

# NEWSLETTER

Local Dirt Bike News

## Chadwick

*Last month we talked about a possible "movement" at or near Chadwick. This is a letter from a rider and land owner near Chadwick.*

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Shawn Hall. I live about five miles from the Chadwick riding area. This past Friday (end of January) night I had the opportunity to have a conversation with one of my "neighbors." She owns land that is directly adjacent to the Red Bridge. This is directly west of the Chadwick property. She was telling me about a group that is trying to organize the land owners along Bull Creek to fight pollution in the creek. This group is against many things including cattle operations near the creek, farming operations that are not 100% organic, and ORV activities anywhere near the area. She told me that this group is going to attempt to get the Chadwick riding area closed.

In my discussions with other local residents, I don't believe that they are as concerned about ecological damage that may or may not be done by ORV's in the Chadwick riding area. The reason that they are supporting this effort is they see this as an opportunity to solve some problems. The local residents main concerns with Chadwick are excessive noise caused by loud ORV's and trespassing on their land by riders that leave the Chadwick property. I would like to encourage all riders to obey the noise regulations of the National Forest. I think that the main offenders are older bikes with poorly maintained exhaust systems. Maybe we could all help a younger rider by showing him or her how easy it is to repack a silencer.

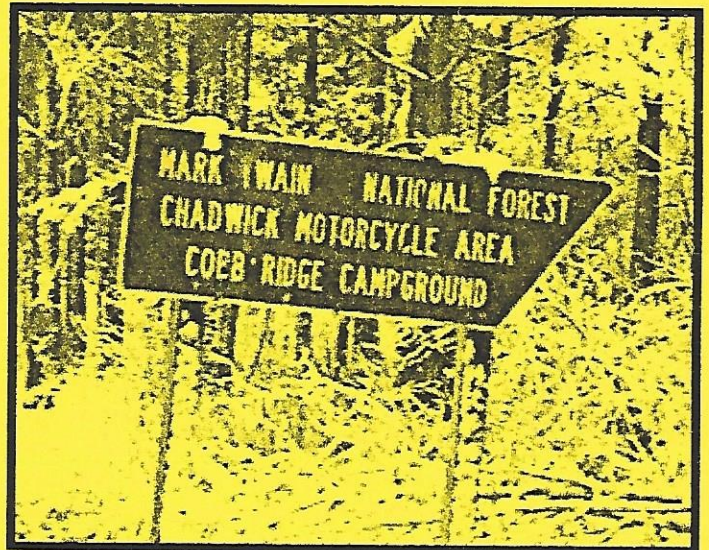
I have been told of riders crossing fences to ride in Bull Creek as well as pastures adjacent to the riding area. If this is true, IT IS STUPID! Please stay on the property and better yet, stay on marked trails. When we upset a local resident we simply allow the Eco-fanatics of the world to gain more support!

Maybe it's time that we organize ourselves to protect our place to ride? As well as show everybody the positive impact that having a riding area close by can have a good impact on the local community. I can tell you from experience that there is nothing better than taking my kids out for a ride in the woods of Chadwick. Let's all work together to keep it that way?

*We thank Shawn for sharing his thoughts and the thoughts of area landowners. I happen to agree with Shawn. Some kind of organization may be needed. Tell us what YOU think.*

*Have something to say about this? We want to hear your comments pro . . . and con. We will print some of both.*

We went down to Chadwick on a snowy 9th of



February just because. As soon as you turn the page, you'll get an idea what this months issue is about. We're calling it **the Environmental Issue!** I almost feel like I need to apologize. We try very hard to bring a smile to your face when you read this . . . but this month, we are serious by design.

If you thought an environmental "hit" couldn't happen here, turn the page and check this out! . . . .



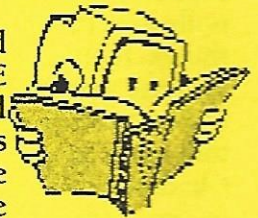
# Chadwick Threatened!

Sorry for the dramatics but . . . YOU need to hear and see this! We all do. Shawns story on the front page is just the beginning. Those same people had another meeting with Sierra Club backing. One of our own attended that thing and got away with about one-half of a handout that was being circulated at the meeting. What we managed to get is on the next four pages. The pages following that are the original letter from the Forest Service soliciting input in regard to the proposed Cobb Ridge "new" campground and some maps which were included. If Sierra Club is allowed to provide input after the deadline . . . so can we!

