern trailhead at the end of NFSR B15.
- The Viles Branch Equestrian Trail crosses the Brush Heap area from west to east, for a distance of 26 miles. The trail is open to horses and hiking but is closed to motorized vehicles. Travel time for the entire length of the trail is 6–10 hours by horse and two days by hiking. The Viles Branch Trail is accessed from the east trailhead located on NFSR 2106 or the west trailhead located ¼ mile from the intersection of NFSR 38 and 502.
- The Eagle Rock Loop Trail is a 26.8-mile loop trail located on the eastern end of the Brush Heap area with approximately 15 miles of the trail paralleling the Little Missouri Wild and Scenic River. The Eagle Rock Trail is open to hiking and bicycles, but closed to motorized vehicles. Five trailheads provide access to the Eagle Rock Loop Trail, located at Albert Pike Recreation Area; Winding Stairs point of interest area; Little Missouri Falls; Upper Little Missouri Falls; and Middle Athens–Big Fork.

The Brush heap Area includes NFSR 908 (2.4 miles), B19B (0.5 miles) and B02 (0.7 miles). All of these roads would be closed and either obliterated or allowed to return to a natural appearance should the area be designated as wilderness.

Bard Springs Recreation Area is located on the extreme western edge of the Brush Heap area adjacent to Polk County Road 64. The Recreation Area is moderately developed with campsites with flush toilets but no other major developments. Bard Springs would be utilized as a staging area for wilderness visitors but not included in the formal wilderness area.

Fourteen active wildlife food plots totaling 10 acres currently exist within the Brush Heap area and an additional four plots are planned, which would add four acres to the total. The area is a part of the Caney Creek Wildlife Management Area managed cooperatively with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with a focus on game animals.

Appearance of the Area and Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

In 2002, a wildfire burned 1,250 acres in the Blaylock Mountain vicinity with effects that are still visible (September 2005). General management in the area of Brush Heap includes a 3–5 year prescribed fire rotation for fuels management and regeneration. From the Athens-Big Fork Trail to the eastern boundary, the majority of the area has been burned either by prescribed fire or by wildfire. With the exception of occasional small wildfires and prescribed fires, the western portion of the area has not been treated by fire to protect the Roaring Branch Research Natural Area. Only natural fires, managed under prescribed conditions are allowed in Roaring Branch.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Natural processes are operating within the area but are influenced by outside forces, with two major influences being prescribed fire and recreation uses. The remaining area of Brush Heap is naturally appearing with little sign of human use. Vehicles

using adjacent routes may be heard by visitors within the periphery of the area, but the rugged interior masks all but the most pervasive noises. The area has high recuperative capability and, if left unmanaged, would return to a natural appearance within a short period of time.

Opportunity For Solitude, Challenge and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge and primitive recreation would be significant within the 8,353-acre area, especially within the interior valleys and drainages shielded from sights and sounds of adjacent non-wilderness areas. If designated as wilderness, the area could assist in enhancing existing wilderness experiences in Caney Creek Wilderness and in meeting recreational expectations along the Little Missouri Wild and Scenic River corridor as a result of the management practices required for all wilderness areas.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The Brush Heap area is home to the Cossatot leafcup (*Polymnia cossatotensis*), one of the rarest plant species in the area. The Cossatot leafcup has been found in only four documented sites, all of which are on the Ouachita National Forest. The Cossatot leafcup has been rated as a G-1 species globally and an S-1 species in Arkansas.

Also found in the Brush Heap area (Roaring Branch Natural Area) is the endemic Caddo Mountain salamander (*Plethodon caddoensis*). The Caddo Mountain Salamander is listed on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list and is the only animal PETS species found in the area.

Under Alternative D, should Brush Heap be designated a wilderness, as recommended, it would raise to one percent the portion of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province that is in designated wilderness.

Size, Shape and Manageability

The Brush Heap area is compact in shape and provides adequate area for consideration as wilderness. Polk County Road 64 and Caney Creek Wilderness to the west, NFSR 502 and Viles Branch to the south and the Little Missouri Wild and Scenic River to the east and NFSR 106 to the north would aid in the manageability of the Wilderness by rendering the boundary more visible for both the public and Forest Service employees. The area boundaries are easily identifiable both in the field and on existing maps, and existing management responsibility rests in only one ranger district.

Availability

Recreation and Tourism

The Brush Heap area is located in the general vicinity of several of the Forest's highest use recreation areas including Albert Pike and Shady Lake. In addition, the area is a popular destination for vacationers and weekend visitors from the surrounding area and from the more distant metropolitan areas of Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana. Private facilities and services catering to forest visitors are plentiful and easily obtained within the general area. Existing uses of the Brush Heap area (hiking, camping, horseback riding, etc.) would not be impacted if

the area were designated as wilderness, and there could potentially be an increase in visitor use of the area as a result of the designation and ensuing publicity.

Wildlife

There are no occurrence records of Federally Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened (PET) species in this area, and there are no designations of essential or critical habitat within or adjacent to this parcel. However, several species included on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list do occur here. Leader Mountain Walk-In Turkey Area is located immediately to the north of the Brush Heap area and is managed for a more primitive hunting experience.

Water Availability and Use

Streams in the Brush Heap area are a mix of intermittent, ephemeral and perennial. The larger streams—Viles Branch, Blaylock Creek, and East Fork Saline Creek—are essentially perennial streams. Blaylock Creek contains a year-round fishery. There are abundant seeps and springs within the confines of this area. There are no known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There are no grazing allotments inside or adjacent to the Brush Heap area. An area of approximately 130 acres located adjacent to the Little Missouri Wild and Scenic River in Section 31 and 32, T4S, R28W have reserved subsurface mineral rights. However, these reserved rights have not been exercised, and no evidence of mining exists.

Management Considerations (Fire, insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

Wilderness designation for this area would preclude the creation of wildlife food plots and ponds and would severely limit or eliminate maintenance of existing plots and ponds.

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation for this area would make insect and disease treatment more difficult, and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

IRONS FORK MOUNTAIN

ID No. 09003

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	8,300 Acres
Private	3.00 Acres
Total	8,303 Acres
Total Improved Road	3.68 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	0 Miles

Location and Access

Irons Fork Mountain area is located on the Oden District approximately fourteen miles east of Mena, Arkansas. The southern part of the area can be accessed via Arkansas State Highway 88 to Ink and Polk County Road 87 to Pine Grove and Polk County Road 191 to NFSR 799. From the north, the area can be accessed via US Highway 270/71 to Polk County Road 70.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Irons Fork Mountain area is a part of the Fourche Mountain Subsection (M231Aa), Ouachita Mountains Section, of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. Physical features are typical of the Ouachita Mountain region containing ridge and valley landscapes oriented on an east-west axis with distinct north-side and south-side vegetation communities. The mesic (moist) north slopes and drainages are vegetated by hardwood and hardwood-pine forests. Xeric (drier) south slopes are vegetated by mid-successional, native short-leaf pine and pine-oak forest types. Most drainages are intermittent or ephemeral containing no fishable sections. Irons Fork Creek meanders in and out of the northern portion of the area and may provide some seasonal fishing opportunities during periods of wetter weather.

Wildlife species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking and hunting. Under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan, OHVs could use this area for motorized recreation, including off-trail and off-road use of the forest floor. The Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B through D would treat cross-country motorized travel as unsuitable Forest-wide and would include an objective to “designate and sign a system of roads and trails suitable for public access by motor vehicle, including, where appropriate off-highway vehicles, no later than October 2009.” Under Alternative D, motorized travel in the Irons Fork Mountain area would be unsuitable due to its eligibility for wilderness recommendation.

Appearance Of The Area And Characteristics Of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

Areas of Irons Fork Mountain have been harvested in the past and some evidence of this activity remains visible today. Most timber harvest and timber management activities were confined to small areas, around 20 acres in size; however, some activities impacted areas up to 60–70 acres in size. Some pine plantations have been introduced to the area and remain apparent. The recovery capability of the area is moderate to high, and signs of past management activities would be reduced over time as native vegetation matures in the affected areas and as screening vegetation limits views into some of the effected areas.

