

101

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:12 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Freal hog hunting ban

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

[Redacted]  
Jefferson City  
[Redacted]

102

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:22 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Proposed ban on hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest

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

[Redacted]

103

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:24 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hogs

I support the ban on hunting hogs on federal lands.

Sent via my Samsung Galaxy, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

104



**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:28 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hogs

I support a ban on wild hog hunting.



105

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 11:03 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild hogs.

I have saw first hand the "state" trie" to trap wild hogs. It doesn't work. Let the ppl. Who know what they are doing "dog hunters" have the chance to thin them out! Yes, I said thin because once you get them, you have them. Good luck whatever you decide...

106

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:37 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild hog hunting

I concur with the desire to restrict hog hunting on national forest lands, however, I think hunters, while pursuing other game, should be able to shoot a hog if the opportunity presents itself. My recommendation would be:  
"The pursuit and attempt to take feral hogs is illegal on land owned and managed by the USFS, except may be taken incidentally while hunting other game, by the holder of a valid permit during the legal season for that game." I'm sure the actual regulation would need some wordsmithing, but you get the idea. Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this.

Taneyville, Mo.

Sent from my iPhone

107

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 10:06 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hogs

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

Kansas City, Missouri

Sent from my iPhone

108

[Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 10:26 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog

I support the ban on wild hog hunting on National Forest land.

[Redacted]  
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

[Redacted]

109

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 12:06 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
[Redacted]  
**Subject:** End Feral Hog Hubting

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

Allowing this to continue on federal lands will only prolong the problem. Trapping the hogs where they are causing problems is the most efficient method.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

110

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 5:21 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting

My wife and I strongly support banning feral hog hunting on U.S. Forest Service lands in Missouri. We believe banning hunting is necessary to the eventual scientific eradication of feral hogs, and their destructive nature.

[REDACTED]  
Mokane, MO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

M

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 6:42 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting Ban

I support the proposed ban on the hunting of feral hogs on National Forest lands in Missouri.

--

[REDACTED]  
Jefferson City, MO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

112

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 8:08 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** NO wild hogs in Missouri

I strongly support the proposed ban on wild hog hunting on U.S. Forest Service Lands!

(113)

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 8:19 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild hog hunting

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

Sent from my iPad

114



**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting ban

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



115

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

I support the hunting ban on wild hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Get Outlook for iOS

[http://ms01-filip.../Outlook?data=01%7C01%7C%7C79ff...2B3B%2FVIJ8](#)

116

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** BAN hunting of feral swine on Mark Twain National Forest

I VERY MUCH support the proposed BAN of hunting of feral swine on the Mark Twain National Forest.

I VERY MUCH encourage the USDA Forest Service (Mark Twain NF) to join forces with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in its program of mass eradication of feral swine.

I VERY MUCH support USDA Forest Service and MDC to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law anyone found releasing swine.

Jefferson City

117

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**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 11:16 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild Hog Hunting on US Forest Service Lands

To whom it may concern:

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

Thank you



**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine comments

ATTN: Feral Swine Comment  
Mark Twain National Forest  
401 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Rolla, MO 65401

June 7, 2019

I am writing to urge you not to prohibit hog hunting and shooting on National Forest land in Missouri. My wife and I own 800 acres in northwest Ripley County in Missouri where the feral hogs are very present. We are surrounded by the Mark Twain National Forest, and closing the hog hunting will have a very adverse effect on our ability to control the population.

We first noticed hogs on our property about 5 years ago. We set 2 traps with trip gates on our property and we were able to catch 9 hogs in 2 years. After catching some hogs, we then had pictures of hogs lying at the gates but would not go into the bait. They became very trap wise. After two years the hogs kept multiplying and we were unable to control them. We then found some guys that had dogs, and we had them come in and we were able to catch 5 during the first 2 hunts. We decided the hogs were going to continue to be a problem, so we started getting some dogs of our own. The first year my wife and I with dogs and stand hunting were able to catch and kill 81 hogs on private and public land. This year we have caught and killed 50. These are actual numbers! We are not counting unborn pigs in the pregnant sows or allowing for generational growth based on the sows and female piglets caught and killed. We have been able to control the affect hogs are having on our property by dogging and stand hunting. Even using very conservative numbers, one old man and his wife have made quite an impact on hog numbers! If only half were sows we have managed to eliminate several hundred hogs from the population. We have been having more problems finding hogs in the usual areas, so I am inclined to believe that we have made a significant impact on their numbers.

I urge you not to listen to the lies being spread by MDC. I am a law abiding citizen and follow the game laws, but I am very upset with MDC over their stance on this issue. Hunters have and can make a huge impact on controlling the hog population!

1. They say that dogging and hunting will scatter the hogs, making trapping less effective. While this is partially true, dog hunters will catch several out of the sounder initially but will then continue to follow them and continue to catch more wherever they go. I guess shooting at them from helicopters do not scatter them! How do trappers intend to trap hogs in the Irish Wilderness and other remote areas where they cannot haul their traps? Hogs will simply move into these remote areas where they cannot trap and multiply and then spread back out. Hunters pursue the hogs into these areas where trappers cannot be effective.

2. MDC says they will trap the entire sounder. While this might work with radio- controlled traps, it will not work with trip traps which is the only kind that will work in the remote areas where cell phone signals are nonexistent! Most of the Mark Twain Forest is very remote with no signal. I have seen the traps being used by MDC and they are the same traps I used with limited success. They are NOT catching entire sounders and never will with trip traps!

3. I watched a broadcast from MDC where they said they had done DNA testing and the hogs in southern Missouri came from Arkansas and Texas. They went on to say that since the hogs came from there that they had to be hauled in and released since "hogs don't fly". I wonder if it's possible the hogs migrated north from Arkansas and Texas? I wonder

MS  
CAN

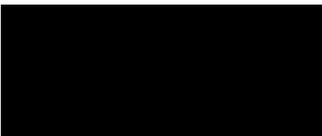
who released the armadillos? I would like to suggest that if armadillos can migrate north, is it not possible for the hogs, which have a lot wider range than armadillos, also migrate north. While it is possible that some hogs have escaped from enclosures or released, I do not personally know of a single hog that has been released. I just don't like being lied to, and treated like an idiot by MDC and their propaganda lie spreading.

One thing that we all agree on is that feral hogs are a problem. I'm not sure why MDC is taking this stance, since anyone with any common sense and several studies have shown that this approach will not work!

If we want to somewhat control the hog population, we need to work together. Hog doggers can't hunt when the temperatures get too hot, and trappers can't bait during hunting seasons. Doggers don't hunt near high traffic highways and highly populated areas, and trappers can't trap the remote areas that dogs can hunt. We should be able to work together to solve this problem, but MDC must be honest and realistic. I'm not sure if it is about money or control that has prompted MDC to take this stance, but if these policies are adopted by the Forest Service the damage to personal property and Forest Service land will get much worse.

This is an opportunity for the Forest Service to stand with the people and develop working relationships with the landowners, hunters, and those concerned about the resources. Very few, if anyone, that live in the areas affected by feral hogs, support MDC and their position on hog control. Please choose the right side and stand with the citizens on this issue by NOT PROHIBITING hog hunting on Forest Service land. Together we can control the population and minimize the damage they are causing not only to the land, but also the wildlife.

