



# Environmental Assessment

## Recreation Events Project PALS Project # 40779

US Forest Service Recreation Areas, Trails and Roads within:  
T15N-R10W Section 6; T15N-R11W Sections 1-12; T15N-R12W Sections 1-12; T15N-R13W  
Sections 1-4 & 9-12; T16N-R10W Sections 30-31; T16N-R11W Sections 1-36; Sections 16N-  
R12W Sections 1-36; T17N-R11W Sections 7, 15, 22, 26-35 in Stone County

T16N-R13W Sections 1-4, 6-36; T17N-R12W Sections 1-36; T17N-R13W Sections 1-14, 23-28  
& 34-36; T18N-R12W Sections 6, 7, 17-20 & 31-36; T18N-R13W Sections 1, 9-17, 19-36;  
T18N-R14W Sections 24-26 in Baxter County

T16N-R14W Sections 1-3, 10-12, 13-15, 22 & 24 in Searcy County

T17N-R14W Sections 1, 12, 13, 24-27, 34-36 in Marion County

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# INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), other relevant federal and state laws and regulations, and the requirements of the Revised Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). It discloses the reasonably foreseeable effects that would result from implementation of the developed alternative to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact should be prepared. As required by 36 CFR 219.35, the best available science was considered in preparing this EA.

The Forest Plan and supporting documents are hereby incorporated by reference. Quick links to these documents are on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/osfnf/landmanagement/planning>.

The project planning record is located at the Sylamore Ranger District Office of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Unless otherwise stated, the effects analysis areas are limited to the developed recreation areas, authorized trails and authorized roads.

## Proposed Project Area

The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' Sylamore Ranger District is located in north central Arkansas approximately 19 air miles south of the Arkansas-Missouri border and 80 air miles north of Little Rock, AR. Comprised of approximately 133,500 acres, it is primarily located within portions of Stone and Baxter Counties with portions of Searcy and Marion counties making-up the remainder. The District office is located in Mountain View, AR.

The proposed project area is limited to developed Forest Service recreation sites, authorized Forest Service trails and most of the authorized roads within the District's boundaries. These areas represent the use areas requested for the majority of requests to hold recreation events on Sylamore Ranger District. The proposed project area does not contain any acreage nor does it involve roads routed through areas congressionally designated as a Wilderness, a Wilderness Study Area, a National Recreation Area, an inventoried Roadless area, or a Research Natural Area. No wetlands are known to occur in these locations. A map showing these features is provided in Appendix 2 of this EA. Other maps used for this analysis are located in the project planning record.

## Project Development Background

Tourism dollars are important to the economies of communities in the vicinity of the Sylamore Ranger District; recreation events provide advertising that draws visitors to the area increasing the potential for revenue.

The Forest Service is legislatively mandated to manage the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for the multiple use and sustained yield of products and services. Services include

the issue of special use authorizations (permits) to use National Forest System lands for recreation events.

Sustaining and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities to help meet the nation's recreation demands is a national goal established in the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan. Priorities for recreation special uses and local communities outlined in the Forest Plan provide the following direction:

- “Improve relationships with concessionaires, outfitters and guides and other land use authorization holders to give customers fast and effective delivery of information and services.” (page 2-20)
- “Promote area economic well-being by using the Forests’ resources to generate revenues for local counties and to provide direct or indirect employment opportunities.” (page 2-9)
- “Within this planning cycle, manage the Forests’ timber, recreational, and scenic resources within a manner that enables local communities to capitalize on the potential of these resources to contribute to economic well-being.” (page 2-9)

Approving the use of NFS land for a one-time group event is an action that can be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(3). In recent years, applications to hold recreation events on the District were screened against the resource conditions outlined in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30 § 31.2 to determine if extraordinary circumstances related to the request would preclude use of that categorical exclusion. Approval to issue a permit for a recreation event was documented in a Decision Memo for those proposals where no extraordinary circumstances were identified and permits were issued.

Prior to March 19, 2012, all categorically excluded actions were exempt from the notice, comment, and appeal requirements of 36 CFR 215. Following a March 19, 2012 judicial ruling in *Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell*, categorically excluded actions requiring documentation in a Decision Memo are no longer exempt from these requirements. As a result, the timeframe for completing the permitting process has increased by between 2 and 3 months, negatively impacting the level of service the District has been able to provide to customers in the past. Established relationships with those who hold one or more events annually are likely to be strained, and those who do not submit an application in time to complete the NEPA process before the desired date would either have to postpone or cancel the event.

## **Purpose of and Need for Action**

The purpose of this initiative is to streamline the process to issue permits for recreation events that utilize developed recreation areas, authorized trails and the majority of authorized roads on the District as they were designed to be used. This action is needed to respond to the priorities for recreation special uses and local communities outlined in the Forest Plan.

## **Decision Framework**

This EA does not document a decision. The purpose of this document is to disclose the effects and consequences of proposed management actions.

The District Ranger of the Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts is the responsible Forest Service official who will make a decision on this proposal. The decision to be made will be based upon the information in this Environmental Assessment (EA) and the supporting project record. The District Ranger may decide to 1) select either the proposed action or the no action alternative, 2) modify the proposed action or 3) defer making a decision at this time.

## Public Involvement

To comply with the requirements of the NEPA and to help the interdisciplinary team identify pertinent issues and management concerns, public involvement was sought. The scoping and formal 30 day comment periods were run concurrently for this project; the legal notice initiating the formal 30 day comment period was published in the newspaper of record, *The Stone County Leader*, Mountain View, AR on October 31, 2012.