The area is almost completely bounded by NFSRs. NFSR 799 and 216 make up much of the southern boundary and NFSR 743 and County/Forest Service Road 76 makes up a large portion of the northern boundary. Five NFSR sections or roads are included in the area: Turner Fork Spur (450A – 0.5 miles), Turner Fork (450 – 1.2 miles), Standingwater Road (M53A – 1.2 miles), a portion of Nesbitt Creek Road (498 – 0.48 miles), and a portion of Robinson Creek Road (799 – 0.3 miles). These roads are all Maintenance Level 2 roads with the exception of Standingwater Road, which is a Maintenance Level 1 road.

There are no Forest Service developed recreation areas or other federally managed public facilities within the area.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Natural processes are operating within the area but are influenced by outside forces. The majority of the Irons Fork Mountain area is naturally appearing with some indications of human use, mostly as a result of timber management activities. The area contains approximately four miles of NFSR inside the proposed boundary that add to the development related impacts; however, these roads generally terminate a short distance inside the boundary, and no roads penetrate the core area of Irons Fork Mountain. The general area has a moderate to good regeneration capability that would assist in the recovery of impacted areas in a reduced time period.

Opportunity For Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation are considered to be significant, especially within the interior valleys and drainages where the sights and sounds of adjacent human activity would be reduced or eliminated. At higher elevations on Irons Fork Mountain (some exceeding 2,100 feet in elevation), lights and development in the distance may be visible, but should not significantly reduce the overall wilderness experience of most visitors.

Special Features

There are no special features noted in the area.

Size, Shape and Manageability

The shape, size, and geography of Irons Fork Mountain are suitable for management as a unique unit. It is under the management of one Ranger District and located within one county reducing coordination and administrative requirements to the minimum. The area has good access and is not hampered by interior private land ownership issues or other legal constraints that could interfere with a wilderness experience by potential visitors.

Boundary Conditions, Needs And Management Requirements

As stated above, a large portion of the Irons Fork Mountain area is bounded by developed roadways. Other boundaries were selected to be as visible and locatable in the field as possible and use ridgelines and drainages, where possible. In a few cases, section lines were used as the only available demarcation lines identifying National Forest System lands from private; however, all due emphasis was given to reduce the reliance upon political or other boundary markers not readily visible to the public and Agency personnel.

Availability

Recreation And Tourism

Recreational activities are generally confined to hunting, hiking, and some OHV riding in the area. There are no developed trails or other recreational facilities. OHV activity would be eliminated, with the exception of emergency uses, should the area be designated as wilderness.

Wildlife

There are no occurrence records of Federally Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened (PET) species, nor records for Forest Service Sensitive species in the area. There are no designations of essential or critical habitat within or adjacent to this parcel. The valley floor of Irons Fork Creek, at times the north boundary of the Irons Fork area, is home to an endemic burrowing crayfish, *Procambarus reimeri*; however, this species is not found at the elevations characterizing the Blue Mountain area.

Water Availability and Use

With the exception of Irons Fork Creek, most streams inside the Irons Fork Mountain area are intermittent or ephemeral and do not flow year-round. There are no known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation. Water for visitor use is generally not available in this location.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There are no livestock grazing allotments within or adjacent to Irons Fork. One small area of approximately 40 acres located in Section 24, T29W, T1S, has reserved mineral rights. However, no surface evidence of mineral activity exists at this location.

Management Considerations (Fire, Insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation for this area would make insect and disease treatment more difficult and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

ID No. 09004

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	11,678 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	11,678 Acres
Total Improved Road	4.93 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	10.7 Miles

Location and Access

The Blue Mountain area is located approximately in Polk County, 10 miles east of Mena, Arkansas. The area is found on the Y City and Acorn 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps. Access to the area is gained via US Highway 270/71 to US 270 East and by a number of NFSRs, including road 8086 to Q18, 54, Q13 and 932. From the south, access is afforded by US Highway 270/71 to Forest Service/Polk County Road 76 and then to NFSR M40, M42, M43, M44, 749A, PK306, 749 and 7172.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Blue Mountain area is divided between two physiographic sub-sections, both a part of the larger Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province, Ouachita Mountains Section. Approximately 7,531 acres (64% of the area) are located in M231Ab, the West Central Ouachita Mountains Subsection and the remaining 4,147 acres (approximately 36%) are located in the Fourche Mountains Subsection. Physical features of the area are typical of the Ouachita Mountain region containing ridge and valley landscapes oriented on an east-west axis with distinct north-side and south-side vegetation communities. The ridges of the Blue Mountain area are elevated significantly above the surrounding terrain with Blue Mountain rising above 2,600 feet. The area is dominated by pine-hardwood forests where hardwoods dominate along the ridge top and upper half of the slope. The lower portions of the slope are predominately pine.

Drainages are intermittent or ephemeral containing no fishable sections. Wildlife species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking, hunting, and OHV riding. Under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan, OHVs may use this area for motorized recreation, including cross-country travel. The Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B through D would consider cross-country motorized travel unsuitable Forest-wide and would include an objective to “designate and sign a system of roads and trails suitable for public access by motor vehicle, including, where appropriate off-highway vehicles, no later than October 2009.” Under Alternative D, motorized travel in the Blue Mountain area would be unsuitable due to its eligibility for wilderness recommendation. The Ouachita National Recreation Trail traverses the area from east to west and accommodates hikers and bicyclists along its route but is closed to motorized vehicle traffic. Blue Mountain itself is an attraction for hikers seeking challenge and a distant view.

The Fourche Mountain Trail, located to the east of the area’s eastern boundary is a popular OHV riding, bicycling, and horseback riding area.

A number of NFSRs are located inside the boundary of the eligible Blue Mountain area totaling 4.93-miles of combined length. However, none of these roads traverses the area or penetrates extensively into the interior. The roads are: Crater Road (Q18A, 0.56 miles); Adams Road (54, 1.12 miles); McConnell Road (0.26 Miles); Roost road (M40, 0.68 miles); Roost road Spur (M40, 0.36 miles); Gun Road (M42, 0.6 miles); Wolf Road (M42A, 0.67 miles) and Mix road (M45, 0.47 miles). A total of 2.21 miles of these roads are Maintenance Level 1, and 2.72 miles are Maintenance Level 2.

Appearance of the Area and Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The area has been significantly impacted by human activity such as roads and timber management. These areas are dispersed areas that are recovering and would become less conspicuous over time. The north side of Blue Mountain overlooks US Highway 270, a major route east-west across the center of the State. The highway supports heavy traffic, and the sights and sounds generated by the roadway and traffic are evident from the Blue Mountain area.

As stated above, the Ouachita National Recreation Trail traverses Blue Mountain along the ridge tops. The trail follows the district boundaries between the Forest's Mena and Poteau Ranger Districts and eventually traverses the entire Forest from east to west. There are no other existing federally managed recreation areas or sites in the area.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Natural processes are operating within the area but are influenced by outside forces. Much of the area is naturally appearing; however, there are still signs of past human activity visible in the area. US Highway 270 is located at the foot of the slope on the north side of the area, and vehicles using this route may be seen and heard from within area boundary.

Opportunity For Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge and primitive recreation would be somewhat influenced by the area's location, which is near the high traffic US Highway 270 corridor, and previous, but not yet restored management and other human use activities.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The Fourche Mountain salamander (*Plethodon fourchensis*) is a Sensitive species found in the area of Blue Mountain. There are three other species that are tracked by the State of Arkansas but do not have special Forest or National status: narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias stenophylla*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*), and blazing star (*Liatris squarrosa var compacta*).

Size, Shape, and Manageability

Blue Mountain is compactly configured with Fourche Mountain, the dominant topographic feature, located in the center of the parcel. Management would be somewhat impacted as part of the unit is located in the Poteau/Cold Springs Ranger District and the other portion in the Mena/Oden Ranger District.

Boundary Conditions, Needs, and Management Requirements

The Blue Mountain area boundary was created from existing physical features such as roads, stream channels, and ridge tops. However, Blue Mountain has a significant portion of its boundary that follows unmarked section lines. This portion of the boundary would be more difficult for Forest Service personnel and the public to locate and would cost more to maintain.

Availability

Recreation And Tourism

Currently, the major recreation and tourism feature of the area is the Ouachita National Recreation Trail, which bisects the area in half from east to west. Hiking on the trail, some dispersed hunting, cross-country hiking, and some OHV uses comprise the most common recreational activities. The area is not a destination recreation area, contains no developed recreation facilities other than the Ouachita National Recreation Trail, and is used mainly by local residents who are familiar with the area. Local tourism is likely to increase if the area were designated as wilderness due to the ensuing publicity.

Wildlife

The Fourche Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon Fourchensis*), a sensitive species, is listed as occurring in the area. Otherwise, wildlife species found are typically the species that normally inhabit the area. The valley floor of Irons Fork Creek, to the south of Blue Mountain, is home to an endemic burrowing crayfish, *Procambarus reimeri*; however, this species is not found at the elevations characterizing the Blue Mountain area.

Water Availability and Use

Water is generally not available within the Blue Mountain area. A few intermittent or ephemeral streams exist along the ridgeline watershed of the area; however, they only carry water during and immediately after rainstorms or during significantly wet weather. There are no impoundments of any stream or natural lakes within the area.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There are no grazing allotments in the area or adjacent to the area. The Blue Mountain area has a moderate minerals potential for natural gas and some of the minerals are in private ownership, especially along the northern slope of the central ridge. At this location, approximately five and one-half sections, (Section 31, T1N, R28W and Sections 33, 34, 35, 36 and one-half of Section 32, T1N, R29W) have withheld subsurface mineral rights. However, no surface evidence of mining activity is visible.

Timber resources within the area are not considered to be of significant value. Resource management of the area would be limited should wilderness designation be granted.

Management Considerations (Fire, insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

Should a wilderness designation be granted for this area, this practice and associated beneficial uses could be lost or significantly curtailed. Wilderness designation for this area would also preclude the creation of wildlife food plots and ponds and would severely limit or eliminate maintenance of existing plots and ponds. Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation for this area would make insect and disease treatment more difficult and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

UPPER KIAMICHI WILDERNESS ADDITION

ID No. 09005

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	1,096 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	1,096 Acres
Total Improved Road	0.67 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	0 Miles

Location And Access

The Upper Kiamichi Addition is located adjacent to the southwestern edge of Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness on the Oklahoma Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest. The Addition is located on the Page U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map and is bounded by Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness to the north and west, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 6032 to the south, and NFSR 6031 to the east. Access is provided by Oklahoma State Highway 60 and NFSR 6031 or U.S. Highway 259 and NFSR 6032. There is no vehicular access from the north.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Upper Kiamichi Addition is a part of the Fourche Mountain Subsection (M231Aa), Ouachita Mountains Section, of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. Physical features are typical of the Ouachita Mountain region containing ridge and valley landscapes oriented on an east-west axis with distinct north-side and south-side vegetation communities. The mesic (moist) north slopes and drainages are vegetated by hardwood and hardwood-pine forests. Xeric (drier) south slopes are vegetated by mid-successional, native short-leaf pine and pine-oak forest types.

Drainages are intermittent or ephemeral containing no fishable sections. All drainages eventually empty into the Kiamichi River. The headwaters of Pushubbe Creek and other creeks to the east of Pushubbe Creek may, depending upon the steepness of the stream gradient and position in the watershed, potentially contain populations of the Forest's rarest crayfish, Kiamichi crayfish (*Orconectes saxatilis*). Further research is needed concerning this species; however, this research would be unlikely to require non-wilderness conforming activities to be successfully completed. The inclusion of the Upper Kiamichi Addition and the associated prohibition of most forest management practices could be viewed as a positive development for this crayfish species and for the endangered Ouachita rock pocketbook mussel (*Arkansia wheeleri*) located downstream in the Kiamichi River. Other wildlife and aquatic species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking and hunting. OHVs, under 1990 Amended Forest Plan rules and regulations, may use this area for motorized recreation, including off-trail and off-road use of the forest floor. The Preferred Alternative and Alternatives B through D would consider cross-country

motorized travel unsuitable Forest-wide and would include an objective to “designate and sign a system of roads and trails suitable for public access by motor vehicle, including, where appropriate off-highway vehicles, no later than October 2009.” The close proximity of NFSR 6032 to the area allows easy access to the addition’s features.

Appearance Of The Area And Characteristics Of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

Past management activities are not evident in the area of the proposed addition. The area is regaining a natural appearance as vegetation matures. A single road, K42C, 0.7 miles long and assigned to Maintenance Level 1, is located inside the proposed boundary of the addition. The eastern boundary of the addition is NFSR 6031 and K43.

The area contains no non-native planted vegetation, wildlife plots, or other such improvements. The Ouachita National Recreation Trail roughly parallels the boundary between the existing Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness and the proposed Addition. The trail meanders in and out of the area along its route from east to west.

Areas to the north, east, and west are existing wilderness areas with a natural appearance. NFSR 6032 to the south and NFSR 6031 and K43, which enter the existing Wilderness, are the only development features within the general area.

Wilderness

Natural Integrity And Appearance

The majority of the Upper Kiamichi Addition is naturally appearing with little sign of human use. There has been no timber harvest in the area for the past ten years, and little evidence of forest management practices is evident. NFSR 6032 bounds the area to the south and NFSR 6031 and K43 to the east. Vehicles using these routes may be seen and heard from within the Addition. However, the Addition would assist in further buffering the remaining Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness from similar impacts and assist in providing a more primitive recreation experience within the existing Wilderness.

Opportunity For Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation would not be significant within the 1,096-acre Addition; however, the effects of sight and sound buffering in the adjacent, existing wilderness area and increased visibility of the revised Wilderness boundary by the public would have a net positive effect for visitors using all parts of the Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness. In addition, a simplified and more visible wilderness boundary, using the existing NFSRs already located at this location would aid in administrative management of the Wilderness.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The Upper Kiamichi Addition is located in the Fourche Mountains Subsection of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. The proposed Upper Kiamichi Addition, combined with the existing designated wilderness within the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province would comprise nearly 1 percent (0.84 percent) of the Province.

There are no occurrence records of PETS species within the boundary of the Upper Kiamichi Addition.

Size, Shape, and Manageability

The Upper Kiamichi Addition would add 1,096 acres to the southwestern end of the existing Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness. The use of NFSR 6032 as the western boundary and NFSR 6031 as the eastern boundary for the total area would aid in the manageability of the Wilderness by rendering these boundaries more visible for both the public and Forest Service employees.

Availability

Recreation and Tourism

The addition of 1,096 acres to Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness is not expected to significantly impact recreation opportunities or tourism in the area.

Wildlife

There are no known occurrence records of PETS species in the area. There are no designations of essential or critical habitat in this parcel. The Kiamichi crayfish (*Orconectes saxatilis*), an endemic species and a Sensitive species, may be present in some streams within the addition area. Also, the endangered Ouachita rock pocketbook mussel (*Arkansia wheeleri*) is located downstream in the Kiamichi River.

Water Availability and Use

Streams in the Upper Kiamichi addition area are intermittent or ephemeral and do not flow year-round. There are no springs, seeps, or other known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There are no grazing allotments in or adjacent to the Upper Kiamichi Addition.

The Upper Kiamichi Addition has a moderate potential for gas exploration and gas extraction. Should the Upper Kiamichi Addition be designated as Wilderness, the designation would eliminate the possibility of minerals exploration and development from the designated lands, except in those cases where minerals are privately owned under the Federal surface.

Management Considerations (Fire, insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

As a part of a larger fire sub-climax ecosystem, the Upper Kiamichi addition has been managed in the past using prescribed fire as one management tool. Should a wilderness designation be granted for this area, this practice and associated beneficial uses could be lost or significantly curtailed. Wilderness designation for this area would also preclude the creation of wildlife food plots and ponds.

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation for this area would make insect and disease treatment more difficult, and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

POTEAU MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (EAST) ADDITION

ID No. 09006

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	77 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	77 Acres
Total Improved Road	0 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	0 Miles

Location and Access

The Poteau Mountain (East Unit) Addition is located on the western edge of the East Unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area and in the northern half of this Unit. The Addition is located on the Hon U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map. The area is bounded by Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area (East Unit) to the north, south, and east and Kings Creek, NFSR P001 and the Poteau Mountain Management Area (Management Area 1b) to the west. The area may be accessed by NFSR P001 on foot as this road is currently closed to vehicular traffic. Vehicle access to the general area is provided by NFSR 158.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Poteau Mountain Addition is a part of the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province, Western Arkansas Valley Mountains subsection. The area is situated on the western slope of East Poteau Mountain with elevation ranges from 600 feet near Kings Creek to more than 1,000-feet near the adjacent boundary with the East Unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness. Physical features are typical of the Ouachita Mountain region containing ridge and valley landscapes with drainages vegetated by hardwood and hardwood-pine forests. Xeric (drier) south slopes are vegetated by mid-successional, native short-leaf pine and pine-oak forest types.