Thank you,



119

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 2:16 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hogs

June 7, 2019

I am writing to urge you not to prohibit hog hunting and shooting on National Forest land in Missouri. My spouse and I own several hundred acres in Ripley County in Missouri. We are surrounded by the Mark Twain National Forest, and closing the hog hunting will have a very adverse effect on our ability to control the population. MDC is not being truthful about the facts on hog hunting! Obviously they are getting money for their hog eradication efforts, so that is blinding them to the truth. Here are the facts:

1. They say that dogging and hunting will scatter the hogs, making trapping less effective. While this is partially true, dog hunters will catch several out of the sounder initially but will then continue to follow them and continue to catch more wherever they go. I guess shooting at them from helicopters do not scatter them! How do trappers intend to trap hogs in the Irish Wilderness and other remote areas where they cannot haul their traps? Hogs will simply move into these remote areas where they cannot trap and multiply and then spread back out. Hunters pursue the hogs into these areas where trappers cannot be effective.

2. MDC says they will trap the entire sounder. While this might work with radio-controlled traps, it will not work with trip traps which is the only kind that will work in the remote areas where cell phone signals are nonexistent! Most of the Mark Twain Forest is very remote with no signal. I have seen the traps being used by MDC and they are the same traps we have used with limited success. They are NOT catching entire sounders and never will with trip traps! We tried the same traps that they use and over a two year period only trapped 9 hogs! We have game cam pics of hogs laying in front of the trap doors and not going in after trapping some. They are one of the most intelligent mammals on this earth and they continually adapt to their surroundings. It's going to take everyone working together to even make a dent in this animal! They run like a deer, can jump over 4 feet when scared, have the endurance of a coyote, and are ranked as one of the smartest mammals on this earth.

3. We watched a broadcast from MDC where they said they had done DNA testing and the hogs in southern Missouri came from Arkansas and Texas. They went on to say that since the hogs came from there that they had to be hauled in and released since "hogs don't fly". I wonder if it's possible the hogs migrated north from Arkansas and Texas? I wonder who released the armadillos? I would like to suggest that if armadillos can migrate north, is it not possible for the hogs, which have a lot wider range than armadillos, also migrate north. While it is possible that some hogs have escaped from enclosures or released, I do not personally know of a single hog that has been released. I just don't like being lied to, and treated like an idiot by MDC and their propaganda lie spreading.

One thing that we all agree on is that feral hogs are a problem. I'm not sure why MDC is taking this stance, since anyone with any common sense and several studies have shown that this approach will not work!

If we want to somewhat control the hog population, we need to work together. Hog doggers can't hunt when the temperatures get too hot, and trappers can't bait during hunting seasons. Doggers don't hunt near high traffic highways and highly populated areas, and trappers can't trap the remote areas that dogs can hunt. Plus there are thousands of deer hunters in the woods in the fall but MDC is saying don't shoot, just report. We should be able to work together to solve this problem, but MDC must be honest and realistic. I'm not sure if it is about money or control that has prompted MDC to take this stance, but if these policies are adopted by the Forest Service the damage to personal property and Forest Service land will get much worse.

This is an opportunity for the Forest Service to stand with the people and develop working relationships with the landowners, hunters, and those concerned about the resources. Very few, if anyone, that live in the areas affected by feral hogs, support MDC and their position on hog control. Please choose the right side and stand with the citizens on this issue by NOT PROHIBITING hog hunting on Forest Service land. Together we can control the population and minimize the damage they are causing not only to the land, but also the wildlife.

Thank you,



120

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting

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

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

121

**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 10:01 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting

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

122

**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 9:07 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine comment  
**Attachments:** feral hog letter.docx

**Importance:** Low

Sent from Mail

sdata=JnjKk3qsUqN%2FipIVXuTJRocRNXWuYUGZG1hZuhv2Y6M%3D&reserved=U> for Windows 10

123



**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 1:22 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hogs

In regards to closing federal lands to all feral hog hunting outside of government and partner groups organized removal efforts.

I am 100% in favour of this action. A growing hog hunting culture is leading to a growing feral hog population . Instead of reducing feral hog numbers the hunting culture is promoting higher numbers .

We do not need feral hogs being released and nurtured on the federal lands in our state.

Thank you for proposing this action.



Huntsville Mo.  
A strong supporter of Missouri native wildlife .

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



&reserved=0>

124

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2019 2:12 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Forest Closure Order

I support the forest closure order on MTNF and the agencies feral hog elimination plan.

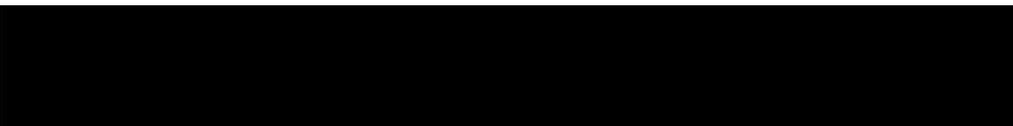
[Redacted]

125

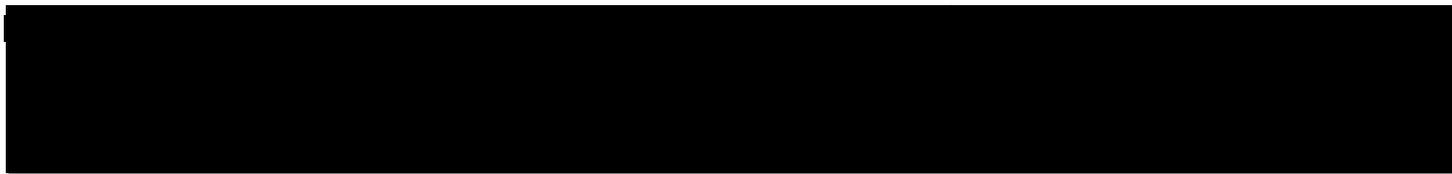
[REDACTED] om>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 9, 2019 9:44 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine hunting

My name is [REDACTED] I am emailing you concerning the feral swine hunting debate. I realize this email effort will probably go unread and unconsidered but I feel people have a hard time feeding their families and this feral hog situation is a threatening the pork industry therefore putting pressure on MDC and the forest service to regulate an invasive swine population that cannot be controlled by a select few that is selected by the MDC to trap the feral swine to have them baited and trapped or hunted from helicopters and shot and left to rot in the woods. I have seen many feral swine while bow hunting and I have had MDC and FS agents ask me if I have seen any hogs. I told the agents no I have not seen any feral hogs. Why should I report a feral hog sighting so there can be a corn baited trap set up the next day in my bow hunting spot for the feral hogs be scared of and to avoid All these traps only do a few things they ruin a hunting area they scare off the feral swine and deer and turkey and they are a waist of time and money for paid agents to set up these traps and ruin a hunting area for everything. I have witnessed this myself. The MDC get millions of dollars in tax money and the people get no say in how that money is spent then the people get banned from hunting an invasive feral swine? Sounds fishy to me but that's another story. In the state of Arkansas the only thing you need to hunt a feral hog is a small game hunting license. So I purpose and would be open to purchasing a yearly feral hog stamp or feral hog license for a yearly fee that is reasonable. I have had several chances to harvest many hogs in the woods while hunting deer and turkey and I could have harvested them ethically and humanly and without scaring the other wildlife out of the area so why not give us hunters a chance to help the MDC and FS to control the population of invasive feral swine instead of taking away from the people work with the people there are more hunters in the woods than MDC and FS agents that can ethically harvest and put the meat to good use of feeding their families. Power to the people not power from the people!!