Scoping letters describing the proposed action, inviting participation in the development of the project, seeking comment on the proposed action, providing information regarding the requirement to submit a comment during the formal comment period to secure eligibility to appeal the decision, and including a vicinity map were mailed on October 29, 2012 to

- Native American tribal leaders with interest in the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and the State Historic Preservation Officer under National Heritage Preservation Act Section 106 review and
- Organizations, other agencies, and individuals who have expressed interest in proposed projects involving these types of actions on the Sylamore Ranger District.

A copy of the public scoping letter was also posted at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5397703.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5397703.pdf).

During the formal 30 day comment period, one letter from a Native American tribe stating the Sylamore District is outside the tribe's historic area of interest was received, but no comments or expressions of interest in this proposal were submitted. Following the close of the formal 30 day comment period, a letter from the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) stating the undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties and a letter of concurrence with the project from a Native American tribe were received.

This project's planning record contains

- copies of the public and tribal scoping-concurrent 30 day comment period letters ;
- a list of persons to whom those were mailed;
- the letters from the Native American tribes, and the Deputy SHPO
- proof of publication for the legal notice initiating the 30 day comment period.

## Issues

The proposed action was designed to comply with the Forest Plan and all applicable laws and regulations. No issues relevant to the action proposed or the decision to be made were identified during public or internal scoping efforts.

# ALTERNATIVES

## Alternatives Considered But Not Developed

Because no issues related to the proposed action were identified, no alternatives other than the No Action and the Proposed Action alternatives were considered or developed.

### Alternative 1: The No Action Alternative

Requests for permits to hold recreation events on developed recreation areas, authorized trails and authorized roads on the District would still be received and processed. Each request to use these areas would be subject to notice, comment and appeal requirements and a separate decision for each event would be documented in a Decision Memo.

### Alternative 2: The Proposed Action Alternative

Resource specialists will screen each application to hold a recreation event on the Sylamore Ranger District; the proposed action is to approve applications where the following criteria apply:

- The requested use area is limited to the following on NFS lands managed by the Sylamore Ranger District:
  - Authorized Forest Service roads except
    - those within Clifty Canyon Special Interest Area (SIA), Sandstone Hollow SIA, City Rock Bluff SIA and Leatherwood Wilderness Area
    - those that access Native American sacred sites
    - those that access other sensitive resource sites
    - those that access private inholdings
    - those that would require repair or maintenance to sustain the requested use
      - Motorized vehicle use, if proposed, shall be limited to authorized roads that are designated open to public motorized use.
        - Events utilizing Off-Highway-Vehicles shall be limited to only those routes designated open to all vehicle use.
  - Authorized trails and ancillary facilities: Syllamo Trail System, North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail, Sylamore Section of the Ozark Highlands Trail, Mirror Lake Trail, and Blanchard Accessible Trail
  - Developed recreation sites and ancillary facilities: Blanchard Spring Recreation Complex, Gunner Pool Recreation Area, Barkshed Recreation Area, and the Sylamore Shooting Range
- Event activities are appropriate for the requested use area and ancillary facilities.
- The permit application indicates the total number of participants and spectators anticipated will not exceed the capacity of the requested use area(s) and facilities.
  - Capacity will depend upon the type and duration of event and the requested use area(s) and may change over time depending on post-event inspection results.
- Parking on the National Forest shall be limited to designated parking lots only.

- No changes (including but not limited to ground disturbing actions, cutting or felling standing vegetation) are requested.
- An adequate operations plan, medical plan and map are submitted with the permit application.

*Other Project Design Elements:*

- If an event utilizing system trails meets criteria for approval, the permit shall specify that trails be inspected prior to the event to ensure obstructions are removed.
- Use areas shall be inspected following an event to ensure permit terms and conditions are met and to identify any areas which may require restoration by the permit holder.
- Proof of insurance (such as a surety bond or certificate of insurance) for a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 worth of coverage naming the United States additionally insured on the policy/policies to partially fund the indemnification obligations of the holder for any and all losses due to personal injury, loss of life, or property damage, including fire suppression and hazardous waste costs must be provided prior to finalizing a permit.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section summarizes the potentially affected environments of the proposed project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives.

### **Actions Approved to Occur Within or Near the Proposed Project Area**

Management actions necessary to protect public safety such as suppression of unplanned ignitions (wildfires), removal of hazard trees and actions categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or in an EIS under 36CFR 220.6 (d) that include (but are not limited to) road, trail and recreation site repair and maintenance would occur under either alternative.

Forest Service land management actions that were previously approved under other project decisions would continue to be implemented on the District. These actions may include one or more of the following in forested areas surrounding developed recreation areas or adjacent to roads and trails: commercial harvest (and associated activities to extract timber), site preparation, reforestation and timber stand improvement actions, wildlife stand improvement actions, treatment of nonnative invasive plant species, utility corridor right of way maintenance, mechanical fuels treatments, and prescribed burning (and associated actions). Compliance with the Forest Plan and all applicable laws and regulations is required when implementing any of these actions.

### **Actions with Potential to Occur Within or Near the Proposed Project Area**

#### *USFS Project in Development*

The environmental analysis for the *Indiana Bat Habitat Restoration Project* is in progress. If approved, this project will involve thinning, burning and herbicide applications to create and

maintain optimal canopy closure for the endangered Indiana bat and gating of hibernacula used by this species.

### *Actions on Private Land*

There are no private inholdings within or immediately adjacent to trails or recreation areas. Private inholdings are accessed by Forest Service Roads.

Because most of the District's lands are in either Condition Class 2 or 3 adjacent private lands are eligible to be burned for hazardous fuels reduction with Community Wildfire Protection Funds through cooperative (Stevens) agreements with the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC). If accepted into this program, the landowners would receive this service at no cost; therefore, it is likely that this activity may occur during the timeframe for this project.

