



Mark Twain National Forest  
Feral Hog Comment Form

58

58



Comment:

As we all live downstream - so we all live on the land. The information on F. Swine was all for the good & thank you all for what you do.

I agree w/ the NO HUNTING - & pushing out of the sounders.

Trap seems the only way to go at the present time. ?

If the cost to Ag. etc... is \$ ? per year in MO. I would suggest the HONERABLE GOVERNOR M. H. PARSON, FULLY FUND and support a Three<sup>(3)</sup> or Four<sup>(4)</sup> fold increase in <sup>women</sup> manpower to the effort to rid the STATE of F. swine. This is war!

Lets get Sara Parley - D. Bedell - M. Bradford - & D. Murphy up to the Gov's office - sit down & do some work force management.

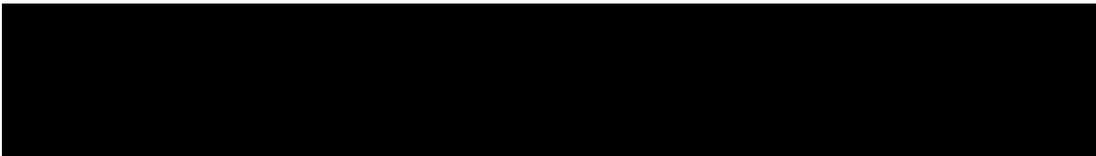
e.g.  
Hire - Inmates  
- vets.  
others in cages!



Place in secure box at meeting, or mail to:

ATTN: FERAL SWINE COMMENT  
Mark Twain National Forest  
401 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Rolla, MO 65401

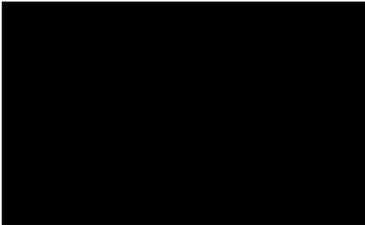
6-24-19



**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 11:34 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** 84 FR 22434 -- Comment on Federal Register notice on Missouri closure of forest service property to feral swine hunting

Mark Twain National Forest is proposing a Forest Closure Order to support interagency efforts to eliminate (also known as feral hogs) in Missouri. The Forest Closure Order would prevent the taking, pursuing or releasing of all feral swine on the forest.

I am an avid outdoorsman, hunter of deer, turkey and other wildlife. I'm a bird watcher also. I strongly support the USDA US Forest Services' proposal to close their Missouri property to feral swine hunting. This is the best way to help forest managers reduce hog numbers through trapping.





**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 11:46 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine elimination on Mark Twain Nation

Currently there are 58 government trappers for 2019, but only had 28 Feral Hog Trappers in Missouri for 79,434 acres of public land that means each government trapper are covering 2,836 acres of ground which requires a STATE to spend \$2,495,915 dollars to catch 9,300 hogs for 2008, that is \$266.00 per hog killed and \$89,139.82 per government trapper "Trapper, truck, supplies, etc. etc"

That does not include Private acreage!!!!

(1 1/2 months of no trapping or killing on any MDC public land in Southern Missouri during Turkey Season)  
(4 months of no trapping or killing on any MDC public land in Southern Missouri during Deer Season)

Now Missouri Agencies, Lobbyist are putting the Extreme amount of pressure on Mark Twain National Forest.

What happens if the Missouri Agencies and Lobbyist WINS and Missouri Public loses?

GAME OVER!!! MISSOURI WILD HOG REFUGE SYSTEM

Welcome to the GREAT LAND OF OZ

Real Simple – Mark Twain has approx. 1,500,000 acres in the state. To trap 1,500 acres a piece on Mark Twain alone will require 1,000 Government Trappers at an estimated cost of what the state already spends for 2018 will be \$89,139,821 that's 89 Million Dollars to sustain trapper, equipment to cover even less per acre than they cover now.

If each trapper gets one fancy drop trap and electronics for each. That's 1000 x \$8,000 each for trap. That is 8 Million in traps alone.

REALLY that's all fantasy it will be more like 100 trappers for the entire state of Missouri. ROFLMAO

Want more Wild Hogs don't Call and oppose - All it will do is prove me RIGHT in 2 years – Missouri Deserves what it gets if MTNF closes to hog killing.

Mark Twain has approx 1.5 million acres in the state of MO. Our Government Agencies have yet to date been able to eradicate hogs on approx 79,434 acres in SE Missouri, it's going to be devastating to our Farmers to shut down an additional 1.5 million acres!

(Wild Hog Refuge system in Missouri is working great to increase the population not so much on elimination)



(Lel)

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 4:48 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog comment

Please consider banning baiting 8f you must.  
Allow hunting, shooting at will.  
This allows sport, meat, and elimination.

[REDACTED]

GOOD MORNING, WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(62)

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 8:02 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest closure to hunting feral hogs

I recently read an article that said you were proposing to close the national forest to hunting feral hogs. This is a terrible mistake and it will hurt landowners across Missouri by establishing more feral hog sanctuaries in addition to the vast areas that already exist due to the MDC'S decision to close state ground to feral hog hunting. The fact that they could possibly convince MTNF officials to follow suit, makes me terribly concerned that you all do not fully appreciate the extent of the problem. As you know, the MTNF surrounds many private landowners. These landowners are helpless to defend their property from the hogs because when they run into them, the hogs quickly run back to federal or state ground when the shooting starts. Unfortunately, they do not stay there. They ALWAYS come back. The idea that trapping alone will solve this problem is simply a pipe dream. If you really believe that shooting at them disperses the hogs, explain to me what happens when you all conduct a controlled burn on forestry property. I was driving through the roads at the Victory Schoolhouse Trailhead in Butler county Missouri in March of this year. There is abundant hog sign in this area. It's only a few miles from my own property. I have shot many hogs while deer hunting there over the last 2 years. You all burn the area on a regular basis. The hogs are still there. You have allowed the MDC or the USDA to fly aerial gunning missions in that area, as well as trapping operations and allowed deer hunters like me to shoot them while deer hunting. There is still a large population there. How much faster do you think they will populate the area without some hunters helping to eliminate hogs when they are given the opportunity? They reproduce at an astonishing rate. I will give you two additional examples that perfectly validate my concerns: Big Springs Park near Van Buren and Sam A. Baker state park near Patterson. Both places are strictly controlled by state agencies and both have large populations of feral hogs. The only method of control ever used in both places is trapping and aerial gunning flights. Hunters have never had the opportunity to affect the population and it shows. I cannot support this decision and I will be contacting my state and federal representatives to voice my opposition to it.

[REDACTED]  
Poplar Bluff, MO

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

63

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 12:14 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine on National Forest Areas

The damage of the feral swine in costs justifies the need for these most destructive animals to be hunted on and in the Mark Twain National Forests of Missouri.

By coordinating with Game Wardens and Forest Rangers controlled hunts would reduce the damages of the feral swine to the forests. The native animals (Deer, Turkey, Bears, and Grouse) would regain their much needed food sources.

For those that that feel that these feral swine are needing protection are very much out of touch. Elimination/Reduction of the feral swine populations saves the Missouri Taxpayers many hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars of tax revenue. Should there be a set fee associated (\$50 - \$100) with being a member of a controlled hunt per person could be used to defray costs of rehabilitating damaged forests.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Waynesville, MO

Sent from my iPad

(64)

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 10:05 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Swine

To whom it may concern,

These are my comments and thoughts.

We have given mdc full power on the land they directly own, and been told we cannot harvest the animals on that land. Populations are still on the rise and not steady or falling.

The mdc will not publicly disclose that in the national owned forest areas we can hunt them and that it is legal. With that being said most people are scared to hunt them and receive fines and tickets.

It's time to stop taking away our hunting privilege on a very very clear problem and to let us hunt them statewide.

The efforts that have been put fourth are awesome and it's good to see someone trying. It is time to start helping us help you guys and work with you guys.

Let us hunt them, let us trap them, check let us use the multiple traps that you have out. They do not get used often enough.

The meat can feed alot of people and the opportunity to hunt them can help alot.

If we get a couple hundred thousand people chasing them with mdc we should be able to at least get some control on the situation.

Thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

65

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 1:15 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog hunting

This is a horrible idea to stop wild hog hunting. Hopefully you think about this before you side with the MDC. No way will you catch the entire sounder in the hills and hollers on Missouri. Most of these places have no internet or cell phone service for the traps. This will be a huge mistake if you outlaw killing wild hogs. And 5,000 dollar fine and 6 months in jail? Seriously?

[REDACTED]

(66)



**Sent:** Sunday, May 19, 2019 12:41 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine - Mark Twain National Forest - Public Comments

<https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2019/05/17/missouri-feral-hog-hunting-forest-service-eyes-mark-twain-forest-ban/3705903002/>

In Reference to the above article, I would like to state that, as a Missouri resident, I fully support any initiatives by the Park Service that would be effective in reducing the population of feral hogs on our protected lands. If we have evidence that supports the statement that hunting hogs is less effective than other methods and that it is detrimental to the effectiveness of those methods, I would be happy to see policies put in place to end the practice of hunting hogs on public lands.



