

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

1 WHEREAS, in 1959, Senate Resolution No. 33 and House
2 Resolution No. 19, recognizing the importance of the
3 extraordinary manifestations of nature and recreational
4 attributes of the Current and Jacks Fork Riverways, requested
5 Congress to enact legislation to preserve the natural resources
6 and provide recreational development and other improvements for
7 the public use; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1964, Congress answered Missouri's request by
9 enacting legislation to establish the Ozark National Scenic
10 Riverways; and

11 WHEREAS, the riverways within the Ozark National Scenic
12 Riverways are, and remain, public highways of the State of
13 Missouri, subject to concurrent jurisdiction between the State of
14 Missouri and the United States under Missouri Senate Bill No. 362
15 enacted in 1971; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2005, the National Park Service began
17 researching for the purpose of drafting a new general management
18 plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Park Service is advocating the
20 "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the goal of the "Preferred Alternative" option of
23 the general management plan is to shut down public access points

1 to riverways, eliminate motorized boat traffic from certain
2 areas, further restrict boat motor horsepower in other areas,
3 close several gravel bars, and propose that additional areas be
4 designated as federal wilderness; and

5 WHEREAS, the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general
6 management plan is an appropriate balance between resource
7 preservation and opportunities for recreational use; and

8 WHEREAS, the general management plan will guide decisions
9 related to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways for the next 15 to
10 20 years; and

11 WHEREAS, tourism is one of the most critical components of
12 our rural economy; and

13 WHEREAS, thousands of hikers, campers, boaters, hunters,
14 fishermen, and horseback riders visit these areas annually
15 generating irreplaceable tax revenue; and

16 WHEREAS, any further limitations on the access to these
17 riverways would severely impact this local economy;

18 WHEREAS, the Missouri Conservation Commission is charged
19 with the control, management, restoration, conservation, and
20 regulation of bird, fish, game, forestry, and all wildlife
21 resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries,
22 refuges, reservations, and all other property owned, acquired, or
23 used for such purposes; and

24 WHEREAS, in September of 2009, the Missouri Department of
25 Conservation recommended that "hunting, fishing, and trapping
26 continue to be allowed through the Ozark National Scenic
27 Riverways except in highly developed areas where a reasonable
28 safety zone for public protection may be required":

1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the
2 Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular
3 Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby
4 strongly urge the United States Department of the Interior
5 National Park Service to pursue one of the following three
6 options in regard to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways:

7 1. Choose the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general
8 management plan;

9 2. Enter into negotiations with the State of Missouri,
10 Department of Conservation for the return of the Ozark National
11 Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri so that the land will
12 continued to be used for its original and intended purpose; or

13 3. Enter into a contract with the State of Missouri,
14 Department of Conservation for the management, operation, and
15 maintenance of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be
17 instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this
18 resolution for the President Pro Tempore of the United States
19 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
20 Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
21 the Interior, each member of the Missouri Congressional
22 Delegation, the Director of the National Park Service, the
23 Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the
24 Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Governor
25 Jay Nixon.