## **Soil**

The project area for soils consists of existing Forest Service trails, developed recreation areas and their respective ancillary facilities and authorized Forest Service roads except those roads within Special Interest Areas, Leatherwood Wilderness or those accessing sensitive resource sites and areas.

The recreation sites and trails are mostly on highly dissected uplands with long narrow winding ridges, short steep side-slopes and steep V-shaped valleys that formed in a residuum of cherty limestone. The dominant soil map units are the Estate-Portia-Moko association, rolling, Clarksville-Nixa Complex, 8-20% slopes, Moko-Estate complex, 40-60% slopes, and Clarksville very cherty silt loam, 20-50% slopes.

The erosion hazard on roads and trails is mostly moderate to severe. The erosion hazard rating is based on the soil erodibility factor K, slope, and content of rock fragments. These ratings apply to unsurfaced roads and trails. A rating of "slight" indicates that little or no erosion is likely, "moderate" indicates that some erosion is likely, that the roads or trails may require occasional maintenance; and that simple erosion control measures are needed; and "severe" indicates that significant erosion is expected, that the roads or trails require frequent maintenance, and that costly erosion-control measures are needed. There are some benches and bluffs where weathering and erosion have worn away the limestone bedrock.

The soils adjacent to the recreation sites, roads, and trails are mostly forested and are covered with a thick litter and duff layer and chert fragments which protect the soil from erosion and compaction. The chert fragments are not as effective in preventing erosion when concentrated runoff water creates rills and flows over the soil.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

Erosion is expected to be much less than the hazard ratings suggest because most of the soils beneath the roads and trails have a high percentage of chert fragments and most of the roads and

trails lay on ridgetops or follow the contour on benches. There are some sections of the roads and trails that go up and down slope; these sections will yield most of the sediment.

Three annual recreation events using existing roads, trails and have been held on the District for at least six years with between 200 and 450 persons running or biking on authorized trails and roads and 100 or more spectators. The event organizers operated in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permits and no impacts to soils resulted.

No significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects to soil from recreation events on the areas analyzed for this project are expected because

- none of the events would involve ground disturbance;
- use areas will be limited to existing recreation sites, facilities, roads, and trails, and
- these features will be used for their intended purposes.

## Water Quality

The District falls within the Arkansas-White-Red region (11), the Upper White sub-region (1101), the Upper White basin (110100), and the Middle White sub-basin unit (11010004) (United States Geological Survey, 2003). The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests further recognize land area classifications of two progressively smaller units: watersheds and sub-watersheds. The proposed project falls into three different watershed units: Hicks Creek-White River (1101000402), South Sylamore Creek-North Sylamore Creek (1101000403), and Laferty Creek-White River (1101000404). At the smallest scale, the proposed project is located within the sub-watersheds in the following table. These sub-watersheds are the analysis areas that have been considered in determining possible adverse effects from recreation activities.

**Table 1: Analysis Area for Water Quality/Recreation Events Project**

Sub-Watershed Number	Watershed Name	Total Watershed Acres
110100040205	Sneeds Creek-White River	26,054
110100040206	Sugarloaf Creek-White River	27,668
110100040301	Headwaters North Sylamore Creek	29,177
110100040302	Headwater Roasting Ear Creek	22,529
110100040303	Outlet Roasting Ear Creek	18,343
110100040305	Outlet North Sylamore Creek	19,861
110100040306	Outlet South Sylamore Creek	32,086
110100040401	Livingston Creek	13,624
110100040402	Wideman Creek-White River	17,076
110100040404	East Twin Creek-White River	23,536

Streams on the District generally flow to North Sylamore Creek which drains to the White River. North Sylamore Creek is a designated Extraordinary Resource Water in Arkansas. This designation recognizes a combination of chemical, physical and biological characteristics of a waterbody and its watershed which is characterized by scenic beauty, aesthetics, scientific values, broad scope recreation potential and intangible social values (ADEQ Regulation 2). Currently all designated uses are being met.

The majority of the North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail is located just outside the floodplain of North Sylamore Creek. The trail crosses the creek at the Allison trailhead.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

Trails and roads on National Forests are built to specific standards in order to receive an expected time of use. Some objectives of the standards are specifically related to erosion control in order to extend the life of the travel way. These standards have the added benefit of reducing any related sediment transport to streams by purposefully keeping soils from eroding.

Organized activities on the trail systems may cause some localized effects next to streams but cumulative effects at the sub-watershed level are expected to be minimal. Three annual recreation events using existing roads, trails and have been held on the District for at least six years with between 200 and 450 persons running or biking on authorized trails (including North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail) and roads and 100 or more spectators. Starting, ending, and break locations were positioned at developed recreation sites and at trailheads where restroom facilities are available. The event organizers operated in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permits and water quality was not affected.

Trails to be used will be inspected prior to an event and any obstructions will be removed to help prevent detours around obstacles, reducing the potential for development of a secondary trail and exposure of the soil layer to possible erosion.

When considered with other activities approved to occur on the District, no direct, indirect or cumulative detrimental hydrological effects are expected because

- the use areas would be limited;
- the use would be short term and consistent with the manner for which those areas were constructed;
- there would be no new ground disturbing actions, and
- having accessible restroom facilities will help keep human waste contaminants out of streams.

### **Air Quality**

The entire project area lies within lands designated as a Class II area with respect to the air resource. The Clean Air Act defines a Class II area as “a geographic area designated for a moderate degree of protection from future degradation of the air quality.”