Springfield, Missouri

(67)

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 1:04 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Closure of federal forest

I have lived on the edge of Federal Forest most of my adult life. These properties are own by the citizens of the United States and any proposed action on said property should be done only after a vote by such citizens. MDC can not control the feral hog populations on the land they manage (not own). Why would we even consider closing the federal forest at their request? The hog populations continue to grow in the areas that they say are under control. Unless MDC wants to assume all damage liabilities caused by the feral hogs I vote to leave the federal forest open. All PUBLIC owned lands should be reopened to citizens for the taking of feral hogs. As a American Indian I find it to be an infringement of my rights to not be able to pursue feral hogs on Public owned land.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(68)

**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 9:07 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting ban comment

I do not think shutting down mark Twain to hunting will help anything, pigs are already established. Dog hunters will put the boot leather to the ground and go in where trappers cannot access with vehicles, and no one that Traps for the government is going to pack a trap in piece by piece and build it then turn around and pack 200 pounds of corn down there every week to keep them coming in. Let the dog hunters hunt, and let the trappers trap and if a guy is deer hunting and sees a pig shoot it! If there were ways for people to know where there are hog traps maybe they wouldn't hunt the area.

69

**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hounds in the national forest

The national forest is PUBLIC ground that we should all get to share. It's not state forest it's national. People from the entire country should be able to come run hounds there for hogs, coyotes, coons or whatever they desire within legal seasons.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Concerns

To whom it may concern,

As a Missouri resident landowner, hunter, and one who takes full advantage of the Missouri Mark Twain National Forest, I would like to voice my concern on the recent MDC proposed closure of taking feral swine, and utilizing the trapping only method on 1,500,000 acres of Mark Twain National Forest.

First off, any invasive species does not need statewide protection from an agency claiming they can do it on their own. Feral swine are one of the smartest animals that roam the US today, and can and will adapt to any pressure that is placed upon them. They will adapt and overcome all trapping methods in a short period of time. If trapping truly was the only method successful in taking feral swine, there wouldn't be any left in heavy populated states such as Texas, where live market is making trappers a full income. If one would look, you can see that many people are employed through the MDC currently to tackle the feral swine issue, what person would want to work themselves out of a job and income? Many people look at MDC as being non-trustworthy with their statements when they are making money off an invasive species, and not wanting anyone to help with the removal of them. Many hunters do it for free, not costing tax payers a dime.

Second, the Missouri Mark Twain National Forest has rough, challenging terrain, that allows animals to escape all human presence. How will a trapping only method go to reduce populations in those areas? One can look at Johnson Shut Inns, Mingo National wildlife refuge, and Peck Ranch, Big Springs National Park, to just name a few, and see that the trapping done by MDC is not working, and populations are on the rise, with trappers working vigorously to drop populations. With trapping only in place, populations are still increasing. Aerial gunning is trying to be utilized in regions as well, with not much success. Mark Twain National Forest ground, once again, is solid timber regions, rough terrain, making gunning an un-successful method to be used. If the MDC would have all of their owned and managed ground free or at least in a population reduction of feral swine, I personally would be in favor of a trapping only method. But as it currently is, feral swine populations are increasing and thriving in the area currently banned to all hunting or pursuing.

One thing that MDC refuses to look at is the amount of feral swine that are taken annually by deer hunters, turkey hunters, pig hunters with hounds, coyote hunters, and small game hunters. By restricting the taking of them, MDC will have to step up and cover the amount of pigs trapped annually plus the amount killed by hunters just to stay equal that, which is currently being killed today. As a landowner, the only place I have a problem with feral hogs, are on a working cattle farm bordered to MDC owned and managed ground in Gatewood Missouri. All other farms are free of feral hog damage, but at night the hogs come off the MDC ground onto my farm and destroy many acres of pasture. With a full closure of hunting hogs, Missouri will be insured that we will never rid hogs from this state. You cannot build a 2.5-million-acre refuge and expect populations to decline in any way.

I hope this does not fall on deaf ears and common sense prevails in this situation. Feral Swine needs to be killed on sight, killed frequently and ALL methods need to be utilized at full extent. Trapping, hunting, use of dogs, use of thermal vision rifles, every method needs used. Missouri has the largest management tool at its disposal with hunters, why would that need to be eliminated? Don't shoot, report is not working, and will continue to not work.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(71)

**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 10:11 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Fwd: Closure of federal forest

I have lived on the edge of Federal Forest most of my adult life. These properties are own by the citizens of the United States and any proposed action on said property should be done only after a vote by such citizens. MDC can not control the feral hog populations on the land they manage (not own). Why would we even consider closing the federal forest at their request? The hog populations continue to grow in the areas that they say are under control. Unless MDC wants to assume all damage liabilities caused by the feral hogs I vote to leave the federal forest open. All PUBLIC owned lands should be reopened to citizens for the taking of feral hogs. As a American Indian I find it to be an infringement of my rights to not be able to pursue feral hogs on Public owned land.

Thank you.

(72)

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, May 25, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog ban on hunting

I think you should go ahead with your proposal to eliminate feral hogs through trapping as it has been proven that hunting just dispersed the herd or sound and doesn't eliminate them.

The hunting dog alliance is a radical red neck group of Missourians that run puppy mill type kennels for the breeding of pit bulls and other aggressive hunting dogs for use in competitive hog hunting. It is s lifestyle that they protect fiercely. I know one of them personally and I like her very much as a person. But what I don't like is her treatment of her dogs. She took a dozen or so of her dogs to one of these events to sell the puppies. They were hauled inside a trailer in the heat of August and the air conditioning quit. They did not check on the dogs and when they arrived to their destination, all the dogs were dead. Her casual attitude about her story stunned me. They make a sport out of putting several dogs in a pen with a feral hog and let the dogs corner the hog and attack it. The dogs wear thick leather collars around their necks to protect their jugulars from hog horns and teeth. It's a violent sport. These are the activists who are against your feral hog proposal. They care not one wit about conservation. They care about their blood sport. Why would you let a bunch of red necks create your policy going forward? They're ignorant!!! No matter how well intentioned they claim to be. They believe their pit bulls serve a purpose. Well they always have, blood sports for a bunch of red necks!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

73

**Sent:** Saturday, May 25, 2019 12:22 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest

It seems to be relatively insane to stop allowing the hunting and harvesting of wild hogs. Surely a department that is upholding the health of the park can see the benefit of hunting. Do your other elimination activities, but keep the harvesting and hunting.

Unless you're planning on wholesale devastation of all the animals via poisons. Please think this through, don't accidentally become part of the problem.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Wake Forest, NC 27587

-user and lover of the National Parks

Sent from Mail <<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986>> for Windows 10

RECEIVED  
JUN 26 2019

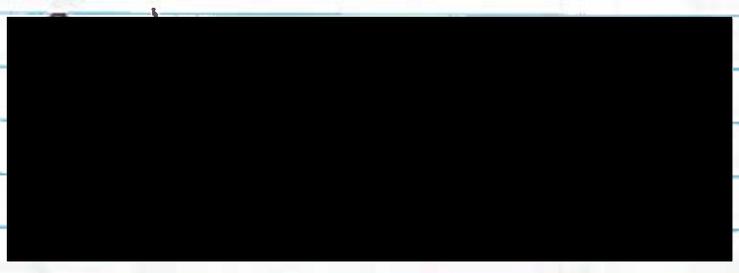
6/21/19

(14)

To Whom it concerns,

Trapping hogs has obviously not worked on MDC land, they continue to multiply and they are not controlling the numbers. By doing the same thing on National Forest land, hogs are only going to multiply. There needs to be several different approaches taken in eliminating these hogs. They need to be hunted and killed by all means necessary. Rather than expecting to completely trap out these hogs, in areas where you can't even get traps, they need to hunt, dog, and trap these hogs in a combined effort between the general public and State/Federal officials.

