



SAVING THE WOODLANDS AND WATERS IN THE OZARKS

Howard and Joyce Wood Ozarks Conservation Buyer Fund

The Challenge

The Challenge: Gifts and pledges up to \$2 million to the Conservancy made by December 31, 2008, to the Howard and Joyce Wood Ozarks Conservation Buyer Fund, will be matched 1:1 by the Howard and Joyce Wood Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust.

Goal of the Challenge: A total of \$4,000,000 in private donor support will be raised toward the program. This money will provide a fund to acquire and subsequently resell property with conservation easements in the Current River watershed. The properties will be managed as sustainable forests.

Conservation Goals: The fund will provide necessary cash for a continuation of private land purchases in the Current River watershed until the long-term goal of 100,000 acres is met.

Location: Nestled in the Ozarks of southeast Missouri, the Current River is home to 35 globally significant species with 25 of these being the best or only populations on Earth.



The Current River © Frank Oberle

Millions of visitors are drawn to the beauty of the Ozarks every year and residents rely on the rich natural resources for their way of life. But today the rivers and woodlands of the Ozarks—and the way of life they support—are increasingly threatened by pollution, runoff, streambed gravel mining and unsustainable timber harvesting.

Protecting the Rivers Means Protecting the Land

The Missouri Ozarks region is renowned for its rivers, streams and other freshwater resources. According to Conservancy scientists, nearly half of the very best rivers in the Ozarks are highly threatened. Although the damage shows most clearly in the water, the problems start in the surrounding woodlands. The lands and waters are inextricably linked and altered land-use practices are the top health threat to the Ozarks, including

in the watersheds of the Current, Eleven Point and Jacks Fork rivers.

With unusually clear waters, the Current River is one of the most important streams in North America. Along with the Eleven Point and Jacks Fork rivers, the lands in the Current River watershed support a stunning array of globally significant plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth and plants and animals with the best occurring population in the world.

In addition to recreational and scenic opportunities, this area has been a center for Missouri forest product resources for more than a century.

Today, there is growing pressure in favor of inappropriate development and damaging land management practices are being favored for short-term financial gain at the expense of resource integrity and future commodity production. If this continues at the present rate, these watersheds will be irreparably degraded within the next 10 to 20 years.



Sustainable harvest allows production of forest products while ensuring the conservation of associated natural resources, such as soil, water and habitat quality. Sustainable timber management also assures an ongoing future supply of timber. © Byron Jorjorian

conservation easements on the land to sustain water and timber quality and important natural features. The lands will then be publicly marketed to provide conservation benefits and ongoing, sustainably managed forests.

This program will generate multiple benefits, including retaining private land ownership, a tax base for local communities and an assured supply of raw materials for the forest products industry. In addition, this will sustain the water quality for globally unique and irreplaceable plants and animals as well as ensure the long-term survival of the vast woodlands in the Ozarks and its associated forest products.

“Nowhere are ecology and economy more closely linked than in south-eastern Missouri Ozarks in the watersheds of the Current, Eleven Point and Jacks Fork rivers,” said Howard Wood. “Joyce and I wanted to take a leadership role to achieve this large-scale project with The Nature Conservancy. Our gift will encourage other private contributions from major donors by matching gifts dollar for dollar.”

Both the biological and economic well-being of the region depend on healthy woods and waters in the watershed. By

developing strategies that will ensure the long-term health of the woodlands and waters, the Conservancy can help sustain Missouri’s Ozark heritage for future generations.

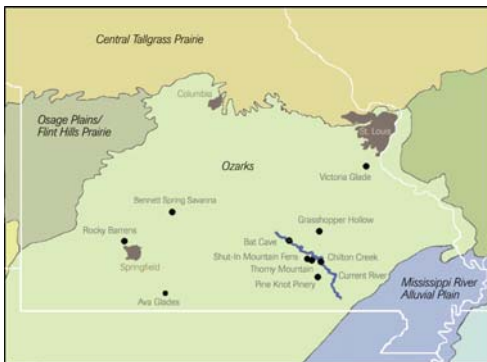
Nearly half of the world’s original forest cover has been destroyed, impacting forest-dependent communities, plants and animals. The Conservancy is working with a wide range of partners and private landowners in strategic geographic areas, from the tropical forests in Indonesia to the Great Bear in Canada, to conserve and restore the world’s forests. The Missouri Ozarks region is a premier example of this crucial conservation work in the central U.S. region.

To support the Howard and Joyce Wood Ozarks Conservation Buyer Fund, contact Lori Sullivan, associate director of philanthropy. Each gift to the fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total contribution of \$2 million.

Contact information

The Nature Conservancy in Missouri
2800 South Brentwood Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63144

Tel (314) 968-1105
Fax (314) 968-3659



Sustainable Forest Management in Private Hands

With funding from the Howard and Joyce Wood Ozarks Conservation Buyer Fund, the Conservancy will work directly with private landowners to ensure sustainable forest management

In critical areas, the Conservancy will acquire targeted lands when they come on the market and create permanent