Kings Creek is a perennial stream which flows north to empty into the Petit Jean River. No species of concern are known to inhabit Kings Creek at this location. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is known to occur south of the Addition; however, no members of this species are known to reside inside or near the proposed Addition itself. Resident wildlife and aquatic species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking and hunting. OHVs, under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan rules and regulations, may use NFSR P001 for motorized recreation, including off-road use of the forest floor. However, Alternatives B-E would establish OHV use as unsuitable for entire Forest, making OHV use within the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Addition unsuitable due both to its eligibility for wilderness classification (under Alternatives C, D, and E) and because of the unsuitable classification. The close proximity of NFSR 158 to the area allows easy access to the Addition's features.

Appearance of the Area and Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The area is primarily composed of a pine-hardwood mix with typical plant species found in the understory. An ice storm in 2000 toppled numerous trees, and these trees were left in place on the forest floor. With the exception of some dispersed recreation use, the area shows little sign of human impact.

The area contains no non-native planted vegetation, wildlife plots, or other improvements. There are no trails, developed recreation areas, or other public facilities located within the area.

Land to the north, east, and south is an existing Wilderness with a natural appearance. NRSR 158 (the Poteau Mountain Rustic Auto Tour), is located to the south of the area and comprises the southern boundary for both the East and West Units of Poteau Mountain Wilderness.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

The majority of the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Addition is naturally appearing with little sign of human use. There has been no timber harvest in the area for the immediate past, and little evidence of forest management practices is evident. NFSR 158 is located south and NFSR P001 west. Vehicles using these routes may be heard from within the Addition. However, the Addition would assist in further buffering the remaining East Unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness from traffic impacts and assist in providing a more primitive recreation experience within the existing wilderness area.

Opportunity For Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation would not be significant within the 77-acre Addition alone; however, the effects of sight and sound buffering in the adjacent, existing Wilderness and increased visibility of the revised Wilderness boundary by the public would have a net positive effect for visitors using all parts of the of the East Unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness. In addition, a simplified and more visible Wilderness boundary, using the existing NFSRs already located at this location would aid in administrative management of the Wilderness.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The Poteau Mountain Wilderness Addition is located in the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province, a very large area comprising nearly 124 million acres but containing very few wilderness areas. The proposed Poteau Mountain Addition of 77 acres would make a modest, but important, contribution toward increasing wilderness representation in that Province.

Size, Shape, and Manageability

The Poteau Mountain Wilderness Addition would add 77 acres to the western edge of the East Unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness. The use of NFSR P001 as the western boundary for the Wilderness would aid in the manageability of the Wilderness by rendering these boundaries more visible for both the public and Forest Service employees.

Availability

Recreation and Tourism

The addition of 77 acres to Poteau Mountain Wilderness is not expected to significantly impact recreation opportunities or tourism in the area.

Wildlife

There are no occurrence records of PETS species in the Addition area. There are no designations of essential or critical habitat in this parcel. Red cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), an Endangered species, are known to inhabit areas to the south but have not been located within the addition.

Water Availability and Use

Kings Creek, the major drainage passing adjacent to the west boundary of the proposed addition is a perennial stream within its lower reaches. At the higher elevations, the stream becomes intermittent depending upon annual rainfall. There are no springs, seeps, or other known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation.

Livestock, Timber, and Minerals

There are no grazing allotments in or adjacent to proposed addition area.

The Poteau Mountain Addition, where minerals are privately owned under the Federal surface, would remain subject to owner access their mineral estate regardless of the area's designation. Should the owners of the mineral estate elect to exercise their rights to access these minerals, the impacted addition area may be removed from further consideration as potential wilderness.

The area is located on a steep western slope and has not been harvested commercially in the recent past. Should the wilderness designation be granted for this addition, there would be no loss of suitable timber base as the area is currently classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Management Considerations (Fire, insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

As a part of a larger fire sub-climax ecosystem, the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Addition has been managed in the past using prescribed fire as one management tool. Should a wilderness designation be granted for this area, this practice and associated beneficial uses could be lost or significantly curtailed. Wilderness designation for this area would also preclude the creation of wildlife food plots and ponds.

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation for this area would make insect and disease treatment more difficult, and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

The entire 77-acre parcel is now in Forest Service management.

Need

See the following Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations.

Overview

Size

National Forest System Lands	406 Acres
Private	0 Acres
Total	406 Acres
Total Improved Road	0 Miles
Total Maintained Trail	0 Miles

Location and Access

Black Fork Mountain Addition is located adjacent to the eastern end of Black Fork Mountain Wilderness on the Mena Ranger District. The Addition is located on the Nimrod Southeast U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map in Polk and Scott Counties, Arkansas. The area is bounded by Black Fork Mountain Wilderness to the west, U.S. Highway 270 to the south, the community of Eagle Gap to the east, and NFSR 516 to the north. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 270, and NFSR 516.

Geography, Topography, and Vegetation

The Black Fork Addition, a part of the Fourche Mountain Subsection (M231Aa), Ouachita Mountains Section – Meadow Province, physical features consist of a steep ridge and point with ridgelines oriented on an east-west axis with distinct north-side and south-side vegetation communities. The mesic (moist) north slopes and drainages are vegetated by hardwood and hardwood-pine forests. Xeric (drier) south slopes are vegetated by mid-successional, native short-leaf pine.

Drainages are intermittent or ephemeral. Wildlife species are typical for the area and include both game and non-game species.

Current Use and Attractions

The area is used primarily for dispersed recreation such as hiking and hunting. Under the 1990 Amended Forest Plan, OHVs could use this area for motorized recreation, including off-trail and off-road use of the forest floor. Alternatives C, D, and E treat such motorized use within the Black Fork Mountain Addition as unsuitable.

Appearance of the Area and Characteristics of Surrounding Contiguous Areas

The area is heavily influenced by human activity, is located adjacent to a small residential community (Eagle Gap) and U.S Highway 270, as well as a currently functioning railroad line. A significant wildfire destroyed much of the mature vegetation approximately 20 years ago, leaving thick even-age regeneration covering much of the area.

Capability

Natural Integrity and Appearance

Natural processes are operating within the area but are significantly influenced by adjacent outside forces (functioning rail line and Federal Highway 270).

Opportunity for Solitude, Challenge, and Primitive Recreation

Opportunities for solitude, challenge and primitive recreation would be difficult in this area as a result of human activities taking place immediately outside of the boundary. Sights and especially sounds (highway and freight train noises) easily penetrate into the interior of this small parcel. The ability to see, from the higher points along the Black Fork Mountain Ridge in the Addition's center, vehicle lights, and residential lighting at night further detract from the potential of this area for a quality wilderness experience.

Special Features (Ecological, Geological, Scientific, Educational, Scenic, Historical, and Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Black Fork Mountain is located in the Fourche Mountains Subsection of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province (M231Aa). The Black Fork Mountain Addition and the proposed Flatside Addition, combined with the Flatside Wilderness Area, Black Fork Mountain Wilderness, Upper Kiamichi Wilderness, and Caney Creek Wilderness, would comprise nearly one percent (0.84 percent) of the Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province. The Black Fork Mountain Addition would encompass the eastern end of Black Fork Mountain which continues westward into the Black Fork Mountain Wilderness. No other features of note exist within the area. The Rich Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon ouachitae*) is known to occur within the area.

Size, Shape, and Manageability

The Black Fork Mountain Addition would add 406 additional acres to the eastern end of the existing Black Fork Mountain Wilderness area.

Boundary Conditions, Needs, and Management Requirements

The Black Fork Mountain addition follows an unmarked boundary line near the toe of Black Fork Mountain creating a 'V' shaped parcel. None of the existing boundaries parallel existing roads, streams or other physical land features.