126



**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 1:18 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment



**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest proposed Forest Closure Order

Question for the MEMBERS of the MISSOURI FERAL HOG PARTNERSHIP from the PEOPLE OF MISSOURI

Question that Missouri Conservation Commission and Media never ask

Missouri Department of Conservation  
US Department of Agriculture APHIS -WS  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
US Forest Service  
National Park Service  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources US Fish and Wildlife Services Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services US Corps of Engineers US Army Fort Leonard Wood US Department of Agriculture APHIS -VS Missouri Farmers Care Missouri Farm Bureau Missouri Cattleman's Association Missouri Pork Producers Association MFA Missouri Soybean Association Missouri Corn Growers Association Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Missouri Agribusiness Association National Wild Turkey Federation Quality Deer Management Association Quail Forever Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation Missouri Rural Water Association Kansas City Agribusiness Club Saint Louis Agribusiness Club

Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Charitable Trust Agri Services of Brunswick Missouri Forest Products Association Honey Creek Media Association of Missouri Electrical Cooperatives (AMEC) LAD Foundation

What percentage of the population of Wild Hogs must be killed yearly, to keep population wild hogs stable?

Is there an established population of Wild Hogs in Missouri?

What is the current interagency elimination strategy?

What methods will be used in the current interagency elimination strategy?

Can Wild Hog population be eradicated through the elimination strategy used by interagency elimination strategy Missouri?

What is the timeline for total eradication in Missouri?

What is the current population of Wild Hogs in Missouri?

If you don't know the population Wild Hogs.

What is the percentage of Wild Hogs Killed each by the Missouri Department of Conservation?

Then how do you know you made it to 70% of wild hogs killed?

What do you typically bait traps with?

How many traps are in Missouri Right now? Not bait sites but traps only!

How many traps are controlled by remote control? "aka" cell phone

How many traps use trip wires?

Do trip wire traps make hogs that don't get caught trap shy?

Do you remove all traps from areas after you done with them?

Are there any abandoned traps in the state of Missouri?

Do you ever have deer die in any of your traps?

Do you use corn and traps on public land during Deer and Turkey Season?

2018 MDC reporting 9,300 Hogs killed in Missouri.

How many wild Hogs killed by trapping?

How many Wild Hogs killed by helicopter?

How many Wild Hogs killed using night scope or thermals and shot?

How many Wild Hogs killed using snares?

How many Wild Hogs killed with the use of dogs?

How many Wild Hogs killed on public land?

What is the break down of each public land (NAME) and Wild Hogs killed?

2018 MDC reporting 9,300 Hogs killed in Missouri.

How many Wild Hogs killed on private land?

How many Wild Hogs killed?

How many Adult Wild Hogs killed?

How many Adult Female "6 months and older" Wild Hogs killed?

How many Male "6 months and older" Wild Hogs killed?

How many Juvenile "6 months and younger" Wild Hogs killed?

How many Unborn Wild Hogs were counted in kill?

How many researches, studies done on Wild Hogs in Missouri?

Where can the public view these researches, studies result of Wild Hogs in Missouri?

If helicopters are killing the last few hogs why after 5 years, the same areas are coming up again?)

How many members of the Feral Hog Partnership receives money from the Missouri Department of Conservation and how much?

Why do you not want any private landowners to get any money from the USDA Farm Bill for fighting Feral Hogs on private lands?

Texas allows hogs trapped to be sold alive and used at market.

Why does Missouri not allow that?

If Wild Hogs carry so many diseases, why do you leave 9,300 Wild Hogs laying on landscape and decay?

Do the 9,300 Wild Hogs help attractant Black Vultures to Missouri?

If Wild Hogs carry so many diseases, why does the USDA APHIS produce video in Alabama showing people how to process Wild Hogs for consumption?

Are all these methods needed to eradicate Wild Hog? Trapping, Snaring, Hunting, Hunting with Dogs, and Shooting at Night using Thermals

How many trappers will it take to trap 1.5 million acres of Mark Twain National Forest?

How is the Missouri Department of Conservation and agencies plan on trapping the 100,000 plus acres wilderness areas with no roads, and no wheeled vehicles are allowed?

Will it be a Federal Crime to kill a Wild Hog on Mark Twain National Forest?

In the first 20 years hunting and trapping was used to kill Wild Hogs.

How many hogs killed by the public by hunting for each year?

What was the percentage of the population of hogs killed by the public?

How many trappers for each year did the MDC use?

Majority of landowners, and hunters do not understand the very confusing guidelines, all these different laws, policies, regulations, and procedures for different areas, land and from different official sources.

Written guidelines do not exist to the public dealing with Wild Hogs for the landowners and public. WHY?

Are you allowed to bait for Wild Hogs on private land in a Chronic Wasting Disease Zone?

Can you bait for wild hogs on private ground during deer and turkey season?

If so,

What is the distance from bait for Wild Hogs do you have to be to hunt for Deer and turkey on private lands?

House 655 was signed by governor June 6th in which the required clarification was the law's reference to the "landowner's agent" who is also allowed to kill hogs on a property. The term was being interpreted in different ways by different agencies, which was causing issues.

What agencies were interpreted in different ways?

What issues was it causing the Missouri Department of Conservation?

Can landowners use Thermal Scopes year-round to kill Wild Hogs at night on private land?

Can individuals use Thermal Scopes year-round to kill Wild Hogs at night on private land?

TOTAL ERADICATION IS THE GOAL

Why do you care who the landowners allow to kill hogs on his private property and how?

Where on the Missouri Department of Conservation Website, YouTube Channel can you find information to help private landowners about all the legal methods to kill Wild Hogs.

Where on the Missouri Department of Conservation Website, YouTube Channel can you find information to help private landowners how to build their own traps?

Where on the Missouri Department of Conservation Website, YouTube Channel can you find information to help private landowners on Scouting, Pre-Baiting, Baiting, and Game Cameras to kill Wild Hogs?

Hunting activities, particularly hunting with dogs, scatters the sounder and makes trapping efforts aimed at catching the entire group very difficult, because hogs become trap-shy and more wary of baited sites.

Have you ever caught any dogs in your wild hog traps?

Does that mean you will be banning other hunting activities with dogs?

Particularly hunting Raccoon with dogs, since Raccoons are drawn to corn at Wild Hog traps?

Are there any other hunting activities that might interfere with trapping?

Why are the conservation group that 22 individual HUNTERS using DOGS took over 1,800 hogs in 2018 not part of the Feral Hog Task Force Partnership to kill Wild Hogs?

Why did MDC not congratulate them on this feat or add those numbers to the total dead?

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.

What research shows that the Missouri Department of Conservation prove that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is wrong for using dogs?

Examples from other states and from large areas of private land in Missouri show that only allowing state and federal professional trappers, and their contractors, to eliminate feral hogs yields the best results and decreases the desire for releasing and hunting feral hogs by the public.

Could you provide the documented scientific research and data that shows the above statement?

“Both from other unnamed states and from large areas of private land in Missouri “

If trapping is the ONLY method successful.

Then name where the MDC owned ground in Missouri where Wild Hog eradication has taken since they have had no hunting from the ban in 2016.

Have these location eliminated Wild Hogs 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, PECKS RANCH, AND MINGO WILDLIFE REFUGE?

What state or states have eliminated Wild Hogs using your methods?

Since trapping is currently working in Missouri because the Missouri Department of Conservation is seeing less damage.

Then is the Missouri Department of Conservation and agencies reducing the trapping employees?

Quote: Can I wipe out a hog population through hunting or trapping? "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."

Texas, Louisiana or Florida Biologist, Scientists and Agency who says they cannot.

What different elimination strategy are Missouri Biologist, Scientists and Agencies using that these states are not?

The Data from the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, United States Geological Survey shows the natural migration and population growth map of FERAL HOGS in Missouri and United States.

Nathan P. Snow, USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center

Snow and his colleagues found that, during this period, the rate of northward expansion accelerated from 6.5 km/yr to 12.6 km/yr. (4 miles/year to 7.8 miles/year) If this trend persists, invasive wild pigs are predicted to reach most U.S. counties in 30-50 years, but likely faster if a southward expansion from Canada continues.

The results of the model showed that invasive wild pigs are most likely to expand their range into adjacent areas that are similar to the ones they currently occupy

Missouri Department of Conservation Quote - "They're definitely not migrating," "They're either escapees or purposely released."

Why is Nathan P. Snow, USDA/APHIS/WS/National Wildlife Research Center and the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, United States Geological Survey wrong about migration?

We analyzed GPS data from individual pigs in studies across six states including Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas.

We obtained over 400,000 GPS locations of wild pigs from 13 different studies spanning six states in southern U.S.A., and quantified movement rates and home range size.

Missouri and Texas had the greatest average movement rates.

The average home range size was greatest in Missouri.

Where can the Missouri public see the results of the studies?

With current interagency elimination strategy is applied to Mark Twain National Forest and the population increases. Because the strategy is not 100% perfect.

How many years from that point will it take to reverse the decision to ban hunting?

Chuelo, A., 2012, Feral hogs in Missouri, in 2012 International Wild Pig Conference, Science and Management, April 15–18, 2012 - Chuelo (2012) reported Missouri wild pigs with an average home range of 2,400 ha.

Missouri Feral Hogs Home Range 2,400 ha = 5,930 Acres –

Have you seen this research?

Where can the public find the results of this research?

#### MINGO WILDLIFE REFUGE WILD HOG RESEARCH

March 14th, 2014

Funded by Missouri Department of Conservation

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

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.

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

Where can the public find the results of this research?

Why was this research not made available to the public?

Why does the Missouri Department of Conservation not make research like this public?

Was this research consider during the ban of killing Wild Hogs in 2016?

Was this the researched referenced by the USDA Supervisor?

“2014 Missouri Study Aerial shooting at \$296 per pig, Jump said.

Brad Jump, Springfield, Missouri’s feral swine coordinator for USDA - Wildlife Service

**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)**

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)**

1 - Feral Hog was taken by MDC Helicopter

Why does the Missouri Department of Conservation not scientifically age Wild Hogs killed?

Determining the age structure of a feral swine provides insight into the population's biological fitness and ecological well-being of Feral Hogs in Missouri.

This knowledge is beneficial for evaluating the efforts by the Missouri Agencies.

The average life expectancy, under good conditions, in a wild hog population is about four to five years; however, they may live up to eight years.

What makes Missouri Department of Conservation believe that they can trap additional 26% of Wild Hogs in Missouri on 1.5 Million acres of Mark Twain National Forest the roughest most inaccessible remote terrain in Missouri to trapping only?

That in Research out of Texas on 1.8 Million acres of accessible landowner's land had to use all methods to break 70% because trapping could only get into 50% range.

The North American Wildlife Conservation Model Recent international symposia have reaffirmed that regulated HUNTING is the MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL to assure species exist in balance with their habitat.

Why does this not apply to Wild Hogs?

Is the Wild Hog a living, breathing, breeding, eating wild animal?

Exactly how writing down on paper that a Wild Hog is a invasive animal does it change anything about using hunting as a tool?

Will the Missouri Department of Conservation and agencies use hunting as a tool using agencies employees only?

Mark Twain National Forest part of the national forest system which is an agency of the Department of Agriculture?

Is the Wildlife Services a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)?

How much money does the Missouri Department of Conservation get from the Farm Bill for Wild Hog Eradication in 2018 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture?

Vendors

Fiscal Year Vendor Name Payments Total 2018 USDA APHIS GENERAL \$1,885,000.00

Why does the Missouri Department of Conservation make payments to U.S. Department of Agriculture the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)?

Is they're not a conflict of interest with all the money changing hands then asking for public comment?

The spread of feral hogs in Missouri was intentional releases for hunting by hunters and landowners.

Then is possible an agency employee are intentional releasing hogs to influence policy on Mark Twain National Forest?

Why would anyone work their self out of a job?

What oversight and safeguards are in place to prevent this from happening?

127

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 2:42 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting feral hogs on USFS Mark Twain

We strongly oppose hunting wild hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest by private parties.

The only ones who should hunt feral hogs in Missouri - state and federal lands - should be Missouri Department of Conservation and its partners.

Hunting hogs disperses them and without an overall strategy such as MDC and partners, these horrible destructive animals will severely damage property.

So - no private hunting of hogs/feral hogs on federal land - and Mark Twain National Forest included.

[REDACTED]  
Jefferson City, MO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

128

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 3:02 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Comments - Mark Twain National Forest Feral Hog Hunting Ban - Please Support

This message is in regard to the public comment period on the proposal to prohibit the hunting of feral hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Please support the feral hog hunting ban on the Mark Twain National Forest! I have had experience with feral hogs and know that although hunting may take a few from a sounder, the rest disperse into areas where such pressure does not exist and then return to repopulate once hunting pressure lessens. It has been shown to be impossible to eradicate feral hogs with hunting pressure (feral hog hunting was allowed for a couple of decades or more in public land in Missouri and there are more hogs than ever in spite of hunting. I know that hunting feral hogs can be fun and some people want to hunt them but do not let these individuals mislead you in a decision that allows hunting feral hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest - a decision that would lead to a continuance of destructive feral hogs on the landscape. Rather, I urge you to make your decision in the direction of the greater public good of feral hog eradication with a ban on the hunting of feral hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue!

129

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hogs

Hi,

I fully support the USFS move to eradicate feral hogs from the Missouri landscape. Closing USFS lands to public hunting of hogs is a great step in that direction.

Sincerely,

130

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hogs in Missouri

Please immediately implement a ban on feral hog hunting on federal lands. Research, science and history have shown the most effective way of eradication know at this time is through trapping of the entire sounder.

Twenty years of open hunting with no limits, regulations or seasons has not proven to be an effective method of elimination, in fact it as proven to be the opposite. A few people attempting to capitalize by attempting to make feral hog hunting a sport and business opportunity have intentionally spread hog populations causing senseless crop, forest, wildlife habitat and property damage.

Please do not be persuaded by a vocal minority with a personal agenda. Thank You.