How do we do that . . . and do we even need to do that? The answer is yes! We all need to write to the Forestry and furnish a copy of that to our Congressman and Senators. You don't have to have a computer or a typewriter. You can hand write it. You do not have to be fancy. You don't have to write it three times . . . you can run a couple copies on a zerox machine. WE need to respond to the issues. Why Chadwick is valuable to YOU. Your opinion on the new campground and the new permit system. You just need to do it!

The reason it's so important that you write is that the Sierra Club Members are notorious for their ability to write. They are organized and will send a deluge of mail. Elected officials have to listen to voters. Their opinion matters. WE are notoriously bad at writing and are not organized. WHO GETS HEARD? They (Sierra Club) do. Each of us that takes a minute to write, counters one of their letters and let's the forestry know WE are very concerned about Chadwick, and it's future.

Is this the BIG ONE? I really don't know. I do know I will send a letter and send copies of that letter to my Congressman and Senators. They ALL need to know I/WE care. I do think this is important enough to completely throw out the Newsletter I had all but ready and start over on this issue. It's important that YOU know what's happening at Chadwick. My computers "gagging" over massive delete episodes before putting different text right back into the same areas. I'm kind of enjoying it! For the first time . . . it (the computer) acts confused . . . COOL!



Sierra gave us the Forestry address in their letter:

A quick explanation to Cliff Davis at SMS had him quickly offering to help and provide the following address's. Thank you Cliff.

*Maybe a good way to look at this thing is considering that maybe this is the "big one" and if you don't sit down and write so your concerns are known YOU (or lack of your input) might be the difference between keeping a riding area . . . and losing it. That's not really a good thought is it!*

*If WE ALL think our voice won't matter and do not write, then for sure it will not matter because none of us will write thinking it will take care of itself? Sorry but that's not even a reasonable expectation!*

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States House of Representatives  
508 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranger Nory Hunze  
Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District  
P.O. Box 188  
Ava, Missouri 65608

The Honorable Kit Bond  
United States Senate  
293 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2503

The Honorable John Ashcroft  
United States Senate  
170 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2504



Sierra Club  
Hand-Out

## CHADWICK MOTORCYCLE/ATV USE AREA FACT SHEET

The following information is provided expressly for those attending the Upper Bull Creek Watershed meeting and potluck held this past Saturday and for anyone wanting information about the Chadwick Motorcycle/ATV Use Area for the purpose of making a written comment on this subject to the Ava Ranger District.

The head ranger for the Ava Ranger District, Nory Hunze, has solicited public input on a proposed Trail Maintenance and Management Plan for the Chadwick Motorcycle Area. Mr. Hunze has agreed to accept our comments until March 30, 1997. Please send your letter to him at the following address:

Ranger Nory Hunze  
Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District  
P O Box 188  
Ava, Missouri 65608

Also, remember to copy your state and federal legislative representatives and officials.

**BACKGROUND** -The Chadwick Motorcycle/ATV (all terrain vehicle) Use Area is a particularly sore subject for many of the landowners in the Bull Creek watershed. If you have not, personally, been annoyed and harassed by such antics as ATV riders riding in the stream bed of Bull Creek or, of them riding illegally on the public roadways or, by the noise pollution or, by the riders cutting their own (undesignated) trails, then consider yourself luckier than many of us because all you have to be concerned with is the environmental degradation of a very large, single-user-group area of the National Forest that is poorly maintained, improperly managed and is an environmental disaster as far as trail layout and law enforcement are concerned.

Now that I have your attention and you have my opinion, I would like to highlight and discuss some of the salient points of environmental interest for the Chadwick Use Area and its effect on the environmental quality of the Bull Creek watershed.

The major areas of concern I have enumerated below are in no way intended to be exhaustive. This is simply a brief summary of some of the major points I have researched along with my personal observations about why these particular areas are important. You may use any, or all, of these in your letter to Mr. Hunze. However, please do not just copy this memo and send it to him.

I encourage each of you to hike into the area and observe these problems, first-hand. I will be leading a hike into the Peckout Hollow area on the afternoon of February 23. If you would like to accompany us on this hike or if you would just like to discuss this issue in further detail, please call me @ 581-8519.

### SOIL AND WATER QUALITY

There are several obvious problems with the present trail system's design and maintenance relative to the soil and water



quality of the Chadwick Use Area. An excerpt taken from The Criteria for ATV/Motorcycle Suitability which is based on the Mark Twain National Forest's management plan states, "surface watercourses will not be used for trails." The meaning of this statement is very clear, however, several of the designated trails at Chadwick run exactly up intermittent stream beds and others repeatedly cross perennial streams (also in violation of Missouri state law). One of particular note is Peckout Hollow. This particular hollow contains both an intermittent stream and a perennial stream. All other hollows also have designated trails running their full length.

