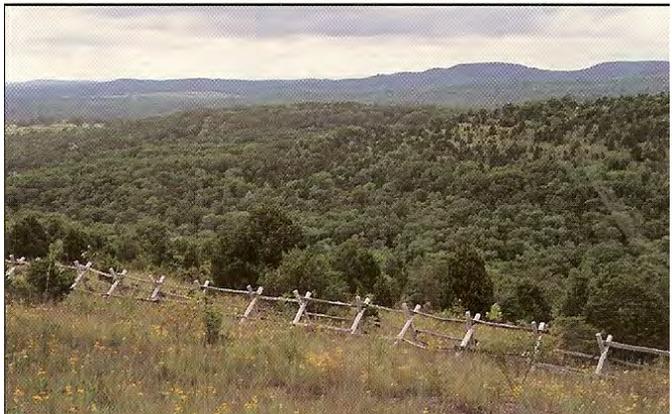


The 1.5 million-acre Mark Twain National Forest invites you to enjoy its many opportunities. Whether you are a sightseer, camper, hiker, backpacker, hunter, angler, picnicker, floater, bird watcher, horseback rider, biker, or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) user, the Forest has something special for you. Located in central and southern Missouri, the Mark Twain is traversed by rivers and streams, some fed by the largest springs in the country. The Forest extends from the St. Francois Mountains in southeast Missouri across the foothills and plateaus of the Ozarks to the glades and balds in the southwest.

Mark Twain, as all national forests, is managed for a variety of uses, including outdoor recreation, range, timber, wilderness, minerals, watershed and habitat for fish and wildlife. Managing for multiple-use distinguishes National Forests from National Parks. National Parks are managed with more emphasis on preservation of unique resources and on public uses compatible with that mission.

Mark Twain National Forest contains a wide variety of natural resources including woodlands of oak, hickory, pine and maple, oak savannas, rocky barren glades, and clear

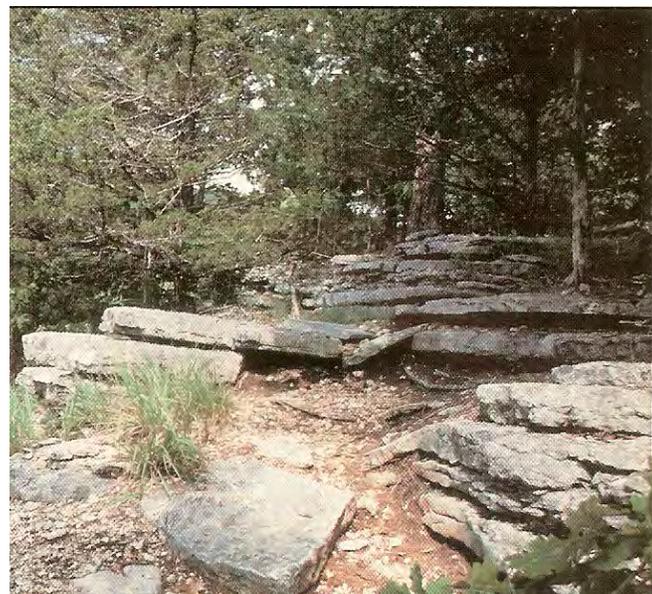


free flowing springs and streams. These resources provide a sustainable timber supply, minerals, recreation and a home to over 650 species of wildlife and fish.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, age or national origin. Write, call or stop by the Supervisor's Office or one of the field offices to discover what the Mark Twain National Forest has to offer. (See back cover for a list of offices).

Wilderness & Other Special Areas

The Mark Twain National Forest includes seven Congressionally-designated Wildernesses: Bell Mountain, Rock Pile Mountain, Irish, Paddy Creek, Hercules Glades, Devils



Backbone, and Piney Creek. Wilderness lands total more than 63,000 acres and are areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, and may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value, with little evidence of humans. Hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders seek them out for peace and solitude. Hunting, fishing, and primitive camping are allowed, but wheeled vehicles and groups of more than 10 persons are not. Trailheads with limited parking spaces are located next to the Wildernesses.



The Mark Twain manages more than 73,600 acres as semi-primitive areas where the only access is by hiking, horseback or mountain bike, The Forest also manages about 258,600 acres for semi-primitive motorized recreation. These areas provide moderate to high opportunities for solitude. Hunting and fishing, with a valid state license, are permitted in these areas.

Semi-primitive areas differ from Congressionally-designated Wilderness in that resources, such as timber and wildlife, are deliberately managed.

Besides Wilderness and semi-primitive areas, the Mark Twain maintains about 30,600 acres as “special areas”. These areas are managed for the protection of unusual environmental, recreational, cultural or historical resources, and for scientific or educational studies. Some special areas contain rare and endangered species of plants and animals.

Hunting, Fishing & Nature

The Mark Twain National Forest is popular with hunters, trappers, anglers and persons who enjoy observing, studying and photographing wildflowers and wildlife. The Forest has over 320 species of birds, 75 species of mammals and 125 species of amphibians and reptiles. Game species include whitetail deer, turkey, quail, woodcocks, doves, ducks, geese, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, woodchucks, bobcats, and coyotes.

Except where posted otherwise, hunting and fishing with a valid Missouri license is permitted on National Forest lands.