[Redacted]



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

**Subject:** Prohibit Hunting Feral Swine on MTNF, USFS lands

I fully support the ban on public land hog hunting. Please support all of us here in Missouri with a decision to adopt a ban on hog hunting in Missouri. Unfortunately, a very small group of hog hunting supporters have lobbied you to pressure the USFS to let hog hunting continue on Forest Service lands. This small, special interest group are not the least bit representative of the Missouri hunting community. A US Forest Service ban on hog hunting on their public lands in Missouri is critical to the success of wild hog eradication.

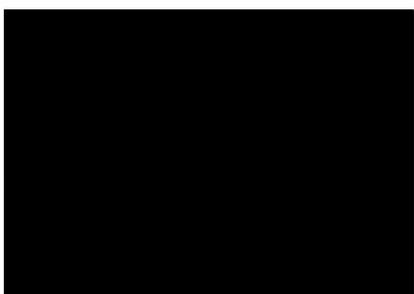
Recreational hog hunting impedes eradication efforts in two ways: 1) interferes in the one tool that really works: catching them all at once in traps, and 2) provides incentive to release hogs - a common practice for those who profit from hog hunting, and a key factor in reducing the effectiveness of TAXPAYER FUNDED feral hog eradication programs.

Feral hogs are a non-native invasive and destructive pest that threatens both agricultural interests and wildlife habitat. Recreational hunting of feral hogs make taxpayer funded eradication efforts more expensive and less effective. All stakeholders except one tiny group agree this is critical public policy.

If you won't take my word for it, please read "Opinion: Feral hogs have to go," by Gary Wheeler – The Missouri Times, March 8, 2019. Here are some salient points from that article:

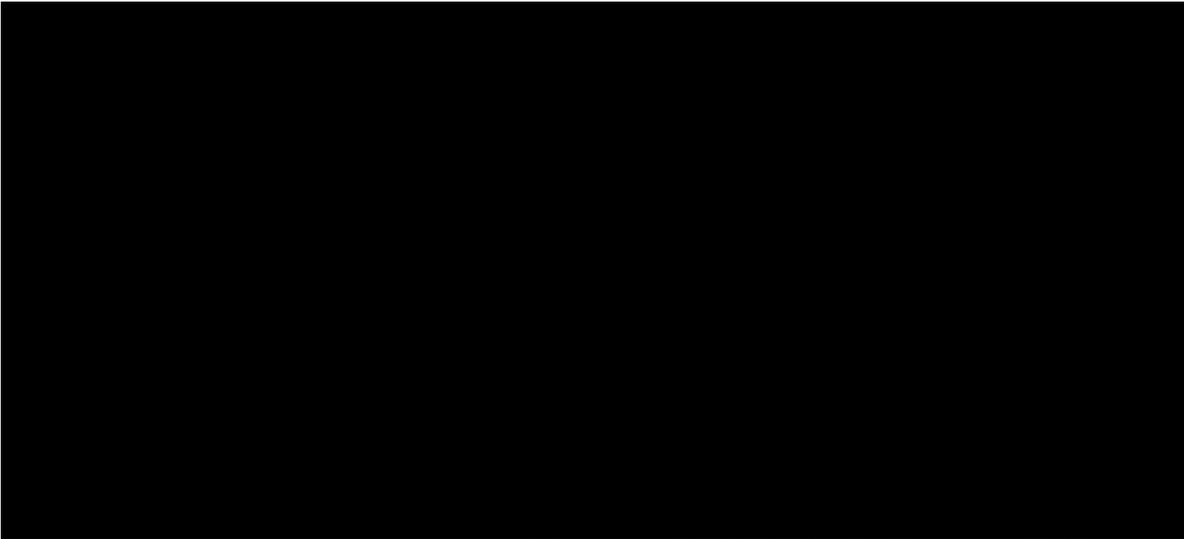
- \* Feral hogs are a serious problem in Missouri and must be eradicated.
- \* Feral hogs' rooting and feeding behavior contributes to soil erosion, reduced water quality and causes significant damage to waterways, cropland, pasture and hayfields.
- \* Feral hogs have potential to spread disease and parasites to people, pets, livestock and wildlife – including Brucellosis, eradicated from Missouri's pork industry more than 20 years ago.
- \* The Missouri Soybean Association is committed to working with conservation groups, agricultural organizations, and state and federal officials to eradicate this invasive species.

Thank You,



132

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:12 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Global B2B Emails List

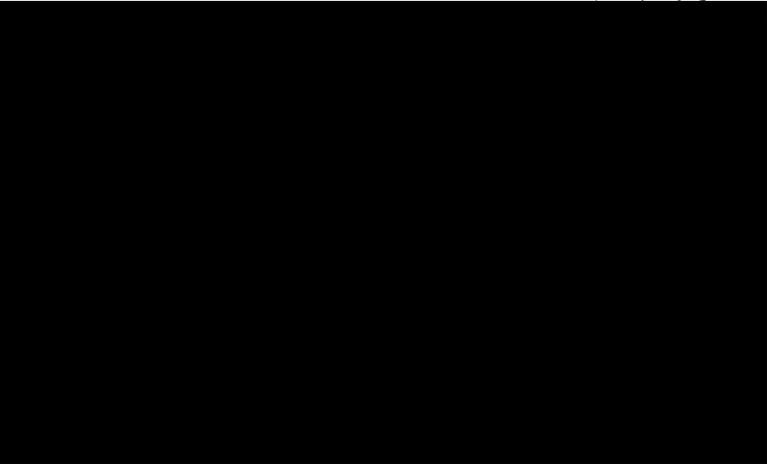


municipalities,  
, Government,  
Metals & Mining,

users, Microsoft  
D Edward users, ASP  
users, Microsoft GP Applications users, Net Suite users, IBM DBMS Application users, McAfee users, MS Dynamics GP  
(Great Plains), and many more.



IT



...rd to hearing from you.

133

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Support Feral Hog Ban on National Forest Lands

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

[Redacted]

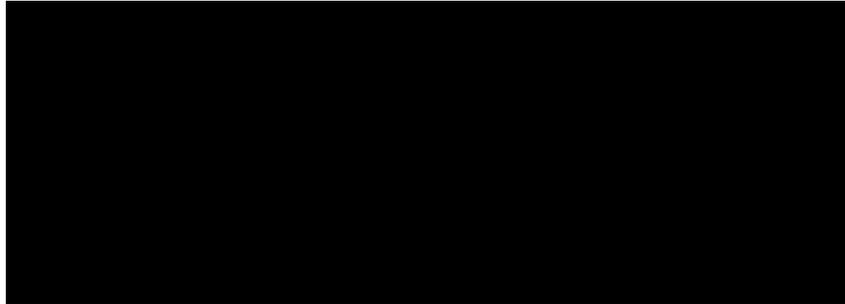
134



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 6:29 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Proposal to prohibit the hunting of feral swine on the Mark Twain National Forest

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 Mark Twain National 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 prohibit the hunting of feral swine on the Mark Twain National Forest. This is the best way to help forest managers reduce hog numbers through trapping. The so-called hog "hunters" have caused more problems than they have solved by shooting a tiny fraction of the hogs on federal land and pressure hogs making them harder to trap and eliminate.