The locations of these trails negatively impact the environment through disturbance of aquatic organisms; soil erosion; and increased sedimentation which, because of watershed runoff, ends up in Bull Creek. Soil erosion presents a serious issue at Chadwick and is exacerbated by the poorly located and maintained trails, trail use during wet weather and, the blatant disregard of trail users to the "closed trail" markers.

The bottom line regarding soil and water quality problems within the Chadwick Use Area is this: Increases in sedimentation in a stream cause concomitant decreases in the aquatic life present in that stream (Bull Creek).

In your letter, please encourage Mr. Hunze to develop his proposed plan in strict accordance with all existing soil and water quality regulations, as well as, the Forest Management Plan, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and all Executive Orders, especially, Presidential Executive Order #11644. I have commented on these specific regulations below.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Several of us have experienced, first hand, the frustration of trying to get someone to do something about the persistence of the ATV riders to illegally and unsafely ride their vehicles on county and state roadways and of their destructive and harassing habit of riding in the actual Bull Creek stream bed. No law enforcement agency seems to be able to control this. By the time the county sheriff's office shows up the riders are long gone and the Ava ranger district has only one person with law enforcement responsibilities. That is one person for the entire Ava Ranger District of over 140,000 acres and this person is impossible to contact on the weekends during the time all the Chadwick activity is taking place. As a result, the Forest Service's law enforcement effort has served no purpose for the landowners and others harassed by the brazen illegality of the ATV/ORV riders in the Bull Creek area. Law enforcement or, more accurately, the lack of law enforcement is one of the most blatant deficiencies in the present operation of the Chadwick Use Area. Presidential Executive Order #11644 states that Ranger Hunze is required "...to minimize conflicts between off road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with the existing conditions in populated areas taking into account noise and other factors." This is simply not being done.

According to a Forest Service employee, the anticipated



Environmental Analysis (EA), as well as, a formal public comment period and other restrictions. Complying with NEPA for the Chadwick Management Plan would necessitate development of a range of alternative usage options which may include closing the area to motorized vehicle use. Regardless of whether you personally believe this to be a viable option is not the issue. NEPA allows consideration of alternative uses and Mr. Hunze should be requested to explore these options. Of course, alternative usage option would require and EIS which the Forest Service seems reluctant to do. Why?

In addition to NEPA, the Sierra Club quotes Presidential Executive order #11644 "...[if] the use of off-road vehicles will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources on particular areas or trails of the public lands, immediately close such area or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effects, until such time as [it is] determined that such adverse effects have been eliminated and that measures have been implemented to prevent further recurrence."

This is a very powerful statement and could have a profound effect on allowable motorized usage of the Chadwick ATV area.

Some unanswered questions for the AVA Ranger District folks should include: Why is the NEPA process not being followed for this project? and, Why is Presidential Executive Order #11644 presently being ignored at the Chadwick Motorcycle Area?

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

The Chadwick Motorcycle Use Area is one of those areas that just "happened", i.e. it was not planned in accordance with the Mark Twain National Forest Management and since it was in existence before NEPA was enacted, no EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) was ever prepared for the area. Completion of an EIS would provide an accurate assessment of the water, soil, vegetation and wildlife common to the area and could be a good indication of what would be there if the motorized vehicles were not. We recommend that, before any additional modifications or alterations are undertaken, an EIS be completed for the whole area. A good, fundamental question regarding the necessity of completing an EIS is: How can something be managed well-if you do not understand what is existing? How can it be planned for future use if there is ignorance of its present status?

Mr. Hunze (and his superiors) should be strongly urged to conduct and EIS for the area. If this was done, there would probably be no use for a trail management plan as overwhelming evidence would indicate closure of the area to be the most environmentally feasible option.

Thank you for participating in our efforts to maintain and improve the environmental quality of life on Bull Creek.

Liz Ballard,  
Bull Creek Stream Team - #543



revenue generated from the sale of use permits for the Chadwick ATV Area is expected to exceed \$70,000 annually. We suggest this money be used, in part, to fund an adequate law enforcement effort for the area. It is my understanding, however, that this money is designated to be used for expansion of the existing Cobb Ridge Campground (see comments on this issue below).