Thanks,





Comment:

CONCERNING CLOSURE TO HUNTING, I WISH TO SHARE  
 MY VIEWPOINT AS A 60 YR. RESIDENT/LANDOWNER/VOTER/  
 U.S. ARMY COMBAT VETERAN WITH OVER 25 YRS. OF SERVICE  
 TO MY COUNTRY. I HAVE ANALYZED THE MDC PLAN SEVERAL  
 TIMES MILITARILY USING MISSION ANALYSIS (METT-T)  
 (MISSION)  
 (ENEMY)  
 (TERRAIN)  
 (TROOPS)  
 (TIME) AVAILABLE

THE RESULTS ALWAYS COMEBACK AS (MISSION FAILURE)  
 IT WILL "NOT" WORK. MY OTHER CONCERN IS IN CONTROLLING THE HOGS  
 ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AS SOON AS A PERSON STEPS FOOT ON FOREST LAND  
 TO RETRIEVE THEIR DOGS OR DISPATCH THE ANIMAL THEY ARE  
 MADE A CRIMINAL AT THAT POINT. TO ME THAT IS "WRONG"  
 WITH A CAPITAL (W). I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MINE & SEVERAL  
 OTHER LOCAL LANDOWNERS VIEW AND NOT ENACT SUCH A  
 FLAWED/UNJUST ORDER. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE/  
 CONTAIN THE PROBLEM NOT CREATE MORE BY ONE GROUP TRYING  
 TO DOMINATE/DICTATE/REGULATE/CONTROL USING FLAWED METHODS

Place in secure box at meeting, or mail to:

ATTN: FERAL SWINE COMMENT  
 Mark Twain National Forest  
 401 Fairgrounds Rd.  
 Rolla, MO 65401



Mark Twain National Forest  
Feral Hog Comment Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

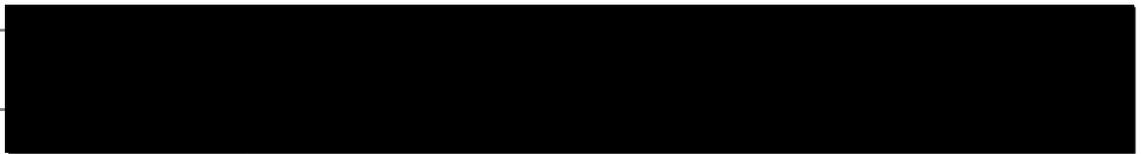
State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment:

PLEASE don't ALIENATE your Neighbors  
(we Love the NATIONAL FOREST ALSO) THAT'S WHY  
we Live Here, people WANT PROVEN  
methods, the method I DISCRIBED IS FROM  
the "FINEST FIGHTING FORCE IN THE WORLD"  
the U.S. MILITARY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION  
& TIME



Place in secure box at meeting, or mail to:

ATTN: FERAL SWINE COMMENT  
Mark Twain National Forest  
401 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Rolla, MO 65401

PAGE 2 OF 2



**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2019 6:42 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine

**Categories:** Orange category

I am writing in regards to the proposal of the ban on feral hog hunting on National Forest. I believe if we took the time to **look into how effective the MDC and USDA has been since the ban on state ground** I doubt you'll find any proof or evidence that banning hunting has benefited the eradication at all. The trappers are showing no proof of any kills so we really have no way to determine the numbers are correct and that the money is being used as effectively as claimed. In my region farmers have been very unhappy with the trapping efforts and the whole demeanor of the trappers. The private ground I deer hunt have also hunters after pigs with dogs because of how unsuccessful the traps became after catching a few pigs and the others becoming trap shy. I also understand how vast the National Forest is. That being said there is miles of forests without road access. I don't understand how they will carry traps far enough to reach the remote areas hogs favor. Also consider that the state parks that have never allowed hunting ( Tom Sauk, Mingo, Johnson Shutins). The hog numbers have still increased with trapping efforts even though there has never been hunting allowed. I think that's valuable evidence that hunters are not the problem and trapping is not the answer. I believe it is an awful decision to assume the very small number of trappers will have any positive impact on that much land when they can't even handle a few state parks. I'm curious how they can manage MDC, Federal, and private lands to any effect. The hogs are spreading more and more here since the hunting ban on state ground. I also don't see any proof anywhere of hogs destruction to native wildlife. Deer numbers and turkey numbers have definitely not decreased in hog ridden areas. Texas remains the state with the highest hog population while also having the highest deer population. I believe the propaganda is without evidence. A lot of money is given for eradication efforts and I don't think these agencies will give that up. Hunters don't have the greatest incentive to have pigs here. These agencies jobs and funds depend on these pigs. If we take a look at the number of counties with hog populations before and after the state ban it is definitely a huge increase. There is a very small number of hunters who chase pigs and to assume that is the problem is a very unintelligent theory. If hogs are released so often why is there only been 2 individuals charged? If there is a lot more being released then the individuals breaking the law are definitely not going to stop because of new laws. Criminals are criminals. There's not enough authority to manage the land. It is a step backwards. There are people who hunt pigs for food. Especially in lower poverty households in the area. They are doing this free of charge on land we all own as a public. It is unfortunate to see a great agency following the the ridiculous acts of the MDC. They are failing in a lot of aspects. People should not be stripped of their rights to hunt on federal land so a few agencies can profit. These lands were preserved for the use of civilians. The hogs are here and they will not be eradicated obviously. Taking an extremely useful weapon such as hunting out of the equation is a bad decision. If the ban is implemented I hope that the forestry can provide us with evidence that the hogs are harming native wildlife populations. Please consider how long hogs have been in the National Forest and I know myself that even in the last 10 years there is definitely not as many in the council bluff and Johnson mountain area as there was once. I think we can thank hunters for that. Not an agency getting paid because we have hogs. Trappers are not going to trap themselves out of a job!!!!



[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 7:55 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Hunting Prohibition

Feral Swine in the Mark Twain are bad and need to be eradicated. Hunting hogs in the Mark Twain Forest hinders the efforts to eradicate them. I support Order No. 09-05-19-02.

Thank You,

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 9:37 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order  
**Attachments:** 1st Report Don't Shoot.jpg; 2nd Report.jpg; Stop Reporting.jpg

The Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order and INTERAGENCY efforts to eliminate feral hogs from Missouri.

The Forest Service proposal should DECLINE to implement a closure. Instead of adding restriction it should implement every method of wild hog control.

Permanent closures require the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to extensively document the rationale for the decision, how the Department responded to concerns raised through public comments and demonstrate that closing the land was necessary.

Sonny Perdue a long-time supporter of hunters is going to close 1.5 million acres in Missouri to hunters trying to control the population of Feral Hogs?

Because the Missouri Department of Conservation said thru their EXTENSIVE research and scientific UNDOCUMENTED studies that they will be the first state to eradicate hogs.

It really comes down to a statement.

Missouri Department of Conservation "MDC" is 100% RIGHT and the rest of the country are WRONG!

Let's start with your own statement.

USDA MTNF – Quote: "Presently, feral swine populations are well established in many counties in southern and central Missouri"

Here some extensive documented research. REAL Feral Hog EXPERTS outside MISSOURI Tell a different story.

**FACT 1 - DOCUMENTED – To control Wild Hog Population it requires all methods be used Trapping, Snaring, Hunting, Hunting with Dogs, and Shooting at Night using Thermals**

Every Department, Biologist and Scientist states that That 70 percent of the feral hog population needs to be removed yearly to keep populations of feral hogs from increasing.

However, a Mark Twain National Forest publication Forest Reflections 2017, page 10 released in June 2018, projects numbers at "an estimated 20,000 – 30,000 feral hogs in the State of Missouri."

Missouri Department of Conservation 2017 Wild Pigs Removed 6,567 for entire state along Wild Pig Reports in 30 Missouri Counties that means MDC and USDA Aphis ONLY KILLED 32% to 21% in the entire state of Missouri – ALL documented

NO. 1 - MDC is 100% RIGHT and the rest of the STATE's experts are WRONG!

Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina Biologist, Scientists and Agency who says they cannot

Can I wipe out a hog population through hunting or trapping?

Quote "The feral hog has managed to survive, adapt, and increase their numbers despite attempts at population control. While it is possible to keep population in check with continued controls of 70 plus percent killed annually, it is highly unlikely to eradicate a hog population within established range."

NO. 2 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is WRONG!

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: Article - April 9th, 2018 -

QUOTE: Every hunting tool in his bag to kill pigs: dried corn bait; thermal-imaging scopes; dogs; and traps.  
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/hunting-the-wild-hog/>

&

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - 2018 Feral Hog Hunting Regulations and Information  
<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/2018%20Hagerman%20Feral%20Hog%20Hunt.pdf>

NO. 3 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist is WRONG!

Billy Higginbotham  
Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

One of the many tools is hunting, that can kill 24% of the population.

<https://youtu.be/OtUOaDr01vs> <<https://youtu.be/OtUOaDr01vs>>

NO. 4 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are WRONG!

Successful Wild Pig Eradication Utilize Trained Dogs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is in the business of providing research-based information, and the research continues to affirm the validity of trained dogs among the tools in our wild pig management toolbox.

I am currently unaware of a single successful wild pig eradication study that did not utilize trained dogs in some form; whether through hunting drives, tracking or through direct pursuit and capture (McIlroy and Saillard 1989; Caley and Ottley 1995; Schuyler et al. 2001; Parkes et al. 2010; Muir and McEwen 2007; McCann and Garcelon 2008; Scillitani et al.

2010). This is not to say that successful eradication without dogs is impossible, but rather to evidence that effective wild pig management often requires the use of all available tools.

NO. 5 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services are WRONG!

Feral Hog Biology, Impacts and  
Eradication Techniques  
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services New Mexico  
November 1, 2010

In the United States, the most common methods of feral hog eradication include box trapping, corral trapping, ground hunting, aerial operations, snaring and hunting with dogs. Each strategy has merit depending on objectives, landscape, local regulations and funding. Each strategy is variable, both in cost and number of hogs that may be removed at any one time by its application.

#### Hunting

Ground hunting techniques are popular among control and eradication efforts across the United States and foreign countries. There are numerous newly developed tools including advanced optics, truck mounted blinds, forward looking infrared [FLIR] optics, electronic game callers and feeder lights. Baying hounds may also be used to remove feral hogs.