135

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 10:28 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

I am reluctant to approve the idea of a blanket ban on hunting feral swine in the Mark Twain forest. It hits me as another slap from Federal govt. basically put I don't trust USDA Forest service to stop there. It's the camrls nose in the tent.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

136

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 10:46 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

To: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service

We are opposed to feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest because the science indicates more damage is created by hunting feral hogs because it encourages some people to release hogs which in turn spreads and increases the feral hog population.

Closing the Forest Service property to feral hog hunting will be a positive step to help eliminate feral hogs from the state. Hunting has not been an effective tool for eliminating feral hog populations. This closure will be important to helping agencies and partners make positive progress towards feral hog eradication.

[REDACTED]

137

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 4:33 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** feral hogs

I do not believe that you are making the right decision by closing the National Forest to hog hunting. There is too much forest property for the hogs to hide in and the Forest Service and The MODC does not have the time or manpower to catch all of the hogs that they need to keep them under control. We need to work together to kill all of these hogs by any means available. I own a farm in Southwest Wayne County and the National Forest joins it on 3 sides. I first starting having a problem with feral hogs 6 years ago and the damage has gotten worse with each passing year. I have helped to trap these for the last 5 years and they get harder to trap every year. You never know when they are coming as they do not move in a pattern, they may be around for a few days then disappear only to show back up a week later or a month later. The hogs stay on the forest threw out the day and come out at dusk and tear up my pastures. During my years of trapping I have caught from 1 hog to 47 hogs at one time and I agree with the MODC that you can catch the most hogs at one time by trapping until you run into some trap wise hogs. For the last two years I have been battling some trap wise hogs, and it doesn't matter what type of bait you use they won't go into the trap. The only way I could catch the little pigs was to shoot the sow. Last winter I had a sounder that was staying on the forest to the North of my property that I never could catch, they would come up and root in front of the trap, well as other places in my pasture then leave. I think that you need to try a pilot program in Wayne, Carter, and Reynolds Counties and place a bounty on the hogs, \$20.00 for each breeding age sow, \$10.00 for each breeding age boar and \$2.50 for each feeder pig along with hunting and trapping them [REDACTED]

138

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, June 15, 2019 10:39 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hogs

Forest Supervisor, Mark Twain National Forest:

I am supportive of the proposed ban on hunting feral hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

139



**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 6:50 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

I am in total support of the Ban on Feral Hog hunting in the Mark Twain Forest. We must use the most effective means to eradicate this animal from Missouri.

Thank You,



Sent from my iPhone

140

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 11:39 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog Issue

**Categories:** Orange category

I am writing to you about the Feral Hog issue in Missouri.

I am 61 years old and I am a life long resident of Iron County where my fore fathers arrived in the early 1800's.

I am well aware of the hog issue on a variety of fronts. First, I am a [REDACTED] and I see lots of hog activity in a variety of places.

About [REDACTED] years ago I worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the USDA to trap hogs in a cemetery that is on US Forest Service Land. I have a permit to care for the property and no one has been buried there for 61 years but I do my best to maintain it. Three years ago the hogs had rooted the land up so bad it was impossible to mow. I had to weed eat the whole property.

The hogs even pushed over and rooted around the tombstones. It was an awful mess.

The USDA came in and trapped 12 hogs and that helped for two years. They are back but not as bad. This property is off of [REDACTED] County Road [REDACTED] south of [REDACTED] highway in Iron County, known as the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Viburnum Golf and Country Club. [REDACTED] I have known hogs are near that property for many years but until this past winter they had not actually been on the property. You can only imagine what they can do to a golf course. I again called the USDA and they helped and we were able to trap some of them. I called in some locals and the hogs were ran away with some dogs. We have not seen sign of them since.

I listed some property in Washington County [REDACTED] Road last summer.

This past winter the hogs were so bad they nearly destroyed all open field area and it made those looking at the property not at all interested to buy.

I think I understand the issue at hand. They are free range, hard to kill, trap and to eradicate.

I also understand the desire for people to hunt them wherever they find them no matter if it is government land or private. I also understand people are profiting from the issue by organizing hunts to those outside the area. I also understand "some" trap and move hogs to other areas to create hunts for profit.

In my opinion there has to be some kind of sensible regulation. Unless the authority behind the issue has better means of eradicating them than the state of Texas, we all need to work together to make management successful.

It seems an all out band of hunting in the National Forest is not the answer.

The USDA helped me a lot at the golf course but the hogs seemed to have gotten wise to the batting concept. What ultimately seemed to have worked is running the hogs off of private property with dogs and then they fled to the mining company land and US Forest Service. The golf course is bordered by lots of US Forest Service property. We were forced to take matters in our own hands to keep from having hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to the course.

The hog issue is also causing great concerns in our recreational areas and impacting Missouri Deer and Turkey hunting.

We have to figure out a way to let all resources be used to accomplish the goal. Here are some thoughts off the top of my head;

- \*Many people think at some point Tags will be sold for hunting purposes.

Don't do that.

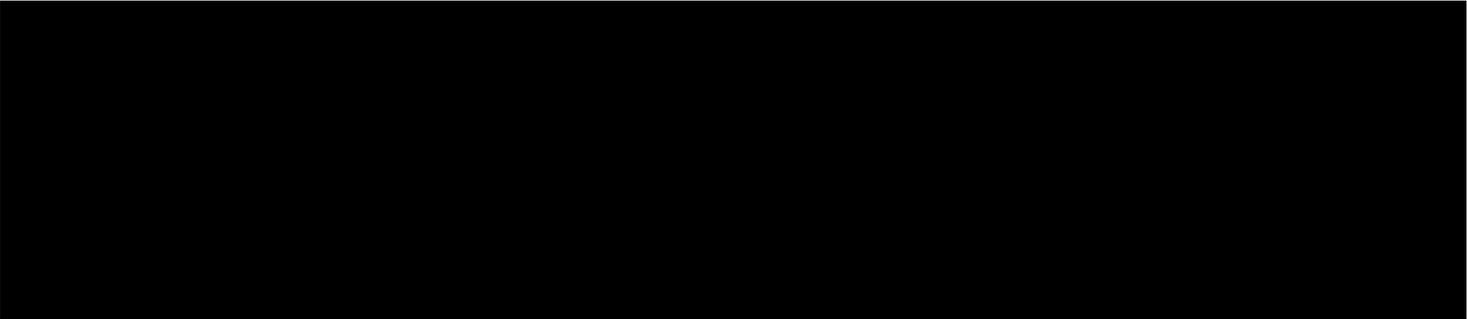
- \*Provide permits at no cost annually to those who want to hunt on government land.

- \*Let people hunt with no permit on private land.

- \*Create a bounty system for hogs from the fines collected from game violations.

- \*Create a Hog Advisor Council of people that have strong opinions on the issue to gather regular information on whats happening and how on going measures are working.

If you have questions my contact info is below.



information and are  
nt, any use of,  
prohibited. Please reply

to the sender advising of the error in transmission and immediately delete/destroy the message and any accompanying documents.



141

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** feral swine

**Categories:** Orange category

dear sirs , please do not make feral swine hunting illegal on forest service land , I believe the hunters can help to control the population of the swine , Thank you [REDACTED]

142

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** NO to HUNTING BAN !!!