Logic would indicate that if the existing situation is uncontrollable, then attempts to make the campground bigger and better will only contribute to the problem by attracting even more users.

It should be requested of Mr. Hunze to prioritize the funding of a full time person(s), with law enforcement authority, above any efforts to attract more users to the area.

#### COBB RIDGE CAMPGROUND

Although this project is not, formally, a part of the Chadwick Maintenance/Management Plan project, the two are inseparable in their intended uses and physical proximity and, therefore, deserve comment in this memo.

The Cobb Ridge Campground project was initiated about 3 years ago and the Forest Service's scoping letter soliciting public comment was sent in July of 1994. Normally, the comment period would be long past by now, however, in a phone conversation with Becky Bryan of the Ava Ranger District's office, she indicated that comments would still be appropriate since various delays have kept this project in its early stages of development. We have been given a second chance for this so please provide your comments on it to the Ava Ranger District office ASAP.

The Cobb Ridge Campground is within the Chadwick Motorcycle Use Area and is used exclusively by the ATV/ORV (off road vehicle) rider group especially, by those from out-of-state who do not pay taxes to maintain it. The proposed modifications include: expanding the camping area, installing new flush toilets, providing a water supply, constructing shower facilities, installing an RV dump station and, building a playground.

In your comments to Mr. Hunze please point out that, in addition to prioritizing law enforcement over showers and playgrounds, he should carefully consider the environmental impact this project will have on the area, as well as, the apparent promotion of a single-user-group's interests that, by the very nature of their activities, exclude all other user group's access to these facilities.

#### NEPA AND THE PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER

It is the belief of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club that Mr. Hunze is not adhering to state and federal law in his development of a management plan for the Chadwick Area and they, therefore, hold his proposed plan in dispute. It is the contention of the Sierra Club that the proposed trail management plan is a "decision document" and therefore, is subject to NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) regulation including the requirement of an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) or an

United States Forest Mark Twain National Forest P.O. Box 188  
 Department of Service Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ava, Missouri 65608  
 Agriculture Ranger District VOICE & TDD 417/683-4428  
 FAX 417/683-5722

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply to: 1950 Cobb

Date: July 19, 1994

Dear Neighbor,

The Forest Service is proposing to expand the campground at Cobb Ridge (see attached maps). The proposed project includes new toilets, water supply, showers, flush toilet, trailer dump station, playground, fee collection site, and bike wash rack. The project also includes developing a host site in the old campground.

The present campground is not designed for the types of use occurring. A campground with group loops is needed to accomodate the large groups using the area. More facilities are also needed to met the needs of the users.

The Cobb Ridge Campground is located in Christian County, approximately 4 miles south of Chadwick, Missouri, in the 3.1-1 management area.

Preliminary issues relating to this project include gray water and sewage disposal. If you have any additional concerns or comments, please contact Jim Voyles at the Ava office.

Sincerely,

*Garry F. Houf*

GARRY F. HOUF  
 District Ranger

*Randy,  
 Thank you  
 for your interest  
 in this project.*

*Bucky*

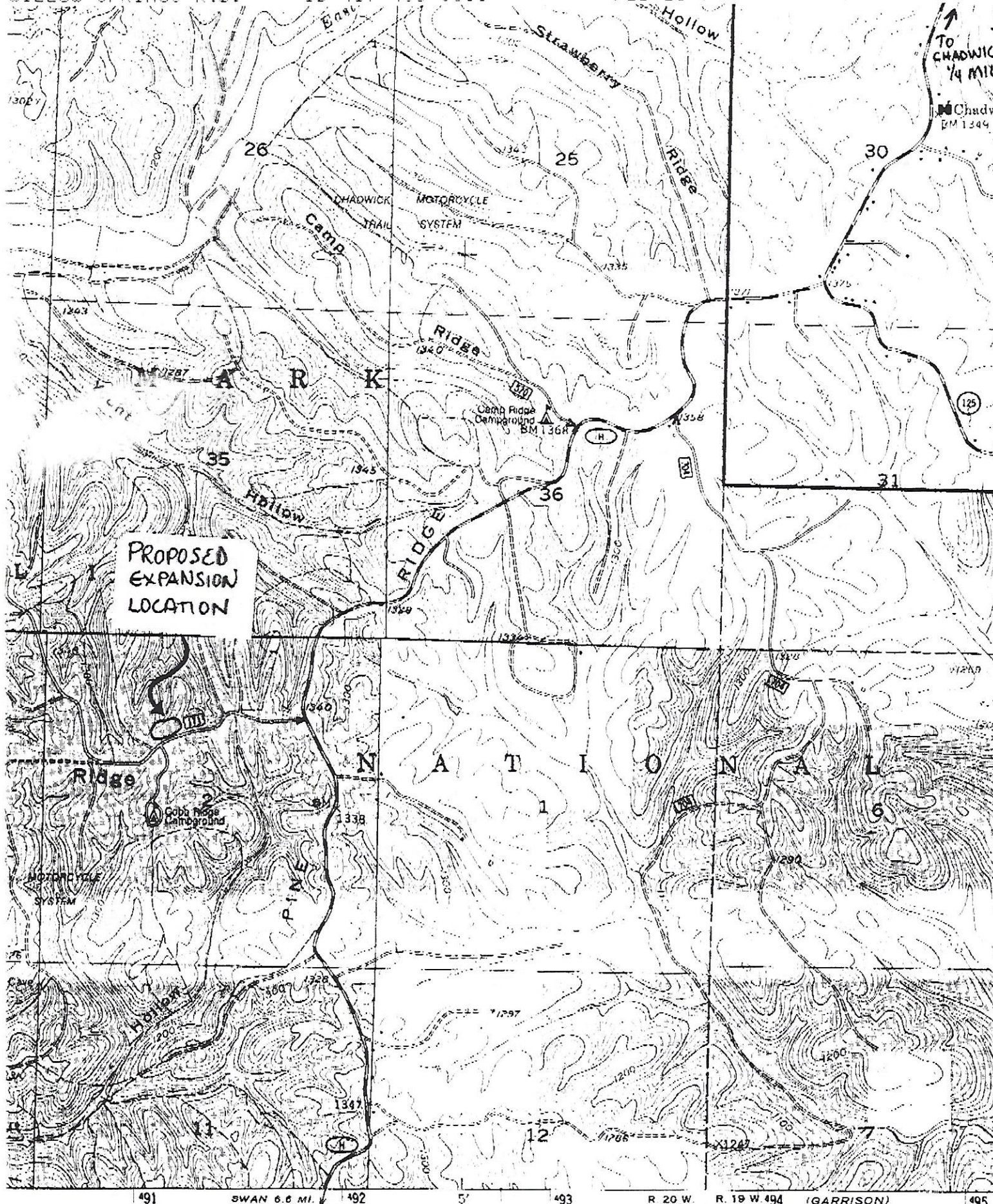
OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7/90)

**FAX TRANSMITTAL** # of pages **3**

To: <i>Randy [redacted]</i>	From: <i>B. Bryan FS</i>
Dept./Agency:	Phone #: <i>(417) 469-3155</i>
Fax #: <i>(417) 345-6211</i>	Fax #:

NSN 7540-01-317-7388 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

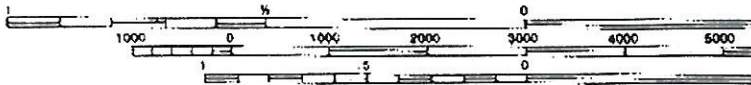




PROPOSED EXPANSION LOCATION

TO CHADWICK 1/4 MILE  
Chadwick BM 1349

COBB RIDGE CAMPGROUND VICINITY MAP



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET



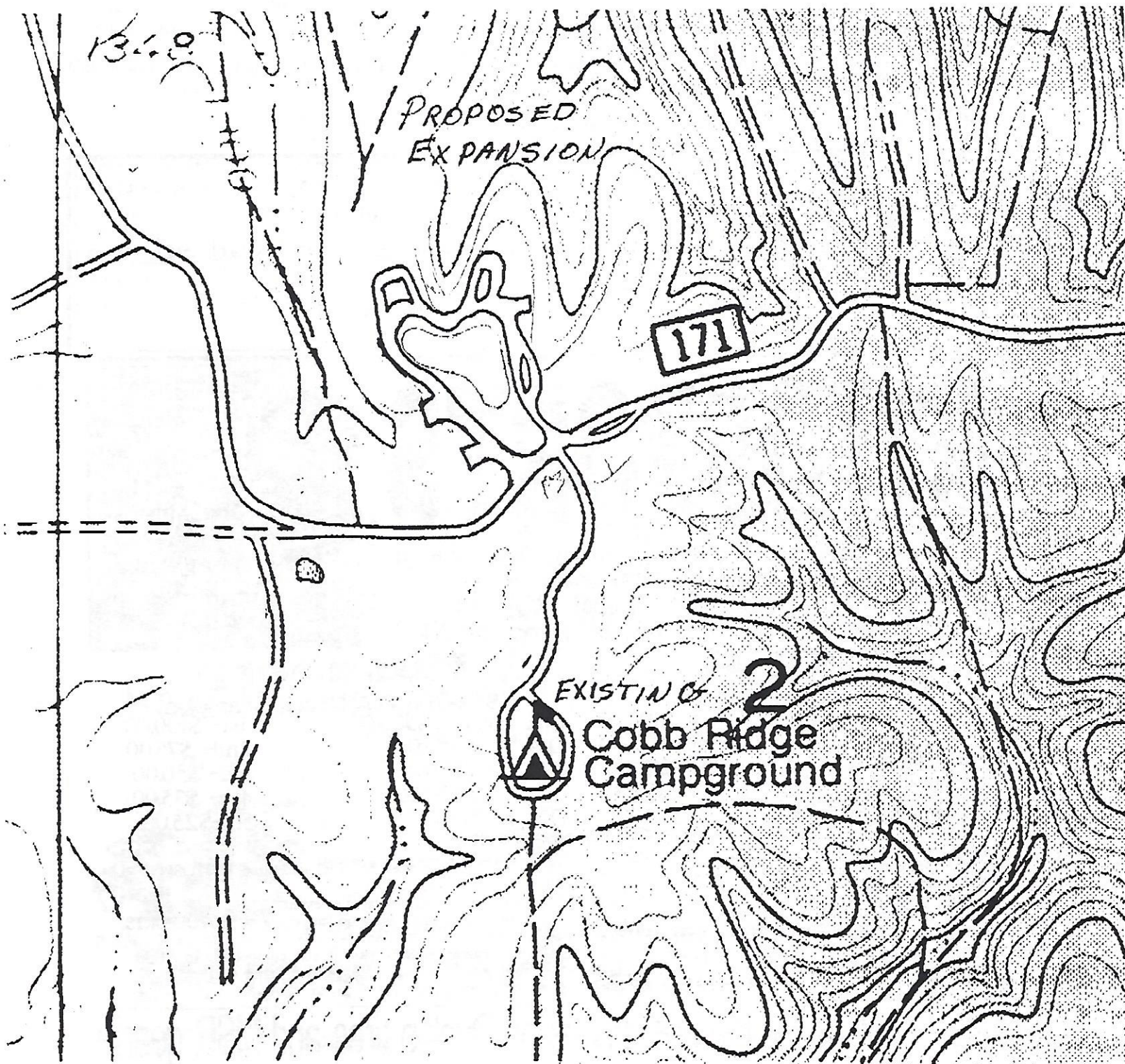
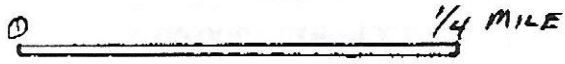


# COBB RIDGE CAMPGROUND EXPANSION

T25N R20W SECTION 2

CHRISTIAN CO. MISSOURI

MAP SCALE





## Blue Springs Resort Hare Scramble Results

The Blue Springs Resort Hare Scramble, sponsored by Lebanon Suzuki/Kawasaki went off on February 16th under clear skies and temperatures in the high 40's.

Overall- Dave Berry

Expert- Nathan Gladback.

Intermediate- Casey Haynes, Bart Williams, Dale Rector Jr., Craig Simons.

0-200- Dustin Wisecup, Erick Zenter, Russ Halverson.

250-Open- Kevin Henslee, Dale Willis, Damon Still.

Over 30- J.R. Hanson, Brad Barnett, Bill Gorski, Bob Fuerst, Mark Isaacson.

Over 40- John Gott, Jack Lee, Jim Orthais.

4-Stroke- Doug Meyer, John Moore, Jeff Rothenberger.

Beginner- James Pitts, Randy Southard, Gene Climer, Tony Evans.

15 + Under- Mike Climer, Anthony Meyer.

# WHAT GOOD IS A DIRT BIKE IF THERE'S NO PLACE TO RIDE?

If you're not already involved,  
please join the organization that  
fights to keep our riding areas open!



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(208) 524-3946

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Hare Scramble

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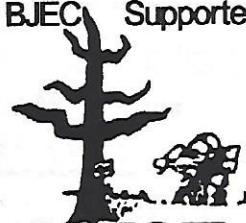
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