Availability

Recreation and Tourism

The addition of this 406-acre parcel to the Black Fork Mountain Wilderness area would not be expected to appreciably impact recreation opportunities or tourism in the area.

Wildlife

One occurrence record of Federally Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened (PET) species has been recorded in the area: the Rich Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon ouachitae*).

Water Availability and Use

Streams in the Black Fork Mountain Addition are intermittent or ephemeral and do not flow year-round. There are no known aquatic resources that would be impacted by wilderness designation.

Livestock, Timber, Minerals, and Land Uses

There are no livestock grazing allotments inside or adjacent to the proposed Addition.

Should the Black Fork Mountain Addition be designated as wilderness, the designation would eliminate the possibility of minerals exploration and development from the designated lands. Both the land surface and subsurface (mineral rights) in the area are federally owned. There are no rights-of-way, easements or other encumbrances on the land.

The area is not frequently entered for silvicultural treatments, and the small size of the proposed addition would represent an almost imperceptible reduction in overall forest timber resources. The area is currently located in Management Area 14.

Management Considerations (Fire, insects/Disease and Non-Federal Lands)

As a part of a larger fire sub-climax ecosystem, the Black Fork Mountain Addition has been managed in the past using prescribed fire as one management tool. Should a wilderness designation be granted for this area, this practice and associated beneficial uses could be lost or significantly curtailed.

Existing fire control techniques could be altered if the area is designated as wilderness. Mechanical ground suppression methods would no longer be available to fight wildfire without specific prior approval. Wilderness designation would make insect and disease treatment more difficult, and could increase the chances that outbreaks could increase beyond desirable limits before being controlled.

Need

See Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations at the end of this Appendix.

OTHER AREAS EVALUATED

Bee Mountain (7,327 acres) and Ashford Peak (7,300 acres) in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, were identified as inventoried roadless areas during a significant amendment to the Forest Plan completed in 2002 and were reviewed during this Plan revision for wilderness suitability. Ashford Peak and Bee Mountain have been and are currently managed as part of MA 22—Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Ecosystem and Habitat for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). The review found that there was no new information or changed circumstances to warrant the changing recommendations made during the 2002 amendment, which was to continue to manage these roadless areas in MA 22. The need to provide a Habitat Management Area for the Endangered RCW adjacent to the McCurtain County Wilderness Area (where the bird has a breeding population) makes wilderness designation of these areas unsuitable. Bee Mountain and Ashford Peak would be managed as part of Management Area 22 under all alternatives.

Wilderness Need – Roadless Area Evaluations

Introduction

The roadless analysis for the Ouachita National Forest was completed, as required by 36 CFR 219.17, during Plan Revision, and all areas that met the requirements set forth in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, Section 7.1 (roadless) have been identified. These areas were further reviewed using Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to determine potential recommendations to include areas in the National Wilderness System. Prior to making a recommendation for wilderness designation, the need for more wilderness acres on the Ouachita National Forest must be determined.

Methodology

Actual use of each of the Ouachita National Forest's Wilderness can only be estimated. Since a key factor in the wilderness experience is solitude, there are no practical ways to record each visit or to gather data concerning visit duration, point of origin of the visitor, or the satisfaction of each visitor with their wilderness experience. Some reports and studies have been completed in recent years where wilderness data are available. These studies include: The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) survey completed for the Ouachita in 2000; Outdoor Recreation in American Life, 1999, H. Ken Cordell and others; the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests Recreation Realignment Report, 2001, H. Ken Cordell & Christine Overdevest; and the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment, USDA Forest Service, General Technical Reports SRS-34 & 35, December 1999, Southern Research Station. Limited use data are available from trail sign-in stations located at the entrance to selected wilderness trails.

Although it would be helpful to have more precise information concerning existing wilderness use, existing wilderness supply, and potential wilderness demand increases (or decreases), these components of a calculated wilderness demand are not largely available and would not reflect a complete wilderness need assessment. Use alone cannot adequately predict additional need for more wilderness. In the absence of adequate numerical information upon which to base wilderness demand, a practical, descriptive, consensus method to measure wilderness supply, existing wilderness use, and proposed wilderness use increases over the next planning period was developed employing existing records, known wilderness area conditions, wilderness visitation demand projections and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum's setting indicators.

A NVUM survey was completed for the Ouachita National Forest in August 2001 for the six congressionally designated wilderness areas located within the Ouachita National Forest. These areas are:

Flatside Wilderness:	9,507 Acres
Dry Creek Wilderness:	6,310 Acres
Caney Creek Wilderness:	14,460 Acres
Poteau Mountain Wilderness:	11,299 Acres
Black Fork Mountain Wilderness:	13,579 Acres*
Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness:	10,819 Acres*
Total:	<u>65,974 Acres*</u>

*includes some private in-holdings

This one snapshot survey for recreation and wilderness use on the Forest was the only comprehensive study completed in the period between the completion of the 1990 Amended Forest Plan and the revision of that Plan. The study was completed for only one year and is, therefore, more of a snapshot sample, rather than actually reflective of sustained use of wilderness areas over time. The information, however, presented in this study is valuable in adding to the overall word picture of the condition, use, and supply of wilderness on the Forest.

In addition to the NVUM data, the Ouachita National Forest Wilderness Manager has compiled a trip log of his visits from 1995 through 2003 to Caney Creek Wilderness, the most well known and most publicly used of the six Ouachita National Forest wilderness areas. Information from these monitoring trips is summarized in Table G.1.

Table G.1 Information from Caney Creek Wilderness Monitoring Trips (1995-2003)

Year	Days Monitored in the High Use Seasons	Contacts Along Trail	Average Contacts per Day Monitored	Groups with 10 or More	Campsites Occupied	
					Within Sight of Trail	Within Sight/ Sound of Others
1995	19	22	1.16	5	13	8
1996	22	11	0.50	6	8	2
1997	21	45	2.14	6	3	0
1998	32	45	1.41	10	6	0
1999	23	35	1.52	8	1	0
2000	10	6	0.60	1	0	0
2001	12	12	1.00	1	0	0
2002	15	8	0.53	4	0	0
2003	15	10	0.67	3	0	0

Findings

The August 2001 NVUM estimated wilderness visits of 69,138 for calendar year 2000, or 1.05 visits per wilderness system acre. This same study assessed visitor satisfaction for a number of features at each area ranging from scenery, parking, employee helpfulness, and condition of the natural environment. This information may be used to indicate the level of use at these Wildernesses—lower satisfaction levels tend to indicate crowding and over use, whereas higher satisfaction levels may indicate lower use and an acceptable number of wilderness visitors. Table 10 in the NVUM, Satisfaction of Visitors at Designated Wilderness on Ouachita National Forest, displays the range of visitor satisfaction with 1 = not very satisfied/important and 5 = very satisfied/important. The study indicated a high to moderate degree of satisfaction for most features, with a notable exception being wilderness signage, with a rating of only 2.2.

Wilderness visitors rated the following categories as indicated: scenery (5.0), condition of the natural environment (4.0), condition of forest trails (3.1), and attractiveness of the forest landscape (4.9). These ratings are consistent with low impacts to wilderness features associated with low wilderness user populations. These satisfaction ratings would, in turn, suggest a low overall use rate for the wildernesses.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale completed a study entitled: Campsite Impact in South Central Wilderness Areas, October 1994, Douglas McEwen and David Cole, which documented a failure of fourteen campsites in the Caney Creek Wilderness to meet established Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC). These areas were reviewed by Forest staff

and a remediation plan was formulated. Twelve of the sites were actively restored (two had recovered on their own when a restoration project was begun in 1996), and design changes were made to adapt the trail system in the area of these campsites to a loop system which essentially corrected problems of overuse. Overuse of these campsites was not observed after the initial restoration efforts and redesign of the trail system. No other wilderness areas were found to require restoration actions.

Data from monitoring visits to Caney Creek Wilderness from 1995 through 2003 show no increase in the average number of contacts per day with other people on the trails or in campsites. Instead, the number has remained consistently low. Encounters with large groups (10 or more people) varied very little from 1995 through 1999, averaging about one per three visits, and then dropping to one per ten visits for two years before returning to somewhat less than one per three visits in 2002. Although total numbers of visitors to Caney Creek Wilderness are not known, the available monitoring data point to relatively stable use patterns but not increasing demand.

