

NEWS RELEASE

USDA • FOREST SERVICE • Mark Twain National Forest

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Date: April 15, 2004	Kill Date: October 2004	Email: cgill@fs.fed.us

MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST GOOD PLACE TO FLY FISH!

ROLLA, MO – When most fly fishers think about trout fishing, USDA’s Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri is one of their best kept secrets. Unlike fishing in crowded trout parks, fishing for trout in the spring in Mark Twain National Forest streams offers the angler both a great fishing experience and a lovely back woods experience.

Over the years, Missouri Department of Conservation has stocked many of the spring fed Ozark streams with trout. As a result of this stocking, several Ozark streams now have well-established wild trout populations, including:

Mill Creek south of Newburg. The Forest Service has placed large boulders in the stream and worked to stabilize stream banks. Over a mile of nearby land has also been purchased to protect the riparian area along the stream and protect water quality. Mill Creek has several deep holes up stream from the picnic area but you have to stay in the stream because it flows through private land. Down stream, the Forest Service owns the land with over a mile of the stream where the Forest Service has placed large rocks and logs that create small holes for trout.

Spring Creek, just east of Fort Leonard Wood off “J” Highway has several nice fishing holes to drop a fly. The stream has some broad slower moving sections and some nice areas where the water is swift with large rocks and logs for trout to hide. The Forest Service has done a lot of work along this stream, including fencing cattle away from the stream and planting trees along the stream bank to stabilize the banks.

Lane Spring, thirteen miles south of Rolla on Highway 63 has long been known as an area for trout fishing. Located on the headwaters of the Little Piney River, this area was once a stocking point for trout. Now the population of wild trout is large enough the stocking point has been moved down stream. A visitor to the Forest Service office several years ago stated he had caught and released over fifty wild trout one day while fishing the Little Piney near Lane Springs.

The best trout fishing in Mark Twain National Forest is on the Little Piney from **Highway 63 bridge on the Little Piney to Vida Slab Bridge**.

All fishing in these streams must be done following Missouri Department of Conservation rules and regulations.

Whether you drop a beard head pheasant tail or a hare's ear nymph along a log or boulder, you should be ready for a memorable fishing experience.

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