**Categories:** Orange category

To Whom it May Concern,

It is ULTRA SOULLESS to BAN HUNTING Feral Hogs on OUR WE THE PEOPLE's National Forests, and to give into ANY and ALL Beauracracy that says otherwise is even more soulless.

You are denying Hunting Families the opportunity that We The People pay for in Hunting Licenses and taxes and more importantly, hours of family bonding.

Feral Hogs ARE a problem and you are doing the opposite of a Favor to Wildlife and Hunting Families to help eradicate them by Banning hunting them. You should be ENCOURAGING people to go hunt them by any means necessary.

You may say "Well Hunting doesnt control them... But traps have been shown.." Hogwash! My home State of Louisiana has tried and FAILED at bait trapping them. The ONLY thing that will help eradicate them are to make them in the ASSEST COLUMN of Hunting them. Try to promote Hunting them, maybe run a Contest or a Record or Trophy for the Individual or Team that kills the most.

Also, Hunting Families EAT these animals. They arent killed, dumped, and buried in a Landfill somewhere like baited trapped Hogs are.

I am PLEADING... Keep Hunting Hogs LEGAL in the National Forest. Promote it!!! We can do this together.

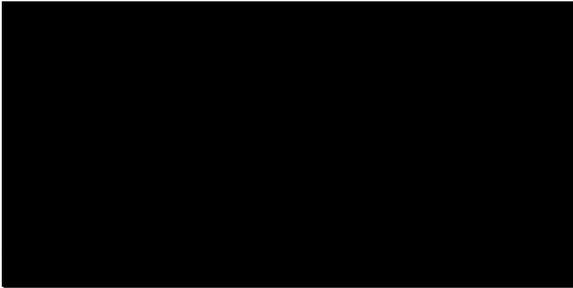
Respectfully,

143

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Ban Hunting of Feral Swine in Missouri

**Categories:** Orange category

We support a US Forest Service proposal to ban hunting of hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest. Missouri state parks, along with other lands both public and private in hog-infested areas of the Ozarks. This is the only way there is any chance of a successful removal of this no native scourge.



144

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 6:06 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Upcoming legislation

**Categories:** Orange category

Hello-  
I want to add my voice to those who strongly oppose legal hunting of feral hogs on all Missouri land, private or public. This invasive species is harmful to the ecosystems of Missouri and a detriment to quality hunting experiences for all Missourians.

Thank you,

145

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 6:33 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Ban feral hog hunting in Missouri

**Categories:** Orange category

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that we will eradicate feral hogs more effectively if hunting them is banned. It is for that reason that I am writing to support this ban.

I believe that it is important to hunt endemic species that can become overpopulated and I would not want to interfere with an activity that Missouri sportsmen cherish. Nevertheless, these hogs are not naturally present in our state and cause great damage to both public and private lands.

I support our present efforts to eradicate feral hogs. Hunting could motivate people to release yet more hogs into natural environments. We should try to avoid that outcome.

Thank you,

canoeing and hiking enthusiast  
Member of Missouri Parks Association

146

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 6:40 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

I support the ban on hunting with the proviso that the Conservation Dept in conjunction with private land owners aggressively trap and eradicate sounders of hogs.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

147

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 7:35 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain natl forest

**Categories:** Orange category

You can not close public hunting grounds to legal hunters. You should be spending your time going after actual poachers

Sent from my iPhone

148

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 8:53 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** I support the hunting ban.

**Categories:** Orange category

I support the feral hog hunting ban. As long as hunting is allowed, people will release them to increase their numbers. This is counterproductive to controlling their numbers.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

149

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 10:46 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Wild Hog Hunting Ban on USFS Lands in MO

**Categories:** Orange category

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

[Redacted] Columbia, MO.

150

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:55 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Ban  
**Categories:** Orange category

Feral hog hunting should be banned. The best way to eliminate feral hogs is to catch the whole sounder in traps. Hunting just disperses the hogs and makes it harder to get rid of them. Allowing hunting makes people want to release hogs for their sport. Feral hogs are a scourge on our land and every effort to eliminate them quickly should be taken. The conservation department has the right idea. We should do this before it gets more out of control.

157

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:18 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog hunting ban

**Categories:** Orange category

Dear Mark Twain,

It is imperative that the proposed feral hog hunting ban be adopted.

The evidence is absolutely clear that trapping is far better at eradicating the hogs - end of story.

One group of citizens must not be allowed to spoil that lands that belong to all citizens. (although I'd love me some of the hog meat), but that aside, I am willing to forgo free meat for that which does not ruin my forrest and park land!

Italy has dealt with this problem for decades; because they did not get onto their wild boar problem (porcini) soon enough, they have had gorings and deadly accidents with hogs which are now moving into cities doing immeasurable destruction; trapping is the obvious and urgently needed approach.

Along with the ban, I would hope there is a healthy education campaign to reach through the misdirected and/or single minded agenda of hunters and others.

Thank you

152

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:22 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Hunting  
**Categories:** Orange category

On behalf of [REDACTED] a six-county non-profit organization headquartered in Farmington, Missouri, we wish to express our support for a ban on hog hunting on all Forest Service lands. Many of our members who own rural property have suffered extensive crop and native fauna damage as a result of feral hogs. As advocates for birds, we are very concerned about the effects wild hogs are having on ground-nesting birds within our region--it is subjective research, of course, but it does seem Ovenbirds numbers are down on in our area.

We would like to suggest that when controlled hunts are done by the Forest Service that efforts be made to donate the meat to local food pantries; that might help mitigate the antagonism hog hunting bans has generated. But we also know there are those who desire the elimination of bans who have abetted the problem by releasing trapped female hogs so as to increase the numbers.

The research throughout the nation has shown that allowing hog hunting has only increased the numbers of feral hogs. Please ban hog hunting and prosecute those who violate the ban--a concerted effort is needed to protect the native wildlife, to keep our springs clean, and to restore the native fauna.

[REDACTED]

153

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:16 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** feral hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

On behalf of Botanical Research and exploration within the Mark Twain National Forest, I strongly support a ban on feral hog hunting.

[REDACTED] I have personally seen extensive damage to seeps, fens, stream terraces, etc., caused by the irresponsible release of these hogs into our National Forest. Feral hogs will kill and eat fauna, e.g., box turtles, snakes, deer fawns, ground nesting birds, etc... Fens, springs and seeps are homes to many of our most threatened plants and dragonflies in Missouri.

Research on feral hogs has shown that hunting only scatters and increases the numbers of feral hogs. The release of feral hogs for hunting is highly irresponsible and selfish behavior anywhere, but especially on our public lands. It should be considered a taking of public lands for individual gain.

[REDACTED]

154

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** I Support Ban on Feral Hog Hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

Dear USDA,

I strongly support a ban on feral hog/swine hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest and any MO State Parks. Feral hogs are destructive to all landowners where they reside, as well as to the balance of our natural areas, stream and river banks, etc.

When hunting is allowed, the fact is that the population continues to thrive. Hog hunting only worsens a very bad situation.

This is a clear and present danger - unless we Missourians do what is necessary to stop it.

My husband and I own a small farm of [Redacted] acres in [Redacted]. A friend of mine in our area had a serious feral hog problem a few years ago. I know how bad feral hogs can be for someone's property. Hog hunting in Mark Twain & other public areas contributes to the harm of Missouri citizens and Missouri lands as a whole.

