

OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Amendment # 3
January 1989

Chapter 4: Forest Management Direction

Page 4.4: Trails -- Add the following:

The Ozark Highlands Trail is a major recreation facility. To protect the 150 mile long Ozark Highlands Trail, Shores Lake/White Rock Spurs, Redding Loop/Spy Rock Spur, Hurricane Creek Wilderness Area Loop, the Forest designates a corridor three chains (198 feet) on either side of the centerline of the trail, unless topographically impractical. The Forest may expand this corridor at selected sites to accommodate hiker campsites and other special areas. The corridor is established to provide visual enhancement, to protect the trail, and to minimize maintenance by keeping a canopy over the trail. Project level analyses will establish management requirements for other trail loops or spurs.

The Forest will manage the corridor to provide--

- Scenic views, remote experience, peaceful hiking and solitude.
- A well marked, signed, and maintained facility on the best permanent location.
- Cooperation with user groups and other interested parties to achieve management objectives.
- Well spaced, designated trail heads, camping areas and shelters.
- Appropriate interpretive signing and visitor use recording.

Forest Wide Standards and guidelines will apply to the trail with the following exceptions:

Visual. The trail is a Sensitivity Level I travelway. The VQO will be Preservation in Wilderness areas and Retention, or Partial Retention elsewhere in the foreground.

Range. Issue no new grazing permits which impact the trail corridor.

Timber. The area within the corridor is unavailable for timber management. Management activities and tree cutting within this corridor will be to enhance or protect the trail and enhance recreation use and safety. Reasons to remove trees include removing hazard trees, removing trees for trails, campsites, vistas, access roads, and parking lots. Individual tree selection is the appropriate method to meet recreation needs. The VQO's along the trail, outside of Wilderness Areas, are Retention or Partial Retention. The Forest will modify management activities outside but adjacent to the trail corridor to meet the assigned VQO. Appropriate harvest cutting methods adjacent to the corridor are group selection and shelterwood for hardwood stands and shelterwood or seed tree cutting with delayed removal of the leave trees for pine stands.

Minerals. Prohibit common variety mineral operations and surface occupancy for minerals exploration or mining.

Facilities. The Ozark Highlands Trail is a hiking trail. Vehicular traffic, riding and pack stock are prohibited on trail, except where trail location coincides with open roads.

The Forest will coordinate with user groups in considering management needs such as camping facilities at high use camp sites to protect the resource. Facilities will typically consist of simple tent pad locations and primitive fire rings.

The Forest will locate road, skid road, and skid trail crossings to minimize impact to the trail corridor and other resources. Road crossings should typically be perpendicular to the trail. Where the trail is located on an existing closed road or is on the only feasible location for a road needed to access National Forest Lands, the Forest may relocate short segments after interdisciplinary review with public input in advance of construction.

The Forest will identify drinking water sources along the trail and identify them on trail maps.

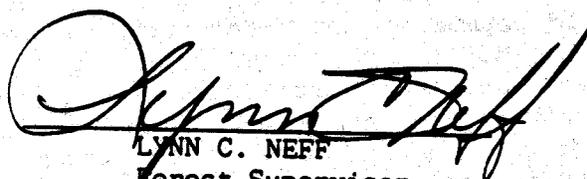
Fire. The Forest will use control strategy for all wildfire. Prescribed burning within the trail corridor may occur with other resource management activities. Prescribed burning plans will address smoke management, line construction, and rehabilitation.

Herbicides. The Forest will not use herbicides within trail corridors without public involvement with the Ozark Highlands Trail Association and other interested parties.

This amendment does not change the multiple use goals or objectives in the Forest Plan, but establishes requirements for management and protection of the Ozark Highlands Trail

Based on analysis of these changes, I have determined that this amendment to the Ozark-St. Francis Land and Resources Management Plan will have no significant effect on the human environment and is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA.

This decision to amend the Forest Plan is subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18. Any Notice of Appeal with accompanying Statement of Reasons must be submitted within 45 days from the date of this decision.


LYNN C. NEFF
Forest Supervisor

1/9/89
DATE