Opponents of ground hunting, particularly with baying hounds, argue that feral hogs will disperse great distances. Maillard and Fournier (1995) ascertained that home range increased three fold during drive hunting seasons, although daily movements DID NOT increase by any appreciable amount.

Conversely, Pohlmeier and Sodeikat (2003) found that when hunts were limited to less than 3 disturbances within 14 days, BOARS DID NOT LEAVE THEIR HOME RANGE.

Even when hunts exceeded this frequency, boar did not move further than 6 km. Both studies involved baying hounds and structured drive hunts through known boar habitat.

Hounds have been used in seven noted eradication programs from 1973-2006 (McCann and Garcelon 2007). Feral hog removal with hounds was far more effective on solitary animals and small sounders and decreased as numbers increased (Cowled et al. 2005).

The eradication of feral hogs from Santa Cruz Island involved trained dogs working in short arc configurations with trained hunters. When the dogs would bay, the nearest hunter would converge and humanely dispatch the animal (Parkes et al. In press)

NO. 6 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and forgets its own history

This story occurs in Missouri from 1997 to 2008 Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri: A Feral Hog Eradication Success Story  
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=feralhog>  
<<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=feralhog>>

National Conference on Feral Hogs

April 15th, 2008 Hunters went after their new quarry with much enthusiasm and an unknown number was removed by hunters from 1997 – 2004 but likely included SEVERAL HUNDRED HOGS.

A total of 93 hogs was trapped and removed by natural resource managers from 2001 – 2004. No hogs have been documented on FLW since 2004.

A probable key factor in the success of hog removal from FLW was intensive trapping efforts in RESTRICTED AREA THAT HUNTERS COULD NOT ACCESS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME HOG REFUGES.

Hunter-pressured hogs were eliminated in this way. Also, certain Hunting Areas on FLW are only open periodically so HOG WERE ALLOWED TEMPORARY REFUGE CONDITIONS UNTIL AREA WERE OPENED TO HUNTING and then pursued diligently by hunters. We also tracked three feral hogs on FLW with the use of radio telemetry equipment and were able to obtain additional information about their movements and groupings. Telemetry equipment can be utilized as an additional tool to track hunter-pressured feral hogs.

AN EFFECTIVE AND COMPLETE FERAL HOG REMOVAL PROGRAM REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.

FLW utilized a holistic approach including disseminating information, encouraging hunting/killing whenever possible, and intensive trapping in refuge areas to accomplish feral hog eradication.

NO. 7 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and CELL PHONE companies are wrong.

Baited traps THAT CAN catch entire sounder at once. BUT NO GUARANTEE with the Missouri Trip wire Method.

TRIP WIRE METHOD vs REMOTE TRIGGER AND CAMERA METHOD.

8,000-dollar traps with Cell Phone Camera and Remote Activated Gate.

But the Missouri reality is much different, most of the remote areas in Wayne, Madison, and Bollinger just to name a few - have no cell phone service, so they MUST use TRIP WIRE METHOD – DON'T HERE THAT IN THE NEWS.

MISSOURI TRIP WIRE METHOD is making TRAP SHY FERAL HOGS.

16 Wild Hog are inside a trap and one of them trips the wire and closes gate. OOPS 32 hogs in sounder that's only 50% and 8 of those are pregnant females, now become trap shy as the other 16 squeal in distress! 4th Smartest Animal just got free lesson about traps.

NO. 8 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and JAGER PRO founder is wrong.

Just ask JAGER PRO™ founder, Rod Pinkston - Based on their high-volume reputation, they were awarded the largest feral swine removal contract ever paid by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division by successfully removing 624 pigs in 76 events – Which method is the most effective – Trip Wire or Remote Controlled.

NO. 9 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and The North American Wildlife Conservation Model is wrong.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MODEL - POPULATION REDUCTIONS or maintenance at appropriate levels are a clear case of HUNTERS acting as partners in wildlife management.

While the word management is used for wildlife and ignores invasive animals, someone has forgotten to tell the feral hog that it is a living, breathing, eating and breeding wild animal which the population needs controlled.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MODEL - In some areas, overpopulation of Wildlife increases because LANDOWNER RESTRICT HUNTING. (MDC act as Landowners of MDC ground and restrict hunting over 79,000 acres in Southern Missouri and the Wild Hog population has increased.

NO. 10 - DOCUMENTED MDC is 100% RIGHT - If helicopters are killing the last few hogs why after 5 years the same areas are coming up again, again and again?) (If helicopters are killing the last few hogs why after 5 years the same areas are coming up again?)

2014 Missouri Study Aerial shooting at \$296 per pig, Jump said.  
Brad Jump, Springfield, Missouri's feral swine coordinator for USDA - Wildlife Services.

MDC STAFF QUOTE: "Helicopter is useful in areas where terrain makes it difficult to set large traps, or where hogs have learned to avoid them. A helicopter gunner also is effective at KILLING THE LAST FEW HOGS in area that have managed to avoid being trapped.

Helicopter flying low overhead would tend to make feral hogs bolt to escape the noise and obviously the sound of the helicopter will scatter them,

2013 - The Missouri Department of Conservation will conduct a one-day aerial operation to control feral hogs in Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. MDC Staff Quote: With traps, you might get 15 hogs. If we can get out with the helicopter and get 40 or 50 in one day, so that's so much more efficient."

2013 - Aerial hog hunt yielded exactly 1 dead hog at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.

2015 - MDC HELICOPTER killed 72 feral hogs in the area of Bell Mountain Wilderness.

2015 - MDC flew over parts of Iron and Reynolds counties; the gunner shot 33 wild hogs that day.

2015 - MDC's five helicopter missions between mid-January and late March yielded 138 dead pigs in Missouri.

2015 - MDC helicopter 7 were killed in Vernon County on the first flight of the season,

2015 - MDC helicopter in Hickory County killed 17 pigs

2015 - MDC helicopter kills 9 during a flight over Wayne and Butler counties.

2016 - Five helicopter flights last year killed 225 feral hogs in different parts of the state.

2017 - MDC helicopter gunner fails to kill ANY feral hogs at Current River site

2018 - USDA APHIS Killed 103 hogs in 5 days of flying at Bell Mountain Wilderness and Rock Pile Wilderness - December 21st, 2018 – AFTER FLIGHT FERAL SOW KILLED by “PUBLIC HUNTER” on BELL MOUNTAIN and appeared to have Milk

2019 - February 11-15, 2019 for invasive feral hog control operations. They killed 127 hogs and I have video proof the day after and days after that multiple dozens of hogs and huge hogs’ still on Mingo.

NO. 11 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT - Why are the no hunting areas still have high population of wild hogs, year after, year?)

If trapping is the ONLY method successful and trapping entire sounders. Then all these areas would be Wild Hog Free since they have had no hunting and are under complete control of Interagency Feral Hog Eradication.

JOHNSON SHUT INNS STATE PARK,  
FORT LENOARD WOOD,  
BIG SPRING NATIONAL PARK,  
CURRENT RIVER NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY, SAM A. BAKER STATE PARK, DUCK CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA,  
WAPPAPPELLO LAKE PEAK’S RANCH – Feral Hogs still exist – Has to be the most watched Conservation Area in Missouri since Elk have been introduced in 2011 Missouri.

MINGO NATIOAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NO. 12 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Simple math is wrong.

Currently there are 58 government trappers for 2019, but only had 28 Feral Hog Trappers in Missouri for 79,434 acres of public land that means each government trapper are coving 2,836 acres of ground which requires a STATE to spend \$2,495,915 dollars to catch 9,300 hogs for 2008, that is \$266.00 per hog killed and \$89,139.82 per government trapper “Trapper, truck, supplies, etc. etc”

That does not include Private acreage!!!!

(1 1/2 months of no trapping on any public land in Southern Missouri during Turkey Season)  
(4 months of no trapping on any public land in Southern Missouri during Deer Season).

Real Simple – Mark Twain has approx. 1,500,000 acres in the state. To trap 1,500 acres a piece on Mark Twain alone will require 1,000 Government Trappers at an estimated cost of what the state already spends for 2018 will be \$89,139,821 that's 89 Million Dollars to sustain trapper, equipment to cover 1.5 Million acres.

If each trapper gets one fancy drop trap and electronics for each. That's 1000 x \$8,000 each for trap. That is 8 Million in traps alone.

REALLY that's all fantasy it will be more like 100 trappers for the entire state of Missouri.

NO. 13 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and I am 100% Wrong!!!!

PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNER IN MISSOURI FOR FERAL HOG ERADICATION ADJACENT TO MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION GROUND and example of what landowners will experiences next to Mark Twain National Forest.