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5), and sulfur dioxide. The standards were set at the level required to provide an ample margin of safety to protect the public health. The levels of all six criteria pollutants are at or below the NAAQS in the counties in which the District is located as well as in the counties that surround it.

Existing emission sources on the District consist mainly of those from combustion engines, dust from unpaved surfaces and smoke from prescribed (federal, local, county).

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

Neither alternative will result in measurable direct or indirect impacts to existing air quality. Vehicles of event participants and spectators will contribute negligible quantities of emissions to the atmosphere, and short term increases in dust generated by events on unpaved roads are likely to occur. Given the limited scale and extent of this project, any emissions or dust generated are not expected to contribute to NAAQS violations when considered with other activities approved to occur on the District or with burning on private land.

### **Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Listed Species**

A Biological Assessment and Evaluation (BA/E) documenting the possible effects of management actions to known and potential populations and habitats of proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive plant and animal species within the area of influence of this project was prepared and is hereby incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service, January 8, 2013).

All federally listed (threatened or endangered) species identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (20) and all regional Forester's (Region 8) sensitive species (32) known to occur or with the potential to occur on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests were considered in the BA/E for this project. There are no species proposed for federal listing that are known to occur or with the potential to occur on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests at this time.

Thirteen federally listed species were eliminated from detailed consideration in the BA/E because they are either not known to occur on the Ozark National Forest or because their distribution is well outside the counties that make up the Sylamore Ranger District. They are: interior least tern, ivory-billed woodpecker, American alligator, Ozark cavefish, yellowcheek darter, pallid sturgeon, American burying beetle, the cave crayfish *Cambarus aculabrum*, fat pocketbook, scaleshell mussel, Magazine Mountain shagreen, pondberry, and Geocarpon. Fifteen Regional Forester's Sensitive listed species were eliminated from further consideration for projects on the Sylamore Ranger District; these eliminated species do not occur on the District, based on consideration of the known and historic ranges of these species. These species are: Oklahoma salamander, Bachman's sparrow, Ozark shiner, Longnose darter, William's crayfish, Neosho mucket, Ouachita false indigo, Bush's poppymallow, French's shooting star, Gulf pipewort, Large witchalder, Alabama snow-wreath, Mapleleaf oak, Bay starvine, Ouachita Mountain goldenrod, and Nuttall's cornsalad.

No critical habitat as defined by the Endangered Species Act, no essential breeding habitat and no proposed critical habitat for any federally listed species have been identified on the Sylamore District.

Species given further consideration in the BA/E due to their known occurrence on the Sylamore Ranger District or their potential for occurrence due to the presence of suitable habitat on the District and records nearby are as follows:

- Federally listed species: Gray bat, Indiana bat, Ozark big-eared bat, Hell Creek Cave crayfish, Ozark hellbender and Missouri bladderpod
- Regional Forester's sensitive listed species: Eastern small-footed bat, Bald eagle, Ozark shiner, Southern cavefish, Nearctic paduneillan caddisfly, the isopod *Lirceus bicuspidatus*, Ozark chinquapin, Southern lady's slipper, Newton's larkspur, glade larkspur, open-ground draba, butternut, Ovate leaf catchfly, royal catchfly, Ozark spiderwort, Ozark least trillium, and Ozark cornsalad.

Information regarding the environmental baseline and the current conditions on the Sylamore District for each of the above listed species is provided in the BA/E. Determinations of effect for species considered in the BA/E are summarized below.

### **Determinations of Effect for Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Conway Field office is on the District mailing list for all projects requiring NEPA documentation. A letter describing this proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the agency on October 29, 2012. The actions proposed in this project fall within current Forest Plan direction and Biological Opinion guidelines; no further consultation with USFWS is required.

Of the federally listed or Regional Forester's sensitive listed species likely to occur on the Sylamore Ranger District there are none that currently require use of developed recreation areas, roads or trails to protect them from harm.

#### *Determination of Effect for Species Considered in the Biological Evaluation*

A finding of "no effect" was made for all federally-listed species known from or with the potential to occur on the Sylamore Ranger District. None of these species are sensitive to the type of use that will take place during an event on the use areas analyzed for this project. Routes that are known to access populations of these species will not be approved as use areas. Using existing roads and trails as they were designed to be used and proposed methods of trail marking will not disturb the species considered in the BA/E. Gray and Indiana bats may fly around the general forest area surrounding the proposed use areas to forage or temporarily roost, but are not expected to be disturbed by traffic trails or roads.

A finding of "no impact" was made for all Regional Forester's listed species known from or with potential to occur on the Sylamore Ranger District. Human presence will not negatively impact any of the Regional Forester's Sensitive listed animal species that can fly away or move to avoid disturbance. There will be no potential to damage Regional Forester's Sensitive listed plants because none occur in road beds or in the tread of designated trails and because traffic and first aid station locations are limited to the compacted ground already present on existing roads and trails. The Regional Forester's Sensitive listed aquatic species are not known to occur in areas that may be used during stream crossings.

### *Determination of Effect for Species Eliminated from Detailed Consideration in the Biological Evaluation*

The threatened or endangered species and the Regional Forester’s sensitive listed species eliminated from detailed consideration for projects on the Sylamore Ranger District do not occur, nor are they expected to occur on the District due to the geographic location of the District in relation to the known and historic ranges of these species. Since these species do not occur on the District they will not be affected by the project. Further, no habitats that might be used as recovery areas for any of these species will be affected by this project. The threatened or endangered species eliminated from detailed consideration in the BE have a “no effect” finding and the sensitive species have a “no impact” finding.

### **Management Indicator Species**

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations require the selection of management indicator species (MIS) during the development of forest plans (36 CFR 219.19 [a]). MIS are selected “because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities” (36 CFR 219[a][2]).