Population trends within the Forest draw area have been assessed and when applied to the numbers of visitors identified during the NVUM study completed in August 2001, resulted in a slight increase in use expectation for wilderness areas on the Ouachita National Forest. Table G.2 lists these expected increases.

Table G.2 Expected Increases in Wilderness Use

Year	Percent increase	Annual Wilderness Visits
2000	-	69,138
2010	1	69,829
2020	5.7	73,810
2030	1.8	75,138
2040	1.8	75,491

With existing wilderness areas not impacted or overcrowded under existing usage (69,138 visits per year, total) it is unlikely that an additional 6,400 additional visits would cause appreciable crowding or overuse. Since the planning period is typically 10–15 years, and the anticipated increase over this time is approximately 4,600 additional visits, wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest appears to be capable of absorbing the projected additional use with little impact to the physical characteristics of the areas or to the quality the visitor’s experience.

An additional reason to consider adding to the National Wilderness System would be to provide a habitat for a species of plant or animal that is reliant upon or prefers natural processes and/or the lack of human presence for its well-being. There are no known plant or animal species that have such dependencies on the Ouachita National Forest; therefore, additional acres are not required for this purpose.

Little interest specific to wilderness demand was expressed by the public or government agencies during scoping and at public and interagency meetings focusing on Plan Revision issue identification, OHV use, and Forest Plan alternatives. The relatively small response to

this issue supports the conclusion that, at this time, adding new wilderness areas on the Ouachita National Forest is not a significant public concern.

Nationally, wilderness has been recognized as a vehicle to preserve, unaltered, representative samples of each of the Nation's ecoregions for the future. A guideline of one percent of each ecoregion to be preserved by wilderness designation has been recommended by the Forest Service and was used in the Roadless Review and Evaluation (RAREII) process. Each of the Forest's ecoregions was reviewed to determine the amount of wilderness contained in each and that total was compared to the one percent goal. The Ouachita National Forest contains the entire wilderness in Ecoregion M321A, Ouachita Mixed Forest – Meadow Province, with a total representation of 0.88 percent. In Ecoregion 231G and 231E, Southeastern Mixed Forest, the Ouachita National Forest contained 0.01424 percent; however, this ecoregion extends east into the Appalachian Mountains and contains 83,843 acres of wilderness located on six National Forests. The total representation Ecoregion 231 in wilderness for the U.S. is 0.678 percent. The Ouachita National Forest has almost reached the goal of one percent of Ecoregion M231 in wilderness and, together with five other states, has reached approximately 70 percent of the goal for Ecoregion 231.

Based upon the information available, the lack of crowding conditions, and relatively low impacts associated with the Ouachita National Forests wilderness areas; it has been determined that there is little demand for additional wilderness. Nonetheless, a recommendation to add approximately 620 acres to Flatside Wilderness, 77 acres to the east unit of Poteau Mountain Wilderness, and 1,096 acres to Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness has been made in an effort to establish a more manageable and identifiable wilderness boundary for each area and to add areas that currently possess wilderness values. In the case of the proposed Flatside Wilderness addition, this area contains outstanding scenic quality. No other recommended additions are contemplated at this time.

Wilderness Accessibility

Introduction

After qualifying areas of the Ouachita National Forest were identified as meeting roadless criteria, they were further evaluated for their wilderness qualities as indicated in the Roadless Area Evaluations section found earlier in Appendix B. To adequately evaluate the need to include these areas as additional wilderness recommendations, a wilderness needs study was completed to assess the current demand on existing wildernesses and to project potential future demand for additional wilderness. An accessibility evaluation was completed to determine if major population centers (population centers are urbanized areas of 50,000 or more persons as defined in the Census of Population and Housing, US Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census) which were within the Forest's 250-mile draw area were served by at least one wilderness area.

Methodology

The process first identified all the major population centers with 50,000 population or greater within 250-miles (see the Forest's Draw Area Map, Figure G.1, below) of the Forest boundary.

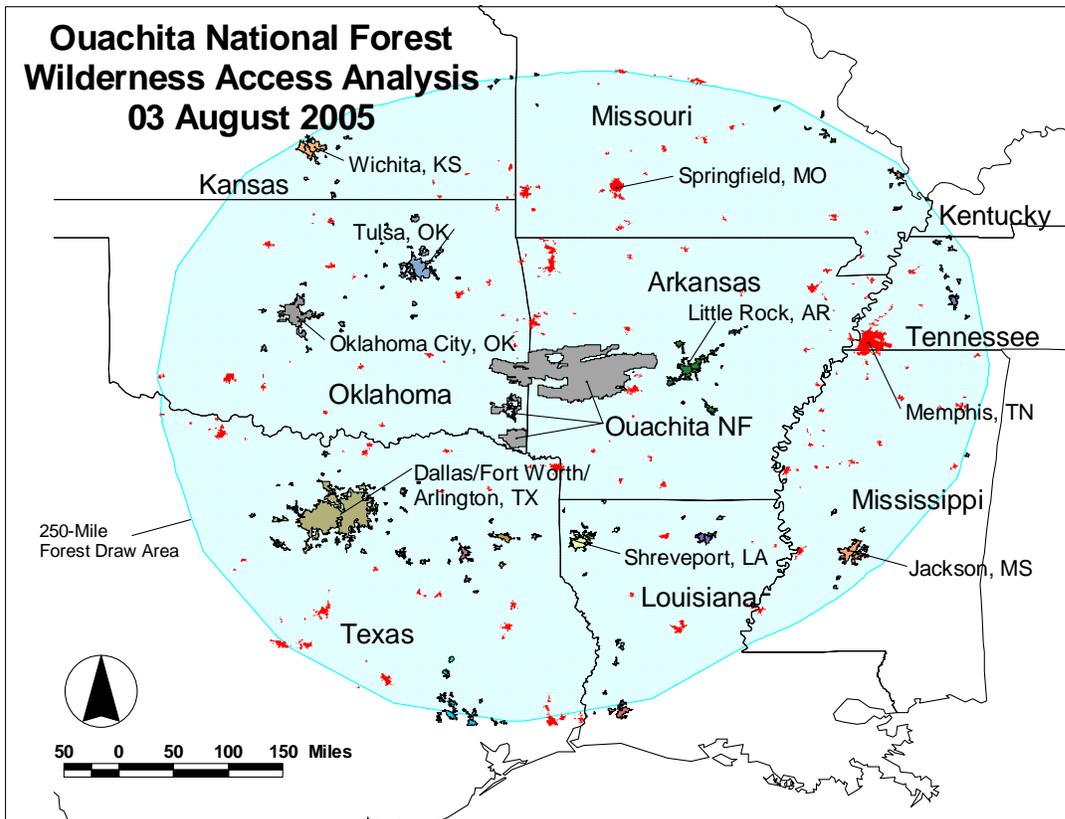


Figure G.1 Major Population Centers with 50,000 Population Or Greater within 250-Miles of the Forest

An analysis of population areas which were located within the 250-mile draw area of the Forest was completed to determine if there were population centers that did not have access (were more than 250-miles distance) to wilderness. Table G.3 indicates which population is served by wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest and by which wilderness area. Populations not served by a listed wilderness are indicated by a zero (not accessible) or a one (accessible) located across from the population center name and under the column for each of the Forest’s wilderness areas. A totals column (last column to the right) tallies all wilderness areas accessible to a particular population center or indicates zero if none is accessible.