1. 262 Days Report - Don't Shoot - Told by multiple times MDC employees only hunt part of my property during deer season to trap, and confirmed later in turkey season that mean only half 40 acres.
2. Then told me to stop Reporting in April. Still did nothing on Public Land it was coming from.
3. November 26th Federal Trapper Showed Up  
34 days of USDA Aphis Hog Trapper - Gave Up
4. Gave up Last Half of Bow Season first time in 30 plus years and gave up half of trapping allow hog trapper full access with no interference by me or others.
5. February 18th - Built my own trap  
95 days
6. 2 daylight photo of hogs, 1 in 262 days
7. May 15th Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.  
May 18th Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. - Killed 215 lb. Wild Hog  
May 23rd Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Killed 200 lb. Wild Hog  
Hunting with Thermals, was the first hog two hogs I have ever seen in person while hunting!

JACKSON, MISSOURI

79

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:51 AM  
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

I recently read an article that said you were proposing to close the national forest to hunting feral hogs. This is a terrible mistake and it will hurt landowners across Missouri by establishing more feral hog sanctuaries in addition to the vast areas that already exist due to the MDC'S decision to close state ground to feral hog hunting. The fact that they could possibly convince MTNF officials to follow suit, makes me terribly concerned that you all do not fully appreciate the extent of the problem. As you know, the MTNF surrounds many private landowners. These landowners are helpless to defend their property from the hogs because when they run into them, the hogs quickly run back to federal or state ground when the shooting starts. Unfortunately, they do not stay there. They ALWAYS come back. The idea that trapping alone will solve this problem is simply a pipe dream. If you really believe that shooting at them disperses the hogs, explain to me what happens when you all conduct a controlled burn on forestry property. I was driving through the roads at the Victory Schoolhouse Trailhead in Butler county Missouri in March of this year. There is abundant hog sign in this area. It's only a few miles from my own property. I have shot many hogs while deer hunting there over the last 2 years. You all burn the area on a regular basis. The hogs are still there. You have allowed the MDC or the USDA to fly aerial gunning missions in that area, as well as trapping operations and allowed deer hunters like me to shoot them while deer hunting. There is still a large population there. How much faster do you think they will populate the area without some hunters helping to eliminate hogs when they are given the opportunity? They reproduce at an astonishing rate. I will give you two additional examples that perfectly validate my concerns: Big Springs Park near Van Buren and Sam A. Baker state park near Patterson. Both places are strictly controlled by state agencies and both have large populations of feral hogs. The only method of control ever used in both places is trapping and aerial gunning flights. Hunters have never had the opportunity to affect the population and it shows. I cannot support this decision and I will be contacting my state and federal representatives to voice my opposition to it.

[Redacted]

Poplar Bluff, MO



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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:00 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting Ban

Thank you for overcoming political pressures and deciding to ban hog hunting on USFS lands. We don't need to have people dumping hogs all over our public grounds.

Get Outlook for Android <<https://aka.ms/ghei36>>

81

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Cc:** Jones Wendy; Petersen Mike  
**Subject:** Feral hogs

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support on closing Mark Twain National Forest to feral hog hunting. I have first hand knowledge of the devastation that feral hogs cause to property. We have a working cattle operation in SW Missouri and have had our fields damaged by hogs. We work with Missouri Department of Conservation on projects to improve wildlife habitat and have had hogs damage our food plots. Feral hogs are known carriers of several types of diseases and are a serious problem in our area.

I believe, as all of my family and neighbors that feral hogs should be trapped by trained officials and that hunting should be stopped in Mark Twain National Forest.

Thank you for any consideration and thank you for your service.

[REDACTED]

42

**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 10:03 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Cc:** jasonsmith@mail.house.gov  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order

DOCUMENTED proof that the agency pushing the department of agriculture into closing Mark Twain National Forest has kept information out of the spot light to influence policy.

The Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order and INTERAGENCY efforts to eliminate feral hogs from Missouri.

The Forest Service proposal should DECLINE to implement a closure. Instead of adding restriction it should implement every method of wild hog control.

Permanent closures require the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to EXTENSIVELY DOCUMENT the rationale for the decision, how the Department responded to concerns raised through public comments and demonstrate that closing the land was necessary.

#### MINGO WILDLIFE REFUGE WILD HOG RESEARCH

OH the Agony of the when the truth rears its ugly head. This information has been out to the public for 6 year. Bet you never read this on Missouri Agency Propaganda Ministry, Lobbyist puppets website and during the interview with News Media they must have forgot to mention all the rest of the hogs killed.

Just in case you think the Feds are running Mingo – NOPE the Feral Hog Task Force is.

Just when you thought it was safe to enter the swamp. duunnn dunnn... duuuunnnn duun... duuunnnnnnnn dun dun dun dun dun dun dun dun dunnnnnnnnnnnn dunnnn ...

Lets knock the mud off your boots boys and girls – ROFLMAO

Research on the Mingo Wildlife Refuge in 2012 - Feral hog movement around the refuge.

This information to be more efficient in their hog eradication efforts.

Project continued through 2013. Cameras pulled in January of 2014.

Hog sign has been detected over a large area of the refuge.

Since January 2013, a total of 210 hogs have been taken from Mingo NWR (see graph below).

**HOG DOGS – 54.8%**

115 - Feral Hogs with HOG DOGS - A Special Use Permit (SUP) was issued to a hog tracker with "hog" dogs.

**HUNTING / SHOOTING – 23.3%**

25 - Feral Hogs taken by Hunters during the managed hunts for whitetail deer

24 – Feral Hogs shot by Staff over bait piles.

**TRAPPING – 18.6% (MDC the most efficient method) BHAAAAA**

39 – Feral Hogs TRAPPED by MDC one full-time hog technician with panel traps, with bait.  
Trapping was halted for deer and turkey seasons to prevent baiting issues.

**SNARES – 2.9%**

6 – Feral Hogs with CABLE RESTRAINTS (snares) set up in known locations by MDC full-time hog technician.

**HELICOPTER – 0.5% - (MDC killing the last remainder of hogs) BHAAAAA**

1 - Feral Hog was taken by MDC Helicopter

After approval from the Regional Office, the refuge partnered with MDC to attempt aerial control of hogs with the use of a helicopter and gunner Wednesday, March 20, 2013. We closed the refuge to all public access due to the management activity. All refuge staff was on hand to make sure that all access points onto the refuge was successfully guarded to prevent public access during the operation. The public was notified that the refuge was closed, and a local news station covered the story before the operation began. One hog was killed during the aerial operation. Efforts were limited due to the large size of the refuge and heavy tree cover and brush coupled with vast areas of standing water which caused a glare from the sun and made it difficult for the gunner to see. The tree cover and brush was thick and allowed the hogs to run and hide from the gunner.

Just in case you wanted to read the article again. BHAAAAA

(2013 - The Missouri Department of Conservation will conduct a one-day aerial operation to control feral hogs in Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. MDC Staff Quote: With traps, you might get 15 hogs. If we can get out with the helicopter and get 40 or 50 in one day, so that's so much more efficient."

<https://www.stlmag.com/news/Off-the-Pigs-On-Shooting-Hogs-From-Helicopters-If-You-Can-Spot-Them/>

Feral Hogs Feral hogs became quite a frequent topic of discussion for refuge staff throughout 2013. In the current hunting regulations for the refuge, feral hogs can only be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. With the word spreading about the growing hog population on the refuge, the refuge office received numerous phone calls regarding the topic of why the refuge does not allow people to hunt specifically for hogs.

The reason for this is TO SUPPORT THE STANCE OF THAT MDC IS TAKING WITH FERAL HOGS. The state doesn't want to encourage the culture of hog hunting because of the fear that it could lead to people releasing feral hogs on public land. Also, INDIVIDUALS HUNTING FOR FERAL HOGS INTERFERE WITH CURRENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES BY REFUGE STAFF AND THE FERAL HOG TASK FORCE. Even with the refuge's regulation of incidental take of feral hogs, there were still an alarming number of hogs killed on the refuge this year.

#### QUOTE OF THE DAY!

"COMPLETE ERADICATION IS NOT POSSIBLE IN MOST SYSTEMS, AND CERTAINLY NO AT MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WHERE THE AREA IS LARGE."

Funded by Missouri Department of Conservation.

MINGO WILDLIFE REFUGE WILD HOG RESEARCH

March 14th, 2014

2013 Site specific control strategies for feral hogs on Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. \$ 14,700. Funded, Missouri Department of Conservation.

Information will never see published by Missouri Agency Propaganda Ministry, Lobbyist puppets website and or the complicit and ignorant of the outdoors mainstream Missouri News Media.

So, let me get this straight –

Research was funded on Federal Ground by the Taxpayers of the State of Missouri in which showed that trapping was a method needed but not the most or only efficient method of population control and that eradication was not possible.

Then the Missouri Feral Hog Task Force who's leadership is still in charge today – decided to NOT to PUBLICIZE the results, and in turn advertise eradication not control, and to restrict hunting /shooting/use of dogs for killing of Feral Hogs on 79,000 acres to 23.3% & 54.8% effectiveness research proven method two years later in 2016.

Now pushes the Mark Twain National Forest to do the same on 1.5 million acres 5 years later.

I guess Deputy Director AJ worst nightmare has become true – Feral Hogs have gotten value – Only problem it is to the FERAL HOG TASK FORCE!

Just as a FYI – Numbers have been proven over and over and over again.

HUNTING - Billy Higginbotham - Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in a published video “One of the many tools is hunting, that can kill 24% of the population.”