All management indicator species selected for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in the Forest Plan were considered for this analysis. Three species, the Rufous-crowned sparrow, Yellow-breasted chat, and Largemouth bass were eliminated from further consideration. The Rufous-crowned sparrow will not be addressed because it was chosen for management of Mt. Magazine Ranger District, Yellow-breasted chat will not be addressed because it was chosen for management of the St. Francis National Forest, and Largemouth bass will not be addressed because it is dependent on large pond and lake habitat and is not managed on the Sylamore Ranger District.

MIS considered for management of the Sylamore Ranger District are: Northern bobwhite, Whitetail deer, Black bear, Wild turkey, Prairie warbler, Brown-headed nuthatch, Northern parula, Cerulean warbler, Ovenbird, Red-headed woodpecker, Pileated woodpecker, Scarlet tanager, Acadian flycatcher, and Smallmouth bass. The reasons each of these species was chosen is outlined in Table 3-63 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (page 3-147). Additional discussion for each MIS is also provided on pages 3-145 through 3-162 of the FEIS.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

No direct, indirect or cumulative effects are expected under either alternative, because neither alternative is expected to cause a change in habitat availability for any MIS selected for the Sylamore Ranger District. Holding recreation events on recreation areas, trails and roads that already exist and that are currently being utilized for recreation purposes or as transportation routes will not alter existing habitat characteristics including stand age, composition or structure or site index values. Short term increases in visitation or use of these areas will not reduce their suitability for any MIS.

## Vegetation

The analysis area for vegetation is limited to the recreation areas, authorized trails and majority of authorized roads on the Sylamore District.

Recreation areas, authorized roads and authorized trails are maintained in an open condition to sustain their intended use. Recreation areas are primarily maintained by mowing and use of handtools; mechanical equipment and/or handtools are used to remove encroaching woody vegetation from trails and roadways.

For the majority of forested stands surrounding the project area features, the overstory is dominated by mixed stands of Oak, hickory and Shortleaf pine. The mid-story and ground vegetation components and densities are typical of those found in the cover types of the area consisting of yellow poplar, oak, hickory, sassafras, sweetgum, locust, blackgum, and red maple. Common shrubs and vines found include French mulberry, hawthorns, greenbriers, blackberry, honeysuckle, and grape. Grasses and other herbaceous vegetation in the understory include bluestem, foxtail, nutsedge, poison ivy, greenbrier, Desmodium, and panicums.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

No direct or indirect effects to vegetation are anticipated, because no changes to vegetation structure, diversity or composition would occur under either alternative. The project area does not include any portion of the National Forest off trail, off road or outside developed recreation area site boundaries; therefore, when considered with other approved actions on the District, no cumulative impacts are expected for if either alternative is selected.

## Cultural and Heritage Resources

Per the 2005 revision of the Programmatic Agreement among U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma; Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Arkansas, the State Historic Preservation Officers of Arkansas and Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Archaeologist, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Concerning the Management of Historic Properties on National Forest lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma the proposed activities may be documented in a cultural categorical exclusion under Sections B/14 and C/2. A documented cultural categorical exclusion (#13-10-01-01ce) was prepared for these actions and is included in the project planning record.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

No impacts to cultural or heritage resources would be expected if either alternative is selected because a member of the Forests' or District's heritage staff will screen each application to ensure requested use areas will not affect or threaten to affect cultural resource sites. Requests that involve ground disturbance or use areas that have not already been previously surveyed for cultural resources would not be approved unless cleared through additional analysis or survey.

## **Human Health and Safety**

There are inherent (though not always overt) potential risks to human safety on National Forest System lands which include, but are not limited to insect and snake bites, falls, falling limbs and wildfire. During hunting seasons, additional risk is present on trails. Current conditions do not pose any immediate risk to human health and safety beyond the inherent risks.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

Under either alternative, inherent potential risks to human safety will continue to exist, and management actions in areas surrounding the use areas examined in this project will continue to be implemented.

No additional risk to human safety is expected under either alternative. Any application for a recreation event must include an adequate plan to address medical emergencies and will be screened by District resource specialists who would be aware of potential hazards from operations scheduled near a road, recreation area or trail.

No cumulative effects from other resource management actions occurring near event use areas or from hunters in the vicinity are expected because potential for risk of injury to participants can be mitigated by signing, informing the event planner that blaze orange vests are needed during hunting season, temporarily suspending work along a route during the event or by working with the event planner to select an alternate route for use.

## **Recreation, Public Access and Scenic Integrity**

Public access and scenic integrity greatly influence the overall outdoor recreation experience; therefore, these resources will be discussed together.

Visitors to the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' Sylamore Ranger District typically include nearby residents, people from urban population centers in Arkansas and adjoining states, destination recreationists seeking unique natural areas and others seeking recreation opportunities in an outdoor setting. Use of recreation areas and the District's trails is typically highest between the months of April and October.

The Forest Service operates three major developed recreation areas with camping and picnic facilities along North Sylamore Creek and a Shooting Range.

- The Blanchard Springs Recreation Complex is the most heavily used recreation complex on the Ozark National Forest. The day use area provides thirty-two campsites and two group campsites. Day use facilities also include 2 covered pavilions available for rent, an open play field, flush toilets, hot showers, access to trails (including 2 that meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements) swim areas, an amphitheater, and Mirror Lake—a 2.4 acre wheelchair accessible impoundment stocked with Rainbow trout by the AR Game and Fish Commission.

- Gunner Pool Recreation Area includes twenty-four tent pads and three tent camping sites, potable water, picnic tables, access to the North Sylamore Creek Trail, a swim area, and four CXT toilets.
- Barkshed Recreation Area provides one campsite and a picnic area, two CXT toilets, a small covered pavilion, a swim area, five day use sites, access to the Clifty Canyon Botanical SIA and the North Sylamore Hiking Trail.
- The Sylamore Shooting Range is located approximately 13.5 miles north of Mountain View, AR on Highway 5. It includes a rifle range with 12 shooting benches, a pistol range with 8 firing lanes and a vault toilet.

Authorized Forest Service Trails on the Sylamore Ranger District include:

- The Syllamo Trail has been designated by the International Mountain Bicycling Association as an EPIC trail. Five loops and four trailheads with parking for up to 20 vehicles make up this trail system which is open to foot traffic and biking. The loops vary in difficulty from beginner to advanced degrees of difficulty; they are (in order of difficulty): Bad Branch Loop (12 miles), Jack's Branch Loop (14 miles), Bald Scrappy Loop (7.3 miles), White River Bluff Loop (4.5 miles) and Scrappy Mountain Loop (12 miles).
- The North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail follows along North Sylamore Creek, a federally designated Scenic River. Trailheads are located at each of the District's developed recreation areas. This 24 mile trail is open to foot traffic only. It joins the Sylamore Section of the Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT).
- The Sylamore Section of the OHT is a 32 mile hiking-only trail which cuts through the western section of the District; this section of the OHT has not been designated as a National Recreation Trail. The remaining 133 miles of the OHT are not within the proposed project area.
- Mirror Lake Trail (1.0 mile) and the Blanchard Accessible Trail (0.7 mile) are both located within the Blanchard Springs Recreation Area complex. Both are open to foot traffic only.

Not all roads on the District are within the proposed project area, and not all roads within the proposed project area are available for all uses. The proposed project area includes approximately 185 miles of road open to public motorized use with street legal vehicles, 117 miles of road available to all uses (including OHVs), and 274 miles of road available for foot or bicycle traffic only. A list of roads within the proposed project area is in the project planning record.

The current conditions within the proposed project area do not significantly reduce or limit existing opportunities to participate in dispersed recreation activities on the District. Dispersed recreation uses on the District include but are not necessarily limited to hunting, fishing, driving for pleasure, dispersed camping, photography, and watching wildlife.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation opportunity environments. Most of the proposed project area falls within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification of Roaded Natural (RN) which is characterized by predominately natural appearing environments with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Recreation areas and trails and the majority of Forest Service roads have a High Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) which refers to landscapes where the valued

landscape character appears intact. These areas are mapped in the project planning record. Descriptions of all ROS classes and SIOs may be found in Appendix G of the Forest Plan.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

Under either alternative, applications to hold recreation events would be received. Those meeting criteria outlined under Alternative 2 beginning on page 4 and would likely be approved. Because the requirements of 36 CFR 215 would have been met under Alternative 2, it provides for faster, more efficient service to customers that submit these requests than Alternative 1.

During recreation events, there will be short term increase in the number of visitors on the District's recreation areas, roads and trails. Event planners typically post signs and use temporary route markers such as tape or flour. This will not detract from the established landscape character, affect a change in the District's transportation system or affect dispersed recreation uses. Permit terms and conditions include requirements for permit holders to remove trash, signs and trail markings shortly following an event. For events previously held on the District, event organizers have complied with these requirements.

An increase in the number of visitors on the Forest may be perceived by others who are not involved with an event and who intend to use recreation areas, roads and trails during their visit as a temporary inconvenience or annoyance. This effect, however, is not likely to differ greatly from that experienced during other times of heavy use such as during local festival weeks or on Memorial Day, Independence Day or Labor Day weekends.

Neither alternative will result in a change in the ROS class or SIO designation for recreation areas, authorized trails or roads, and neither alternative will result in a change to the District's transportation system.

### **Economics and Local Communities**

Stone and Baxter counties shall serve as the analysis area for Economics and Local Communities because the majority of the project area lies within them. The land bases of Stone and Baxter Counties are 389,758 acres and 354,559 acres respectively. The Forest Service manages 61,315 of the acres within Stone County and 62,990 of the acres within Baxter County or 15.7 percent and 17.8 percent respectively of these counties' taxable land bases. (USDA Forest Service Technical Report SRS-34, 1999) Because federal lands are not subject to local property taxes, counties containing National Forest System lands receive funds through two sources to help offset this loss:

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are made through the US Department of the Interior. (<http://www.nbc.gov/pilt/pilt/search.cfm>), and
- Payments made under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS) (PL 106-393). (<http://www.fs.fed.us/srs/Title-I.shtml>).

Median household income in Stone and Baxter counties is lower than national and state averages. (US Census 2010) The population of Baxter County has increased significantly over the last three decades. Much of the county's growth and more than half its tax dollars can be traced to tourism and retirement as visitors often return to take up residence. (Local.Arkansas.gov 2012) The

economic base of Stone County includes poultry, livestock, wood products, light manufacturing and tourism. (Local.Arkansas.gov 2012) Mountain View is the county seat of and largest community in Stone County. Many of the retail establishments and restaurants in Mountain View rely heavily on tourism dollars brought in primarily during the months of April through October. Draws to this small town and the surrounding area include three annual festivals, Blanchard Springs Caverns and other dispersed and developed recreation opportunities on the National Forest, and the Ozark Folk Center State Park.

### **Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

National Forest programs can influence local economies through employment opportunities, through the production of goods and services such as those provided by timber and recreation resources and through expenditures the Forest Service makes for management and administration.

Neither alternative would provide new employment opportunities for local residents or affect payments to Stone and Baxter counties under the SRS or PILT programs.