Table G.3 Ouachita NF Draw Area Major Population Centers and Accessible Wilderness Areas (1=within 250 mile range, 0=beyond 250 mile range)

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Cairo, IL	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Girardeau, MO--IL	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Point, MS	Columbus-West Point, MS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Cleveland, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conroe, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayton, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grangerlan, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Houston, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntsville, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Conroe Westshore, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liberty, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Patton Village, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Woodlands, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tomball, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willis, TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrisonville, MO	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeQuincy, LA	Lake Charles-Jennings, LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Charles, LA	Lake Charles-Jennings, LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinton, LA	Lake Charles-Jennings, LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Altus, OK	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaumont, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caldwell, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California, MO	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
College Station--Bryan, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corinth, MS	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gatesville, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hearne, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson City, MO	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killeen, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McGregor, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedalia, MO	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silsbee, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Starkville, MS	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Stephenville, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temple, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tipton, MO	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vernon, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waco, TX	other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
De Soto, MO	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fulton, KY--TN	Union City-Martin, TN-KY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martin, TN	Union City-Martin, TN-KY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wichita, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Girardeau, MO--IL	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Chaffee, MO	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Scott City, MO	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sikeston, MO	Cape Girardeau-Sikeston-Jackson, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
De Ridder, LA	Fort Polk South-De Ridder, LA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fort Polk, LA	Fort Polk South-De Ridder, LA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leesville, LA	Fort Polk South-De Ridder, LA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Huntsville (Ellis Unit), TX	Houston-Baytown-Huntsville, TX	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dyer, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Henderson, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Humboldt, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Jackson, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Milan, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Trenton, TN	Jackson-Humboldt, TN	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Canton, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Crystal Springs, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Hazlehurst, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Jackson, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Langford, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Richland, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Harrisonville, MO	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Brownsville, TN	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Corinth, MS	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dyersburg, TN	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Electra, TX	other	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Natchez, MS--LA	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pontotoc, MS	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Saltillo, MS	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tupelo, MS	other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Farmington, MO	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Park Hills, MO	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Potosi, MO	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sullivan, MO	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Martin, TN	Union City-Martin, TN-KY	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Union City, TN	Union City-Martin, TN-KY	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Louisburg, KS	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Osawatomie, KS	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Paola, KS	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Alexandria, LA	other	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Covington, TN	other	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Ferriday, LA	other	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Holly Springs, MS	other	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Iowa Park, TX	other	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Malden, MO	other	0	0	0	1	1	0	2

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Munford, TN	other	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Natchez, MS--LA	other	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Oxford, MS	other	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Wichita Falls West (Allred Unit), TX	other	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Wichita Falls, TX	other	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Windsor, MO	other	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
El Dorado, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Granbury, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Mineral Wells, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Pecan Plantation, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Yazoo City, MS	Jackson-Yazoo City, MS	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Blytheville, AR	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Burkburnett, TX	other	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Diboll, TX	other	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Greenwood, MS	other	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Grenada, MS	other	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Kennett, MO	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Munford, TN	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Poplar Bluff, MO	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Rolla, MO	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
St. James, MO	other	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Vicksburg, MS	other	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
West, TX	other	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Augusta, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
El Dorado, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Rose Hill, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Wellington, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Wichita, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Alvarado, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Bridgeport, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Cleburne, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Dallas--Fort Worth--Arlington, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Decatur, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Eagle Mountain, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Hines, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Midlothian, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Weatherford, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Corsicana, TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Greenwood, MS	other	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
Henrietta, TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Johnson (Beto Units), TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Lawton, OK	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Lufkin, TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Memphis, TN--MS--AR	other	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
Munford, TN	other	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
Osceola, AR	other	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
Tennessee Colony (Coffield State Prison), TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Waynesville, MO	other	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
Wichita Falls, TX	other	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Winfield, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	0	1	1	1	0	1	4
Dallas--Fort Worth--Arlington, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Decatur, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Denton--Lewisville, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Ennis, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Gainesville, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Little Elm, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Malakoff, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Sanger, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Waxahachie, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Wilmer, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Butler, MO	Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, M	0	1	1	1	1	1	5

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Chickasha, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
El Reno, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Guthrie, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Blackwell, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Duncan, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Enid, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Greenwood, MS	other	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Hernando, MS	other	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Lindsay, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Manila, AR	other	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Marlow, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Palestine, TX	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Ponca City, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Senatobia, MS	other	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Tonkawa, OK	other	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Waynesville, MO	other	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Ponca City, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Arkansas City, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Winfield, KS	Wichita-Winfield, KS	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Athens, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Brierwood Bay, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Commerce, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Dallas--Fort Worth--Arlington, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Farmersville, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Forney, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Greenville, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Gun Barrel City, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Kaufman, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Little Elm, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Malakoff, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
McKinney, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Pilot Point, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Princeton, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Quinlan, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Royse City, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Terrell, TX	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bald Knob, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Beebe, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Conway, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
England, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Little Rock, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Lonoke, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Maumelle, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Pine Bluff, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Searcy, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sheridan, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ward, AR	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Pine Bluff	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Gilmer, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Gladewater, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hallsville, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Henderson, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Kilgore, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Longview, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Marshall, TX	Longview-Marshall, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bastrop, LA	Monroe-Bastrop, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Farmerville, LA	Monroe-Bastrop, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Monroe, LA	Monroe-Bastrop, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Chandler, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Harrah, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Norman, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Purcell, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Shawnee, OK	Oklahoma City-Shawnee, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ada, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Alma, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ardmore, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Arkadelphia, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Batesville, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Baxter Springs, KS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bella Vista, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bolivar, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Branson--Hollister, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Buffalo, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Carthage, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Clarksdale, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Cleveland, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Coffeyville, KS--OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Cushing, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Delhi, LA	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Durant, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Earle, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
El Dorado, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Fayetteville--Springdale, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Forrest City, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Forsyth, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Fort Gibson, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Fort Smith, AR--OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Galena, KS--MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Girard, KS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Greenville, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Greenwood, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Harrison, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hartshorne, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Heavener, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hollandale, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hooks, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hope, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hot Springs Village, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hot Springs, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Independence, KS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Indianola, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Itta Bena, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Jonesboro, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Jonesboro, LA	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Joplin, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Lebanon, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Leland, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Magnolia, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Marked Tree, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Marshfield, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
McAlester, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Memphis, TN--MS--AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Miami, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Moorhead, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mound Bayou, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mount Pleasant, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mountain Home, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Muldrow, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Muskogee, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Nacogdoches, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
New Boston, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ozark, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Paragould, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Parchman (Mississippi State Penitentiary), MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Paris, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Parsons, KS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Pea Ridge, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Pittsburg, KS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Poteau, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Prairie Grove, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Prescott, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Quinlan, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Republic, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Roland, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ruleville, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Russellville, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Ruston, LA	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sallisaw, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Shelby, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sherman, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Siloam Springs, AR--OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Spiro, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Springfield, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Stillwater, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sulphur Springs, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tahlequah, OK	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tallulah, LA	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Texarkana, TX--Texarkana, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Trumann, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tunica, MS	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
West Helena, AR	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
West Plains, MO	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Whitesboro, TX	other	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Benton, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mansfield, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Minden, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Shreveport, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Springhill, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Vivian, LA	Shreveport-Bossier City-Minden, LA	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Population Center	Metro Area	Caney Creek	Upper Kiamichi	Poteau Mtn	Dry Creek	Flatside	Black Fork	Total
Bartlesville, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bristow, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Claremore, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Cleveland, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Drumright, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Glenpool, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Henryetta, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Hominy, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Mannford, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Okmulgee, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Owasso, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Pawhuska, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Skiatook, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tulsa, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Wagoner, OK	Tulsa-Bartlesville, OK	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Jacksonville, TX	Tyler-Jacksonville, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Lindale, TX	Tyler-Jacksonville, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Rusk, TX	Tyler-Jacksonville, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tyler, TX	Tyler-Jacksonville, TX	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

Cities within the 250-mile Forest draw area, but outside the outer 250-mile accessibility limit to at least one wilderness within the Forest were considered to be wilderness underserved. These population centers are listed below:

Altus, OK	Gatesville, TX	Sedalia, MO
Beaumont, TX	Grangerlan, TX	Silsbee, TX
Cairo, IL	Harrisonville, MO	Starkville, MS
Caldwell, TX	Hearne, TX	Stephenville, TX
California, MO	Houston, TX	Temple, TX
Cape Girardeau, MO--IL	Huntsville, TX	The Woodlands, TX
Cleveland, TX	Jefferson City, MO	Tipton, MO
College Station--Bryan, TX	Killeen, TX	Tomball, TX
Conroe, TX	Lake Charles, LA	Vernon, TX
Corinth, MS	Lake Conroe Westshore, TX	Vinton, LA
Dayton, TX	Liberty, TX	Waco, TX
De Soto, MO	Martin, TN	West Point, MS
DeQuincy, LA	McGregor, TX	Willis, TX
Dublin, TX	Orange, TX	
Fulton, KY--TN	Patton Village, TX	

Forty-three population centers were identified which are not within 250-miles (wilderness underserved) of a wilderness area on the Ouachita National Forest but which are located inside the Forest's draw area. A review of other wilderness areas located within the region was completed to determine if wilderness underserved population centers may have access to wilderness outside of the Ouachita National Forest. Population Centers underserved by Ouachita National Forest Wilderness but served by other wilderness areas located within the region are displayed below:

Altus, OK: Wichita Mountains Wilderness.