MISSOURI TRAPPING – At least they are getting better statewide. LOL

2017 Wild Pigs Removed 6,567 for entire state – USFS MTNF – 20,000 to 30,000 population (32% to 21%)

2018 Wild Pigs Removed 9,300 - USFS MTNF – 30,000 to 40,000

(23% TO 31%)

Sorry back to research. ROFLMAO – I LOVE LIFE!

March 14th, 2014

2013 Site specific control strategies for feral hogs on Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. \$ 14,700. Funded, Missouri Department of Conservation.

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, our preliminary data show the population has grown from about 30 animals 2 years ago, to roughly 1800 animals today.

(OH MY GOSH) But that was not in the official management plan published to the public – MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNTING CHAPTER of VISITOR SERVICES PLAN U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Midwest Region 2014 Mingo is 21,592 acres and has a population of wild hogs of 400-700

Complete eradication is not possible in most systems, and certainly not at MNWR where the area is large

In this project, I supplement control efforts already underway (aerial gunning, Judas pigs, dogs and shooting) through the MDC and USFWS with long term, less costly control efforts (traps and snares, opportunistic shooting). In conjunction with the MDC and USFWS, we have established 8 corral traps (4 rooster gate, 4 C-gate) in each of four target areas on MNWR, as well as a trap line of hog snares in each area.

Morphological data (head and body length, tail length, hind foot length, ear length, girth, sex and reproductive status are recorded for each removed animal. Hair samples are collected for genetic assays to determine the population of origin and if deliberate releases of new animals into the population occur.

The USFWS has employed a professional hunter with dogs to shoot feral swine on MNWR for 6 weeks.

Similarly, the MDC has an aerial gunning team that has been deployed on MNWR during periods of snow cover in an effort to remove large numbers of animals opportunistically. We have been provided with all costs for personnel, helicopter expenses, ammunition etc. for these activities, as well as numbers of animals removed, and can thus also compute cost per hog removed.

**NOW WE ALL KNOW WHERE THIS NUMBER CAME FROM!!!**

“2014 Missouri Study Aerial shooting at \$296 per pig, Jump said.  
Brad Jump, Springfield, Missouri’s feral swine coordinator for USDA - Wildlife Services.”

5 years later MDC quoted that it only cost 32 to 35 dollar to kill each of the 127 wild hogs at Mingo in 2019 –

Man cost of everything has gone down

  
Jackson, Missouri

83

**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 5:08 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** The Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order

The Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order and INTERAGENCY efforts to eliminate feral hogs from Missouri.

The Forest Service proposal should DECLINE to implement a closure. Instead of adding restriction it should implement every method of wild hog control.

Permanent closures require the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to extensively document the rationale for the decision, how the Department responded to concerns raised through public comments and demonstrate that closing the land was necessary.

Sonny Perdue a long-time supporter of hunters is going to close 1.5 million acres in Missouri to hunters trying to control the population of Feral Hogs?

Because the Missouri Department of Conservation said thru their EXTENSIVE research and scientific UNDOCUMENTED studies that they will be the first state to eradicate hogs.

It really comes down to a statement.

Missouri Department of Conservation "MDC" is 100% RIGHT and the rest of the country are WRONG!

Let's start with your own statement.

USDA MTNF – Quote: "Presently, feral swine populations are well established in many counties in southern and central Missouri"

Here some extensive documented research. REAL Feral Hog EXPERTS outside MISSOURI Tell a different story.

FACT 1 - DOCUMENTED – To control Wild Hog Population it requires all methods be used Trapping, Snaring, Hunting, Hunting with Dogs, and Shooting at Night using Thermals

Every Department, Biologist and Scientist states that That 70 percent of the feral hog population needs to be removed yearly to keep populations of feral hogs from increasing.

However, a Mark Twain National Forest publication Forest Reflections 2017, page 10 released in June 2018, projects numbers at "an estimated 20,000 – 30,000 feral hogs in the State of Missouri."

Missouri Department of Conservation 2017 Wild Pigs Removed 6,567 for entire state along Wild Pig Reports in 30 Missouri Counties that means MDC and USDA Aphis ONLY KILLED 32% to 21% in the entire state of Missouri – ALL documented

**NO. 1 - MDC is 100% RIGHT and the rest of the STATE's experts are WRONG!**

Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina Biologist, Scientists and Agency who says they cannot

Can I wipe out a hog population through hunting or trapping?

Quote "The feral hog has managed to survive, adapt, and increase their numbers despite attempts at population control. While it is possible to keep population in check with continued controls of 70 plus percent killed annually, it is highly unlikely to eradicate a hog population within established range."

**NO. 2 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and the the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is WRONG!**

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: Article - April 9th, 2018 -

QUOTE: Every hunting tool in his bag to kill pigs: dried corn bait; thermal-imaging scopes; dogs; and traps.  
<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/hunting-the-wild-hog/> <<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/hunting-the-wild-hog/>>

&

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - 2018 Feral Hog Hunting Regulations and Information  
<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/2018%20Hagerman%20Feral%20Hog%20Hunt.pdf>

**NO. 3 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist is WRONG!**

Billy Higginbotham  
Professor and Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

One of the many tools is hunting, that can kill 24% of the population.

<https://youtu.be/OtUOaDr01vs> <<https://youtu.be/OtUOaDr01vs>>

**NO. 4 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are WRONG!**

Successful Wild Pig Eradication Utilize Trained Dogs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is in the business of providing research-based information, and the research continues to affirm the validity of trained dogs among the tools in our wild pig management toolbox.

I am currently unaware of a single successful wild pig eradication study that did not utilize trained dogs in some form; whether through hunting drives, tracking or through direct pursuit and capture (McIlroy and Saillard 1989; Caley and

Ottley 1995; Schuyler et al. 2001; Parkes et al. 2010; Muir and McEwen 2007; McCann and Garcelon 2008; Scillitani et al. 2010). This is not to say that successful eradication without dogs is impossible, but rather to evidence that effective wild pig management often requires the use of all available tools.

**NO. 5 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services are WRONG!**

Feral Hog Biology, Impacts and  
Eradication Techniques  
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services New Mexico  
November 1, 2010

In the United States, the most common methods of feral hog eradication include box trapping, corral trapping, ground hunting, aerial operations, snaring and hunting with dogs. Each strategy has merit depending on objectives, landscape, local regulations and funding. Each strategy is variable, both in cost and number of hogs that may be removed at any one time by its application.

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TRIP WIRE METHOD vs REMOTE TRIGGER AND CAMERA METHOD.

8,000-dollar traps with Cell Phone Camera and Remote Activated Gate.

But the Missouri reality is much different, most of the remote areas in Wayne, Madison, and Bollinger just to name a few - have no cell phone service, so they MUST use TRIP WIRE METHOD – DON'T HERE THAT IN THE NEWS.

MISSOURI TRIP WIRE METHOD is making TRAP SHY FERAL HOGS.

16 Wild Hog are inside a trap and one of them trips the wire and closes gate. OOPS 32 hogs in sounder that's only 50% and 8 of those are pregnant females, now become trap shy as the other 16 squeal in distress! 4th Smartest Animal just got free lesson about traps.

NO. 8 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and JAGER PRO founder is wrong.

Just ask JAGER PRO™ founder, Rod Pinkston - Based on their high-volume reputation, they were awarded the largest feral swine removal contract ever paid by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division by successfully removing 624 pigs in 76 events – Which method is the most effective – Trip Wire or Remote Controlled.

NO. 9 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and The North American Wildlife Conservation Model is wrong.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MODEL - POPULATION REDUCTIONS or maintenance at appropriate levels are a clear case of HUNTERS acting as partners in wildlife management.

While the word management is used for wildlife and ignores invasive animals, someone has forgotten to tell the feral hog that it is a living, breathing, eating and breeding wild animal which the population needs controlled.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MODEL - In some areas, overpopulation of Wildlife increases because LANDOWNER RESTRICT HUNTING. (MDC act as Landowners of MDC ground and restrict hunting over 79,000 acres in Southern Missouri and the Wild Hog population has increased.

NO. 10 - DOCUMENTED MDC is 100% RIGHT - If helicopters are killing the last few hogs why after 5 years the same areas are coming up again, again and again?) (If helicopters are killing the last few hogs why after 5 years the same areas are coming up again?)

2014 Missouri Study Aerial shooting at \$296 per pig, Jump said.  
Brad Jump, Springfield, Missouri's feral swine coordinator for USDA - Wildlife Services.

MDC STAFF QUOTE: "Helicopter is useful in areas where terrain makes it difficult to set large traps, or where hogs have learned to avoid them. A helicopter gunner also is effective at KILLING THE LAST FEW HOGS in area that have managed to avoid being trapped.

Helicopter flying low overhead would tend to make feral hogs bolt to escape the noise and obviously the sound of the helicopter will scatter them,

2013 - The Missouri Department of Conservation will conduct a one-day aerial operation to control feral hogs in Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. MDC Staff Quote: With traps, you might get 15 hogs. If we can get out with the helicopter and get 40 or 50 in one day, so that's so much more efficient."