Three recreation events held annually for at least six years have drawn individuals from across the country through advertisements posted on the internet and in periodicals. Event participants and spectators have made purchases at local retailers, eaten at local restaurants and utilized lodging establishments. Two annual events have been scheduled during the winter months providing for an increased potential for revenue during the off season. Alternative 2 will provide for a faster, more efficient response to event planners, enabling them to begin advertising sooner than they would be able to do under Alternative 1.

### **Civil Rights and Environmental Justice**

Civil Rights imply the fair and equal treatment under the law, both within the Forest Service and in relations with the public. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, “Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations,” to ensure such populations are not subjected to a disproportionately high level of environmental risk. Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Meaningful involvement means that: (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and (4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

**Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively**

No current issues regarding civil rights of visitors or employees related to either alternative for this project have been identified. Therefore, a civil rights impact analysis and statement of findings will not be conducted.

Neither alternative involves the introduction of new or increased fees nor will either prevent the use of the Forest by any group or individual. Neither alternative is expected to have any disproportionate effects to minority or low-income groups.

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Interdisciplinary team members contributing to this analysis are identified below. Tribal government leaders, federal and state agency officials, local officials, organizations and individuals to whom the October 29, 2012 scoping/concurrent 30 day comment notice were mailed are identified on pages 19 through 22; complete addresses are in the project planning record.

<b>Interdisciplinary Team Members:</b>	
Jeremy Evans	Cartographic Technician, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests stationed at the Sylamore Ranger District, Mountain View, Arkansas
Jan L. Franks	NEPA Coordinator, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Dr. David Journey	Forest Archaeologist, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Forest Supervisor's Office, Russellville, Arkansas
Sue McCluskey	Archaeology Technician (retired), Sylamore Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
James R. McCoy	District Ranger, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Richard Monk	Forest Hydrologist, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas
J. Swafford	Zone Technical Services Assistant, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Jessica Wakefield	Zone Wildlife Biologist, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Amanda Walrod	Engineering Technician, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Len Weeks	Forest Soil Scientist, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas

## Tribal Government Leaders:

A scoping/concurrent 30 Day comment period notice describing the proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the following on October 29, 2012:

The Honorable Mr. George Blanchard, Governor	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Shawnee, OK
Ms. Lisa Botone, Cultural Preservation Officer	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Shawnee, OK
Ms. Henrietta Ellis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Shawnee, OK
The Honorable Mr. Tarpie Yargee, Chief:	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Ms. Augustine Asbury, Second Chief	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Brenda Shamayme-Edwards, Chairperson	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
Mr. Bobby Gonzalez, NAGPRA Coordinator	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
Mr. Robert Cast, Historic Preservation Officer	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
The Honorable Mr. Bill Baker, Principal Chief	Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
Dr. Richard Allen, Policy Analyst	Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
Ms. LaDonna Brown, Historic Preservation Officer	Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK
Dr. Ian Thompson, Director of the Historic Preservation Department	Choctaw Nation, Durant, OK
The Honorable Mr. Kevin Sickey, Chairman	Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Elton, LA
Mr. Michael Tarpley, Deputy THPO	Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Elton, LA
The Honorable Kerry Holton, President	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
Ms. Tamara Francis-Fourkiller, NAGPRA/Cultural Preservation Director	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
Mr. Jason Ross, Section 106 Assistant	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
Ms. Ivy Smith, Cultural Preservation Assistant	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
The Honorable Ms. Glenna J. Wallace, Chief	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca, MO
Ms. Robin Dushane, Cultural Preservation Director	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca, MO
The Honorable Mr. Tiger Hobia, Mekko	Kialegee Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Thomas E. Gamble, Chief:	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
Mr. George Strack, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
Mr. Scott Willard, THPO Administrative Assistant	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
The Honorable George Tiger, Principal Chief	Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, OK
Mr. Ted Isham, Cultural Preservation Manager	Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, OK

## Tribal Government Leaders:

A scoping/concurrent 30 Day comment period notice describing the proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the following on October 29, 2012:

The Honorable Cheryl Smith, Principal Chief	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Jena, LA
Ms. Dana Masters, THPO	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Jena, LA
Dr. Andrea Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK
The Honorable Mr. John P. Froman, Chief	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
Mr. Frank Hecksher, Section 106/NAGPRA Representative	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
The Honorable Mr. John Berrey, Chairman:	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw, OK
Ms. Jean Ann Lambert, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw, OK
Ms. Carrie Wilson, NAGPRA Coordinator	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Fayetteville, AR
The Honorable Mr. Leonard Harjo, Principal Chief	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Wewoka, OK
Ms. Natalie Deere, Historic Preservation Officer	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Wewoka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Ron Sparkman, Chairman	Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK
Ms. Kim Jumper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK
The Honorable Mr. George Scott, Mekko	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Okemah, OK
Ms. Barbara Canard-Wellborn, Advisor	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Weleetka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Earl Barbry, Sr., Chairman	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Marksville, LA
Mr. Earl J. Barbry Jr., Director, Tribal Museum and Cultural Resource Center	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Marksville, LA
The Honorable Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Talequah, OK
Ms. Lisa LaRue, Historic Preservation Officer	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Talequah, OK
The Honorable Leslie Standing, President	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Anadarko, OK
Mr. Gary McAdams, Cultural Program Planner	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Anadarko, OK
Ms. Breezy Prince, President's Assistant	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Anadarko, OK
Mr. Jarrod Prince, Transportation Planner	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Anadarko, OK

## **Federal and State Agencies, Local Officials, Organizations and Individuals:**

A scoping/concurrent 30 Day comment period notice describing the proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the following on October 29, 2012:

Margaret Harney	US Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Conway, AR
Erin Leone	US Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Conway, AR
Allen Cathey	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Calico Rock, AR
Ken Shirley	Arkansas Forestry Commission, Mountain Home, AR
Blake Sasse	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock, AR
Frances McSwain	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Little Rock, AR
Cindy Osborne	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Little Rock, AR
Stacey Avey	Stone County Judge, Mountain View, AR
Joe Bodenhamer	Baxter County Judge, Mountain Home, AR
Barbara Wallace	Mayor, Fifty Six, AR
Ron Sterling	Mayor, Mountain View, AR
Jim Bensman	Heartwood, Alton, IL
Dennis Brannon	Editor, Stone County Citizen, Mountain View, AR
Michael J. Budd	U of A Wildlife Society, Fayetteville, AR
Robert Cross	President, Ozark Society
Gene Dunaway	Friends of the White River, Mountain View, AR
Tim Ernst	OHT Association, Pettigrew, AR
Lori Freeze	Editor, Stone County Leader, Mountain View, AR
Glen Hooks	Sierra Club Regional Representative, Little Rock, AR
Newton County Wildlife Association	Pettigrew, AR
George Nickas	Wilderness Watch, Missoula, MT
Douglas Zollner	Nature Conservancy, Little Rock, AR
Jim Allen	Mountain View, AR
James Bibler	Russellville, AR
Carla Boucher	Chesapeake, VA
Michael Cartwright	Mountain View, AR
James R. Crouch	Russellville, AR
Rebecca Davis	Mountain View, AR
Greg Eason	Little Rock, AR
Jill Easton	Calico Rock, AR
Richard Hempel	Mountain View, AR
Philip E. Hyatt	Mountain Home, AR
Randy Janowitz	Parthenon, AR
Steve Kirk	North Little Rock, AR
Tamara Long	Little Rock, AR
Steve Parker	Eureka, MO

**Federal and State Agencies, Local Officials, Organizations and Individuals:**

A scoping/concurrent 30 Day comment period notice describing the proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the following on October 29, 2012:

Shawn Porter	Parthenon, AR
Rosemary Stroh	Mountain View, AR
Mark Tew and Linda Boulton	Calico Rock, AR
Hank Tilley	Mountain Home, AR
Karen Tinkle	Mountain View, AR
Duane W. Woltjen	Fayetteville, AR

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: Literature Cited/References

*Forest Service Handbooks (FSH), Forest Service Manuals (FSM) and Closure Orders can be viewed at Forest Service Offices. The following materials are hereby incorporated by reference. These materials are considered part of the project planning record.*

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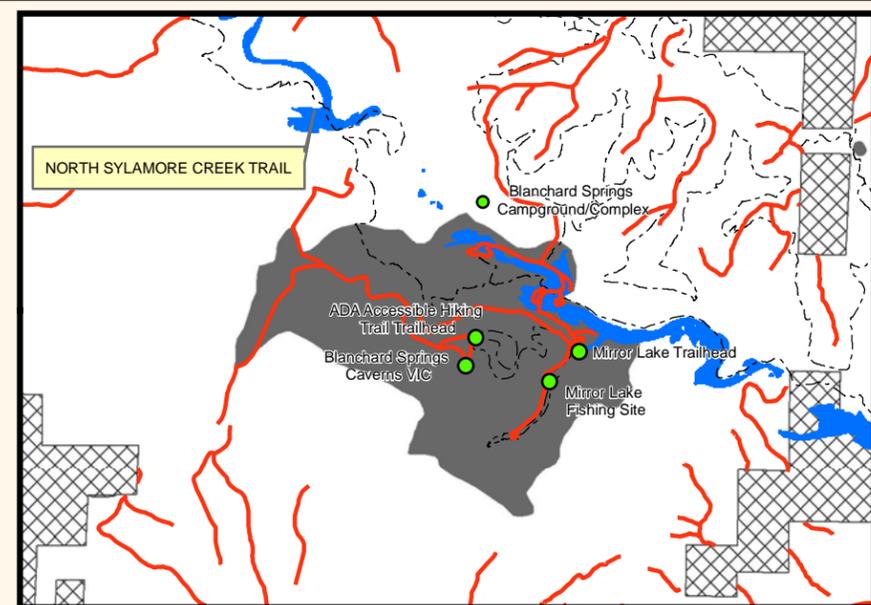
**Appendix 2:  
Vicinity Map**



# Recreation Events Environmental Assessment

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests  
Sylamore Ranger District  
Stone, Izard, Baxter, Marion,  
and Searcy Counties, Arkansas

- District Boundary
- Trails
- Private
- Recreation Sites
- FS\_Roads\_Only
- Recreation Areas



### Legal Description

Stone County  
T15N-R10W Sec. 6  
T15N-R11W Sec. 1-12  
T15N-R12W Sec. 1-12  
T15N-R13W Sec. 1-4, 9-12  
T16N-R10W Sec. 30,31  
T16N-R11W Sec. 1-36  
T16N-R12W Sec. 1-36  
T17N-R11W Sec. 7,15-22,26-35

Searcy County  
T16N-R14W Sec. 1-3,10-12,13-15,22-24

Marion County  
T17N-R14W Sec. 1,12,13,24-27,34-36

Baxter County  
T16N-R13W Sec. 1-4,6-36  
T17N-R12W Sec. 1-36  
T17N-R13W Sec. 1-14,24,23,25,26,27,28,34,35,36  
T18N-R12W Sec. 6,7,17-20, 31-36  
T18N-R13W Sec. 1, 9-17,19-36  
T18N-R14W Sec. 24-26

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