Beaumont, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Cairo, IL: Sipsey Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Charles C. Deam Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness.

Caldwell, TX: Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

California, MO: Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness.

Cape Girardeau, MO: Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Charles C. Deam Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness.

Cleveland, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

College Station, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Conroe, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Corinth, MO: Sipsey Wilderness; Dugger Mountain Wilderness; Cheah Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness.

Dayton, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

DeSoto, MO: Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness;

Dequincy, LA: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Dublin, TX: Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Fulton, KY: Sipsey Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Charles C. Deam Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness.

Gatesville, TX: Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Grangerlan, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Harrisonville, MO: Buffalo National River Wilderness, Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness.

Hearne, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Houston, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Huntsville, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

Jefferson City, MO: Bell Mountain Wilderness; Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness ;Piney Creek Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness.

Killeen, TX: Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

Lake Charles, LA: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

Lk Conroe W. Shore, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Liberty, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Martin, TN: Charles C. Deam Wilderness; Bell Mountain Wilderness; Garden of the Gods Wilderness ;Crab Orchard Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Burden Falls Wilderness; Panther Den Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Bay Creek Wilderness; Lusk Creek Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Big Lake Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Sipsey Wilderness.

Mcgregor, TX: ; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness.

Orange, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness, A; Lacassine Wilderness, A; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Patton Village, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness, LA; Lacassine Wilderness, LA; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Sedalia, MO: Bell Mountain Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness ; Piney Creek Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness.

Silsbee, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Starkville, MS: Big Lake Wilderness; Dugger Mountain Wilderness; Cheaha Wilderness; Leaf Wilderness; Black Creek Wilderness; Gulf Islands Wilderness; Gulf Islands Wilderness; Breton Wilderness; Breton Wilderness; Sipsey Wilderness.

Stephenville, TX: Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness.

Temple, TX: Big Slough Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

The Woodlands, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Tipton, MO: Bell Mountain Wilderness; Clear Springs Wilderness; Bald Knob Wilderness; Paddy Creek Wilderness; Rockpile Mountain Wilderness; Mingo Wilderness; Irish Wilderness; Hurricane Creek Wilderness; East Fork Wilderness; Devils Backbone Wilderness; Hercules-Glades Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness; Piney Creek Wilderness; Buffalo National River; Wilderness; Leatherwood Wilderness; Buffalo National River Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Upper Buffalo Wilderness; Richland Creek Wilderness.

Tomball, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness.

Vernon, TX: Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness.

Vinton, LA: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

Waco, TX: Wichita Mountains Wilderness; Wichita Mountains Wilderness.

West Point MS: Big Lake Wilderness; Dugger Mountain Wilderness; Cheaha Wilderness; Leaf Wilderness; Black Creek Wilderness; Gulf Islands Wilderness; Gulf Islands Wilderness; Breton Wilderness; Breton Wilderness; Sipsey Wilderness.

Willis, TX: Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; Big Slough Wilderness; Little Lake Creek Wilderness; Lacassine Wilderness; Turkey Hill Wilderness; Indian Mounds Wilderness; Upland Island Wilderness.

Findings

Wilderness accessibility is generally excellent for all population centers located inside the Forest's draw area. Exceptions include 43 population centers (listed in the above tabulation). Most underserved areas are located at the extreme outer limit of the Forest's draw area. Although these forty-three population centers lack convenient access to wilderness areas on the Ouachita National Forest, they have adequate to abundant options for wilderness experiences in other, near-by wilderness as indicated by the accessible wilderness listings for each area, as presented above. We consider all population centers within the Ouachita National Forest draw area to be wilderness accessible and fully served for this outdoor experience.

Wild and Scenic River Analysis

The Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Land and Resource Management Plan, Ouachita National Forest, volume II, March 1990 (1990 FEIS) contained an inventory and analysis of potential streams that could be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System as a part of the original Forest planning process. Fifteen separate waterways were reviewed for eligibility and suitability using criteria established in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas.

In addition to the Cossatot, Little Missouri, Saline, and Ouachita Rivers, all listed on the National Park Service's National Rivers Inventory (NRI), eleven additional streams identified by the public and other agencies and organizations were reviewed during the Forest planning process for eligibility and suitability. The Caddo, Little Cedar Creek and Cedar Creek, Mill Creek, Fourche La Fave, South Fourche La Fave, and Clearfork (all in Arkansas), and the Kiamichi River, Beech Creek, Billy Creek and Little Cedar Creek (in Oklahoma) were reviewed for Wild and Scenic designation. The Cossatot and Little Missouri Rivers were recommended for national designation in 1990. In 1992, both rivers were designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The 1990 analysis found the Caddo, Ouachita, and Saline Rivers to be eligible for further consideration as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. However, the minimal Federal land ownership within the corridors of these two rivers shifts the responsibility for any additional studies from the Forest Service to the State of Arkansas. To date, no formal request by the State has been made to incorporate either river into the National System. The other streams that were reviewed in 1990 were found not to contain outstandingly remarkable values and were considered ineligible for recommendation. No waterways on the Ouachita National Forest were designated as Congressional Study Rivers.

In January 2002, the Ouachita National Forest completed a significant amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan for acquired lands located in McCurtain County, Oklahoma (Acquired Lands EIS). An environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared to analyze alternatives for amending the existing plan to allocate these lands to Forest management areas. The amendment also addressed the qualifications of the Glover and Mountain Fork Rivers, both listed on the NRI, for possible recommendation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The State of Oklahoma had previously designated the segment of the Mountain Fork River from upper Broken Bow Lake to the Oklahoma–Arkansas state line as scenic under the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Act of 1970.

The 2002 study found the Glover River, Segment I (from the confluence of East and West Forks to the National Forest boundary, 16.5 miles) to be eligible and suitable as a scenic river. Segment II of the Glover River (that part of the river south of the current National forest boundary to the confluence with Little River, 15.5 miles) is located outside the National Forest boundary, and the study recommended that this segment be studied for suitability as a possible Wild and Scenic River by the appropriate state agency. Legislation was introduced in 2004 to designate the Glover River as a National Wild and Scenic River.

The Mountain Fork River, Segment I (15.9 miles, starting at the Oklahoma–Arkansas state line and ending downstream at the Oklahoma State Highway 4 bridge), is in private ownership, and the study recommended that this segment be studied by the appropriate state agency to determine suitability. Segment II of the Mountain Fork (9.1 miles long, starting at the Oklahoma State Highway 4 bridge and ending at the upper end of Broken Bow Lake) was found to be eligible for designation as scenic due to its outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, geological, and archaeological/historic values. Segment II includes only 2.3 miles of National Forest System land out of its 9.1 mile length and; therefore, the study recommended that this segment be studied by the appropriate state agency to determine its suitability and make any further recommendations. Segment III (from Broken Bow Dam to U.S. Highway 70) of the river was deemed ineligible since it is not considered free flowing.

Within the Ouachita National Forest, the corridors of all rivers and streams that were determined to be potentially eligible for national designation have been carefully managed to maintain their values. The results of the original findings for the rivers and streams under the 1990 FEIS and the 2002 Acquired Lands EIS remain essentially the same. No new streams have been identified for study by the Forest or the public, and conditions have not changed appreciably in any of the previously-studied streams since the last analysis was completed. Therefore, no changes to any of the recommendations previously made or no new recommendations concerning potential wild and scenic river designations are proposed.

The analysis and findings of the 1990 FEIS and the 2002 Acquired Lands EIS remain valid and have not been revisited during this planning effort. For the complete analysis of each stream reviewed, please refer to the 1990 FEIS and the 2002 Acquired Lands EIS, on file at the Ouachita National Forest Supervisor's Office, Hot Springs, Arkansas.