2013 - Aerial hog hunt yielded exactly 1 dead hog at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.

2015 - MDC HELICOPTER killed 72 feral hogs in the area of Bell Mountain Wilderness.

2015 – MDC flew over parts of Iron and Reynolds counties; the gunner shot 33 wild hogs that day.

2015 - MDC's five helicopter missions between mid January and late March yielded 138 dead pigs in Missouri.

2015 - MDC helicopter 7 were killed in Vernon County on the first flight of the season,

2015 - MDC helicopter in Hickory County killed 17 pigs

2015 - MDC helicopter kills 9 during a flight over Wayne and Butler counties.

2016 - Five helicopter flights last year killed 225 feral hogs in different parts of the state.

2017 - MDC helicopter gunner fails to kill ANY feral hogs at Current River site

2018 - USDA APHIS Killed 103 hogs in 5 days of flying at Bell Mountain Wilderness and Rock Pile Wilderness - December 21st, 2018 – AFTER FLIGHT FERAL SOW KILLED by “PUBLIC HUNTER” on BELL MOUNTAIN and appeared to have Milk

2019 - February 11-15, 2019 for invasive feral hog control operations. They killed 127 hogs and I have video proof the day after and days after that multiple dozens of hogs and huge hogs' still on Mingo.

NO. 11 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT - Why are the no hunting areas still have high population of wild hogs, year after, year?)

If trapping is the ONLY method successful and trapping entire sounders. Then all these areas would be Wild Hog Free since they have had no hunting and are under complete control of Interagency Feral Hog Eradication.

JOHNSON SHUT INNS STATE PARK,  
FORT LENOARD WOOD,  
BIG SPRING NATIONAL PARK,  
CURRENT RIVER NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY, SAM A. BAKER STATE PARK, DUCK CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA,  
WAPPAPPELLO LAKE PEAK'S RANCH – Feral Hogs still exist – Has to be the most watched Conservation Area in Missouri since Elk have been introduced in 2011 Missouri.

MINGO NATIOAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NO. 12 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and Simple math is wrong.

Currently there are 58 government trappers for 2019, but only had 28 Feral Hog Trappers in Missouri for 79,434 acres of public land that means each government trapper are coving 2,836 acres of ground which requires a STATE to spend \$2,495,915 dollars to catch 9,300 hogs for 2008, that is \$266.00 per hog killed and \$89,139.82 per government trapper “Trapper, truck, supplies, etc. etc”

That does not include Private acreage!!!!

(1 1/2 months of no trapping on any public land in Southern Missouri during Turkey Season)  
(4 months of no trapping on any public land in Southern Missouri during Deer Season).

Real Simple – Mark Twain has approx. 1,500,000 acres in the state. To trap 1,500 acres a piece on Mark Twain alone will require 1,000 Government Trappers at an estimated cost of what the state already spends for 2018 will be \$89,139,821 that's 89 Million Dollars to sustain trapper, equipment to cover 1.5 Million acres.

If each trapper gets one fancy drop trap and electronics for each. That's 1000 x \$8,000 each for trap. That is 8 Million in traps alone.

REALLY that's all fantasy it will be more like 100 trappers for the entire state of Missouri.

NO. 13 - DOCUMENTED - MDC is 100% RIGHT and I am 100% Wrong!!!!

PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNER IN MISSOURI FOR FERAL HOG ERADICATION ADJACENT TO MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION GROUND and example of what landowners will experiences next to Mark Twain National Forest.

1. 262 Days Report - Don't Shoot - Told by multiple times MDC employees only hunt part of my property during deer season to trap, and confirmed later in turkey season that mean only half 40 acres.
2. Then told me to stop Reporting in April. Still did nothing on Public Land it was coming from.
3. November 26th Federal Trapper Showed Up  
34 days of USDA Aphis Hog Trapper - Gave Up
4. Gave up Last Half of Bow Season first time in 30 plus years and gave up half of trapping allow hog trapper full access with no interference by me or others.
5. February 18th - Built my own trap  
95 days
6. 2 daylight photo of hogs, 1 in 262 days
7. May 15th Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.  
May 18th Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. - Killed 215 lb. Wild Hog  
May 23rd Hunted 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Killed 200 lb. Wild Hog  
Hunting with Thermals, was the first hog two hogs I have ever seen in person while hunting!

JACKSON, MISSOURI

84

**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 6:33 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Closure of Hog hunting on Federal Land in MO

As a avid hog hunter, outdoorsman and life long resident of Missouri I don't think the closure of hog hunting on Federal lands is a wise decision and constitutional. I've personally killed or helped with the killing of 22 hogs from the first of the year til the beginning of turkey season. Last year it cost the tax payer \$265 a hog for government agencies to eliminate hogs. That's a savings of \$5,830 dollars for the tax payer and I'm not even done for the year. That's not counting the 16 fetuses in the sows I've killed this year. If you remove the hog hunters from the landscape this will have a positive growth on the population for many reasons. This time of year when foliage is thick the hogs don't need to come to the bait (although they might) poured out by trappers and hunters with and without dogs are an opportunity to eliminate these hogs in this time of year. Stopping deer, turkey and small game hunters from harvesting these hogs deer they're seasons like MDC discourages is missed opportunities to knock these numbers down. These opportunities are to many to number and range in the thousands throughout the year. Of the 22 hogs I've killed all of them have come off public property or private property that borders public ground that the hogs are using. I get calls from farmers and landowners who don't trust the government trappers or have been failed by the government trappers to come help with there hog problems. Many places I hunt these hogs the govt trappers have never been or know of. They're spread thin and only so much they can do legally. Although I know of some that still trap and bait during hunting seasons which is breaking the MDC "rules" by placing the public in a position to hunt these baited areas without their knowing. The disposal of the hogs is disgraceful and a shame to pile them in the woods and within a stones throw distance from water sources is despicable. If a private citizen was caught doing that they would be reprimanded beyond belief. The closing of this federal land to hog hunters is straight UNCONSTITUTIONAL. This land is bought and paid for by the American people including hog hunters. Many who have fought for and served this country. If this continues where will it stop? After all the hunting rights are stripped away? Who will you blame next for the hog problem the deer, turkey and small game hunters interfering with the trapping?? These are our God given rights not rights given to us by the state. I've been to places the MDC claim hogs are eliminated and kill them this year. They spread rumors and lies to continue they're agenda and it is not for the best of Missouri. I hope you strongly reconsider this decision. You can contact me at [REDACTED] and I will be more then happy to talk. Thanks, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

45

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 11:39 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting on National Forest lands

I am in favor of closing Mark Twain National Forest to the hunting of feral hogs.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 12:08 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Please ban feral hog hunting!

Please do not let a small group of feral hog doggers stop the only realistic solution to Missouri's hog problem. Twenty years of legal hunting has done nothing more than to make the problem worse. Let's give the biologists a chance at their solution. I understand that the dog groups are trying to portray this as you taking away their rights, but I like to think the rest of us have a right to expect our national forest to be managed the best way science knows.

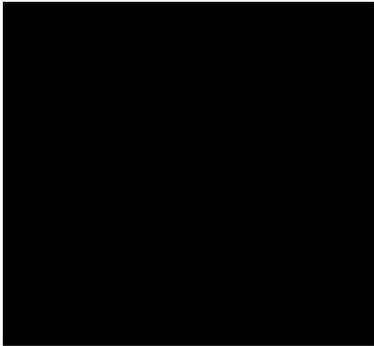
Thank you.

(482)



**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 10:52 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Ban on Wild Hog Hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest

I support the proposed ban on wild hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest.





**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Opinion on hogs

Shutting down mark Twain National Forest to killing hogs would be recipe for an explosive growth in hog populations, many of the areas the hogs will go to are inaccessible by vehicle. no trapper will pack a trap piece by piece down into a holler and then pack bait in and then, pack the trap back out when they are done!! Dog hunters will go where their dogs are no matter how rugged the terrain is, and the thousands of deer hunters that are going to be deep into the woods will see them why not let them shoot the hogs?

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 9:08 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed Feral Hog Hunting Ban on Mark Twain Forest Land

Hello:

My name is [REDACTED] I have property that joins the Forest Service about [REDACTED] miles north of Doniphan, MO. I have seen a few hogs in that area, but not that many. I personally do not hunt the hogs, but if I see hogs while I'm hiking or hunting other game, I would like to still be able to shoot them legally.

I am against the proposal banning shooting feral hogs on FS land.

I understand not wanting anyone shooting hogs near where the trappers are working, but there aren't enough trappers. Plus, the cost of hiring trappers and other agency resources is not cost effective if it's the only allowed method to eradicate the hogs.

I believe a coordinated effort with trapping in certain areas, a proposed bounty on the hogs, and shoot on sight if seen while hunting other game is a better game plan.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:47 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hogs!!!

To whom it may concern...

