



Sipsey Wild Pig Control

The Sipsey Wild Pig Control project aims to control the destructive population of wild pigs within the Sipsey Wilderness Area (SWA). Management actions include trapping, shooting, and aerial gunning (removal via helicopter). The Regional Forester approved this project for a three-year term, with an extension possible.

Wild Pigs on the Bankhead National Forest

The wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) is a non-native invasive species wreaking havoc on native ecosystems throughout the south. The term wild pig encompasses every type of swine on the landscape from feral swine to wild boar and feral hogs. They have become established throughout the Bankhead National Forest and SWA, causing damage to the native flora and fauna, and other natural resources.

Wild pigs first arrived on the Forest in the late '80s, brought in by hunters. They became established throughout the northern half of the Forest. Wild pig populations are being successfully controlled outside the Wilderness, but until now no actions have been authorized within the Sipsey Wilderness Area.

Management in a Wilderness Area

The Wilderness Act of 1964 allows for management within a wilderness area if the character of the wilderness is in jeopardy. Wild pigs threaten the following wilderness values:

- **Natural** – 22 federally listed or Forest Service sensitive species may be found within the SWA
- **Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation** – Observance of the destructive habits of wild pigs degrades the recreational user's experience in the SWA

- **Other Features of Value** – Alabama's only Wild and Scenic River, the Sipsey Fork, is in danger of habitat degradation, water quality impairment, and increased sedimentation

Integrated Management Approach

Successful reduction and control of wild pig populations requires the integration of numerous removal methods. The Forest's strategy is based on trapping, utilizing whole sounder removal. A sounder is a group of pigs and removing the entire group ensures the greatest impact on the population. Other techniques, such as judas pig, ground shooting, and aerial gunning will be performed to compliment trapping efforts.



Multiple styles of corral traps and a trap trailer will be employed.

What Can You Do?

Avoid trap and bait sites. Wild pigs are incredibly smart. Human presence alerts them to danger, reducing the chance of a successful capture.

Please report any pig sightings or fresh sign via the Survey123 App (see adjacent flyer/QR code).



BNF Wild Pig Reporting Form

In partnership with:

