

## News Release

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## Ozark Natural Resource Information Now Available Online

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is launching a new website focused on science and natural resources in the Ozarks. The website makes data and information about science and resource management available to the public, and to the research and resource management communities. The website was created to inform the public about the rich natural and cultural resources of the Ozarks and to facilitate information exchange and research planning for scientific investigations and resource management in the Ozarks. To view the website, go to <http://ozarks.cr.usgs.gov/>.

The Ozarks include much of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas and small portions of Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma. The Ozarks harbor forests, glades, caves, streams and over 160 species of plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. The biological diversity and richness is closely linked to local Ozark culture and much of the economic activity associated with forestry and other agricultural activities. Traditional music, art, crafts, and medicines reflect close ties to local landscapes. Hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities draw millions of visitors to the Ozarks each year. The continued success of these activities, traditions, and the communities that depend on them is dependent on the quality of Ozark natural resources.

The USGS hopes to foster collaboration and information exchange among all who are interested in resource management or scientific investigations in the Ozarks. The website provides data, maps, and links to publications and other information sources to all who are interested in Ozark resources, culture, and communities.

An Ozark Partnership aims to effectively and efficiently apply limited financial resources by sharing information and working cooperatively among State, Federal and Non-governmental organizations, businesses, landowners and the general public. In addition to data and information, the website links to an interactive collaboration tool that is aimed at improving communication and feedback among scientists, resource managers, and the general public.

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