I've hiked, hunted, trapped, horsebacked and lived in and close to some of the most beautiful spots in Missouri. I've seen plenty of wild hogs and plenty of hogs traps. None of the hog traps have I seen however deep in the woods of mark twain forest. Where the majority of hogs are pushed too. I've talked to many land owners and farmers. Traps work very well. Usually one good time in the spot it is located. For 10+ years I've seen MDC's traps located in places and left to rot.... never being used again. Normally hogs living close to or around farms are there till they are killed or ran off. Ran off buy hunters thinning out the groups! Neither hunting/ running dogs or trapping is a fix to the problem. I've worked every major state containing hogs. Even some in texas where they have a town festival for hog hunting. By banning the hunters who do it FREE and make an effort themselves as a heritage and love for hunting you will save NO land from being destroyed as well as NO money saved. Scratch that idea. Ask and neighboring state with a hog problem. I have and the better solution is to partner up. Sure put a tax on the wild hogs. A yearly tag or however it seems fit. Gain some money back geared toward the population control. But dont ban them from it. That's a solution not thought through. Set aside weekends where MDC and hunters can work together. Make events and fundraising to get the counties and communities together and stop treating it as the MDC will eradicated the hogs and that's the only way. Not one employed hog trapped has a love for the hunters who HARVEST and eat the pigs.

I've ate wild hogs for years and have seen zero effect on the wild meat. Effects on both ends is your best option. Thank you for your time. Sorry for the poor grammar!



[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 10:57 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain national forrest

To whom it may concern,

As a life long residence of Carter County Missouri and an outdoorsman i have experienced MTNF ground my whole life, from hunting, trail riding, hiking and other outdoor activities. I have saw first hand the feral hog damage done to private land, MTNF, ONSR and conservation ground. It is evident that the MDC trapping methods are not controlling the problem. I can first hand tell you there are lots of wild hogs in areas that are not accessible via motorized vehicle and only by foot these areas are rough and rugged. Trapping will not be done in these areas due to limited access and it being feasible. I have been on hog hunts with dogs and we walk literally a mile from the accessible road area to were the hogs were caught and dispatched. Shutting down Tax Payer public land to hog hunting and "government trapping" only is a mistake for the resource, the land, the available areas for hound hunting. Private hunting of wild hogs is paid for by the hunters themselves and does not cost the tax payer like government employed trappers/hunters. It is going to take a combination of trapping and hunting to help keep the wild hog numbers down. I have had an ex hog trapping employee of the state specifically tell me that trapping alone does not work and that all methods should be used in the control of the wild hogs. Shutting down the MTNF is only going to increase the wild hog numbers.

Thank you

[REDACTED]



**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 11:12 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

We kill 15 to 50 hogs a year on foot just 4 people , That's not counting all the piglets unborn that are in the Sows we kill And we put in the freezer

The best I can figure the 9300 hogs that has been killed last year with the cost of a proximately a million four Which puts you about a \$150 per pig that are not consumed by humans Most of the time left where there shot to Go to waste. We kill all sizes and eat all of them I hear about people getting sick from them but that is because people do not know how to cook them. Feral hogs are the cheapest organic meat available in Missouri. Post large areas when trapping them to keep hunters , Hikers sightseers ... out of areas while trapping is going on. Educate people on proper cooking techniques and quit giving them the scare tactic. It's a proven fact that the conservation and government cannot do it by themselves. Other States have already said this. That have the same problem as us. The conservation has no ideal how many feral hogs are killed by others. When talking to them all they say is you're just trophy hunting. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting, I hope it's not like all the other conservation meetings where the decision has already been made. We all need to work together with this problem.



**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forrest Feral Swine Ban

To whom it may concern,

As a Missouri resident landowner, hunter, and one who takes full advantage of the Missouri Mark Twain National Forrest, I would like to voice my concern on the recent MDC proposed closure of taking feral swine, and utilizing the trapping only method on 1,500,000 acres of Mark Twain National Forest.

First off, any invasive species does not need statewide protection from an agency claiming they can do it on their own. Feral swine are one of the smartest animals that roam the US today, and can and will adapt to any pressure that is placed upon them. They will adapt and overcome all trapping methods in a short period of time. If trapping truly was the only method successful in taking feral swine, there wouldn't be any left in heavy populated states such as Texas, where live market is making trappers a full income. If one would look, you can see that many people are employed through the MDC currently to tackle the feral swine issue, what person would want to work themselves out of a job and income? Many people look at MDC as being non-trust worthy with their statements when they are making money off an invasive species, and not wanting anyone to help with the removal of them. Many hunters do it for free, not costing tax payers a dime.

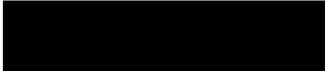
Second, the Missouri Mark Twain National Forrest has rough, challenging terrain, that allows animals to escape all human presence. How will a trapping only method go to reduce populations in those areas? One can look at Johnson Shut Inns, Mingo National wildlife refuge, and Peck Ranch, Big Springs National Park, to just name a few, and see that the trapping done by MDC is not working, and populations are on the rise, with trappers working vigorously to drop populations. With trapping only in place, populations are still increasing. Ariel gunning is trying to be utilized in regions as well, with not much success. Mark Twain National Forrest ground, once again, is solid timber regions, rough terrain, making gunning an un-successful method to be used. If the MDC would have all of their owned and managed ground free or at least in a population reduction of feral swine, I personally would be in favor of a trapping only method. But as it currently is, feral swine populations are increasing and thriving in the area currently banned to all hunting or pursuing.

One thing that MDC refuses to look at is the amount of feral swine that are taken annually by deer hunters, turkey hunters, pig hunters with hounds, coyote hunters, and small game hunters. By restricting the taking of them, MDC will have to step up and cover the amount of pigs trapped annually plus the amount killed by hunters just to stay equal that, which is currently being killed today. As a landowner, the only place I have a problem with feral hogs, are on a working cattle farm bordered to MDC owned and managed ground in Gatewood Missouri. All other farms are free of feral hog damage, but at night the hogs come off the MDC ground onto my farm and destroy many acres of pasture. With a full closure of hunting hogs, Missouri will be insured that we will never rid hogs from this state. You cannot build a 2.5-million-acre refuge and expect populations to decline in any way.

I hope this does not fall on deaf ears and common sense prevails in this situation. Feral Swine needs to be killed on sight, killed frequently and ALL methods need to be utilized at full extent. Trapping, hunting, use of dogs, use of thermal

vision rifles, every method needs used. Missouri has the largest management tool at its disposal with hunters, why would that need to be eliminated? Don't shoot, report is not working, and will continue to not work.

Sincerely,



94

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 6:45 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine

To whom it may concern,  
The feral swine population has grown at a staggering rate and hunting has proven to be ineffective. According to 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation residents and nonresidents spent \$2.7 billion on wildlife recreation in Missouri. Of that total, trip-related expenditures were \$894 million and 77% equipment expenditures totaled \$1.4 billion. The remaining \$389 million was spent on licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and other items. The state could use its resources to invest in Missouri's economy by turning it back over to Missouri residents. According to this survey there are 495 thousand Missouri hunters, in an attempt to eradicate these pest the state of Missouri could use these hunters and implement a bounty program on all hogs that are taken by trapping methods only. Traps could be provided by the state with a gps tracker and assign tracts on public land so there is no overlap in harvest areas. Fear of hunters releasing hogs? Vet all harvesters backgrounds, anyone with a hunting violation or criminal background would not be considered and would have to sign a contractual agreement stating they would use trapping methods only and use all there efforts to eradicate all hogs and agree with the USDA's mission statement. As for the meat, all harvesters would submit the meat for testing before claiming per mission statement/agreement, once the test are permissible by usda standards the meat could be claimed by the harvesters or delivered to a processing plant to be donated to a charity, kitchen, homeless shelter or family in need.  
Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
concerned Missourian

95

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:56 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** My country, my land

**Categories:** Orange category

I gave up years of my life and a foot for my country. I find it absurd that the government thinks it has the power to take food out of the people's mouths. No state should be allowed to stop hunting on public land. The wildlife belongs to the people, not the government. Thank you.

[Redacted]

9546  
Okm

a52QvbygnNBabBhHKxuyI8s%3D&reserved=0>

9/6

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:12 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog Hunting Ban

I am writing to support the proposed ban on wild hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest. I am familiar with the habitat destruction and disease issues associated with feral hogs and I support all state and federal efforts to eliminate them from Missouri.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

97

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:32 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild Hog Hunt Ban

I support the proposed ban on wild hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

98

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:41 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hogs

I support the proposed ban on feral hog hunting on federal lands.

[REDACTED]

99

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 8:47 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** I support the Ban on wild hog hunting on Mark Twain national forest. [REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

100

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:04 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest Lands

I strongly favor the banning of wild hog hunting on forest service lands. Wild hog hunting has been proven ineffective in eliminating this nuisance pest that pollutes pristine streams, competes with native wildlife for acorns & other wild foods, eats the eggs of common ground nesting birds, carries diseases that can infect domesticated herds & causes a variety of other problems.

Since wild hog hunting is not currently banned, it only encourages illegal stocking of this nuisance on public lands. Banning wild hog hunting will help to eliminate this incentive & eradication methods currently under way to get rid of this threat to native wildlife & plant communities will hopefully succeed over time.

[REDACTED]