Fishing is one of America’s most popular pastimes. Mark Twain’s streams and lakes contain over 200 species of fish, including bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, and catfish. Three of the Forest’s spring-fed streams, Mill Creek, Spring Creek and Little Piney on the Houston-Rolla-Cedar Creek Ranger District, have wild rainbow trout populations. The Eleven Point National Scenic River on the Eleven Point Ranger District and the North Fork of the White River on the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District have sections stocked with Rainbow trout by the Missouri Department of Conservation. To possess trout, a Missouri trout stamp is required in addition to a Missouri fishing license. Some special regulations on size and limits apply. Lakes range in size from about 10 acres to the 440-acre Council Bluff Lake on the Potosi-Fredericktown Ranger District. Be sure to check bulletin boards for creel or length limits, and horsepower or other motor regulations. To preserve water quality, only electric motors are permitted on most of the lakes.



Camp and Picnic Areas

There are more than 40 campgrounds and picnic areas in Mark Twain. Campgrounds and picnic areas are usually located near a special attraction such as a spring, stream, lake, towering bluff or other scenic area. Float camps, only accessible by water, are available on the Eleven Point National Scenic River.



Campgrounds and picnic areas vary from a few table sites to developed campgrounds. Some have walks, trails, and restrooms that are handicapped-accessible. Camping fees vary, with special fees for group camping or use of pavilions. Many can be reserved by calling 1-877-444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov.

Cool, Clear Streams

The Forest has more than 350 miles of perennial streams, most suitable for floating with canoes, kayaks, rafts, and inner tubes. Some, such as the St. Francis on the Potosi-Fredericktown Ranger District, have seasonal whitewater but may be too shallow for floating most of the year.

Floating offers close-up views of rocky bluffs, caves, springs, vegetation, birds, and other wildlife. Some favorite float streams are the Eleven Point National Scenic River, the Current, Big Piney, Gasconade, and North Fork Rivers.

The Forest Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation maintain river accesses on the most popular streams. Private outfitters are available in most of these areas. Where waterways pass through private lands, permission of the owners is required before using their lands for camping and picnicking.



Places to Hike & Ride

Mark Twain has hundreds of miles of trails, including over 250 completed miles of the 500-mile Ozark Trail. Starting near St. Louis, Missouri, the trail will wind over state, federal, and private lands extending to the Arkansas border. Plans are to connect the Missouri section with the 200-mile Ozark Highlands Trail in Arkansas. Go to www.ozarktrail.com for more info.

The Forest has three National Recreation Trails: Berryman Trail (part of the Ozark Trail) and Crane Lake Trail on the Potosi-Fredericktown Ranger District, and

Ridge Runner Trail on the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District. All seven Congressionally-designated Wildernesses have hiking trails. Most recreation areas have hiking trails.

Bicycles and mountain bikes are generally permitted on trails but may be prohibited, such as in Wildernesses.

Motor vehicle users must comply with Missouri law. Motorized vehicles may be used only on open Forest roads or designated ATV trails. All other use of motor vehicles is prohibited. Trail bikers and ATV users ride the challenging trails at the Chadwick Motorcycle Use Area on the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District. The 80 miles of trails wind in and out of deep forested hollows and along ridge tops. Riders also ride the designated trails at Sutton Bluff Recreation Area on the Salem Ranger District. Permits are required to ride these areas. Overnight camping is available at nearby Forest recreation areas. Unlicensed ATVs and UTVs may only be ridden on roads if they have a current county permit valid in the county in which they are ridden.

Mark Twain National Forest has many trails and areas for horseback riding. Some of these are the Berryman on the Potosi-Fredericktown Ranger District, Cole Creek, Kaintuck, Cedar Creek, and Big Piney on the Houston-Rolla-Cedar Creek Ranger District, the Victory on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District, and the Blue Ridge on the Eleven Point Ranger District. Swan Creek area on the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District is a favorite riding area with an open field for grazing or overnight camping. Riders also can use several sections of the Ozark Trail and most forest roads.

Some Ideas for Scenic Drives

Although most roads through the Mark Twain National Forest are scenic, a few are outstanding. The scenery is especially attractive in mid-April to early May when redbud and dogwood bloom, and in mid-October to early November when leaves change color.

The Glade Top Trail (Forest Road 147) is a National Forest Scenic Byway. This 17 mile winding gravel road will take you through cedar dotted knobs on the Ava unit of the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District. Caney Picnic Area and other stops offer vistas of surrounding glades and northern Arkansas Mountains.

Blue Buck Knob National Forest Scenic Byway is 24 miles of paved highway on the Willow Springs Unit of the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District. The Byway starts south of Cabool on Hwy. 181, then east on Hwy. 76 to County AP south past Carman Springs Wildlife Refuge Management Area.

Sugar Camp Road National Forest Scenic Byway also offers ridge top views of Ozark scenery. Located on the Cassville Unit of the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs Ranger District, the 28-mile forest drive runs along Highway 112 near Roaring River State Park, Forest Rd 197, and Highway 86 from Eagle Rock to Natural Bridge.



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For more information...

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Phone: (417) 683-4428
FAX: (417) 683-5722

Eleven Point District Ranger

4 Confederate Ridge Road
Doniphan, MO 63935
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FAX: (573) 996-7745

Houston-Rolla-Cedar Creek District Ranger

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FAX: (417) 967-2524

Poplar Bluff District Ranger

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Phone: (573) 785-1475
FAX: (573) 785-0267

Potosi-Fredericktown District Ranger

P.O. Box 188
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Potosi, MO 63664
Phone: (573) 438-5427
FAX: (573) 438-2633

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