Please help place a state ban on all feral hog hunting in Missouri. This is important to the future of Missouri and all our residents.

Remember Missouri's motto:

Salus populi suprema lex esto — "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law."

Very Sincerely,

[Redacted]

155

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:21 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting in Mark Twain forest

**Categories:** Orange category

Hello, I am a voter and board member of the Missouri Parks Association. I support the proposal to ban hog hunting in the Mark Twain forest. Instead, I support conservation staff's efforts at managing these populations.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

156

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:02 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Re: Banning Feral Hog Hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest.

**Categories:** Orange category

I am very much in favor of a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. I have seen the damage that these animals can wreak and myself and some of my friends have had to curtail birding outings and hikes due to the presence of feral hogs in the area. The hogs destroy natural habitats, fields and gardens and make these areas inhospitable for other wildlife.

There are many opportunities for hunting in Missouri. Hunting feral hogs for sport should be eliminated and be illegal.

Sent from Mail

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e03cfa0d4697%7C1  
&sdata=ZCttVel9aOzGobSz985DjX03qH5NytqM6UmBF74jwQg%3D&reserved=U> for windows 10

157



**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:13 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Ban feral hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

I strongly support a ban on hunting feral hogs. Those who hunt them release additional hogs into the Mark Twain Forest and other forested areas where they are not native to them.. They reproduce rapidly. They are destructive to stream banks and cause erosion.  
Feral hog hunting as sport should not be permitted. Feral hogs should be trapped and removed by conservation experts.



158

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:23 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern;

Please consider my comments as follows: Please think about the safety of our hunters when they are in the woods. If they are not allowed to kill the hogs that they come across they could be killed themselves. Some people rely on that meat as a food source. With the price of groceries these days we all may have to start hunting soon.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

159

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 2:16 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Concern about Wild Hogs

**Categories:** Orange category

Missouri has such a fine Department of Conservation and we all need to eliminate all these wild hogs rather than letting them breed so hunters can entertain themselves and run all over others property. I don't know how you can police this but I will trust you to find a way.

Respectfully,

ft.com%2Ffwlink%2F%3FLinkId%3D5  
701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1  
&sdata=RnCuDAFnLqCzhhuuYpkmzpSvGFwMYX2IOHGGrldAQ8%3D&reserved=0> for Windows 10

160

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Re: Feral Hog Hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

As a resident of Northern Reynolds County, I support a total ban on hunting of feral hogs in the national forest, and in fact just about anywhere else. There are only two viable options for greatly reducing feral hog numbers:  
1) trapping in large, specifically-crafted traps, which allow a good number of hogs to enter before the door is sprung; (an expensive proposition)

2) allowing re-establishment of wolves in the area where they once did roam (Canis rufus). This option is the better of the two because wolves hunt in numbers, and a wolf pack can surround a sow and 13 piglets and then begin picking the babies off, while mom is distracted. It would not take long for wolves to greatly reduce the hog problem.

We personally see the horrendous damage. We have been observing wildlife here on our farm for over 40 years and 2018 and 2019 are the first years we can ever remember not hearing the Chuck Will's Widow. Always before (before hogs became so numerous) we would often hear whippoorwills on one side of the pasture, and Chuck Will's Widow on the other, but no more. Ground nesting birds, as you know, are in danger. And now of course, Quail have even less chance of becoming reestablished to their once healthy numbers. Further, we don't recall hearing the American Woodcock in recent years. There may be many other ground-nesters in distress that we have yet to discover.

We are seeing does birth their fawns very close to the goat shed, as no doubt the does sense a bit more safety--this is something we never saw in the past.

The feral hogs have trashed our fields so badly that our small lawn tractor is in danger of over-turning if it attempts to mow in that area before heavy rains smoothe it out a bit.

Perhaps the best option is the large traps, while waiting for wild wolves to reestablish themselves, as they could, if humans would allow it.

Below is a copy of the letter we sent on behalf of EOAS to the Forest Service. Please consider sending your own letter supporting a total ban of hog hunting on Mark Twain National Forest Service land--individual hunting has only increased the feral hog numbers. What is needed is well-controlled hunting and trapping.

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 18, 2019 at 8:21 AM

Subject: Feral Hog Hunting

To: <SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov <mailto:SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov> >

On behalf of [REDACTED] a six-county non-profit organization headquartered in Farmington, Missouri, we wish to express our support for a ban on hog hunting on all Forest Service lands. Many of our members who own rural property have suffered extensive crop and native fauna damage as a result of feral hogs. As advocates for birds, we are very concerned about the effects wild hogs are having on ground-nesting birds within our region--it is subjective research, of course, but it does seem Ovenbirds numbers are down on in our area.

We would like to suggest that when controlled hunts are done by the Forest Service that efforts be made to donate the meat to local food pantries; that might help mitigate the antagonism hog hunting bans has generated. But we also know there are those who desire the elimination of bans who have abetted the problem by releasing trapped female hogs so as to increase the numbers.

The research throughout the nation has shown that allowing hog hunting has only increased the numbers of feral hogs. Please ban hog hunting and prosecute those who violate the ban--a concerted effort is needed to protect the native wildlife, to keep our springs clean, and to restore the native fauna.

161

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog elimination comment

**Categories:** Orange category

I fully support the elimination plan proposed in the Mark Twain National Forest to close the Forest to hog hunting.

[Redacted]

Rolla, MO

162

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:21 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** No feral hog public hunting in National Forest

**Categories:** Orange category

I oppose the public hunting of feral swine in Mark Twain National Forest. The swine are an invasive species that preys on the nests and eggs of wildlife including endangered and threatened wildlife and they are very destructive to native habitat areas. When hunted for sport the swine become much more difficult to eradicate, for this reason I only support state and federal agencies and their contractors involvement in eliminating feral swine.

I own a small acreage in [Redacted] County adjacent to the Mark Twain National Forest. Therefore, I am deeply concerned about this issue to both protect my property, but especially to protect the surrounding forest habitat and its wildlife. It is my opinion that only state and federal agencies should be involved in the eradication of this invasive species is the best solution.

[Redacted]

163

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:17 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain national forest closure

**Categories:** Orange category

As citizen of Missouri I disagree with the closing of feral hog hunting in the national forest, I have deer hunted and turkey hunted all over that area and know the terrain very well and trapping alone will not work, it's too rugged and there are so many areas that there is no way of getting traps to and absolutely no cell service to trigger said trap, I personally feel it will do nothing but increase the hog population in rogue numbers!!

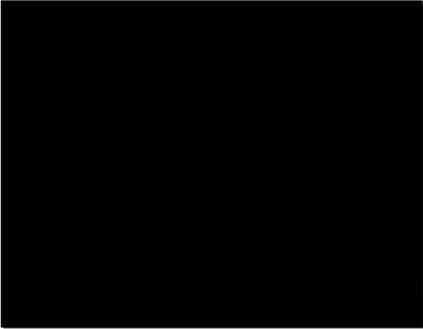
Sent from my iPhone

(164)



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:34 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** hog hunting  
**Categories:** Orange category

I want to let it be known that we are opposed to the closing of the Mark Twain National Forrest to hog hunting. We think if it is closed it will be over ran with hogs.



Sent from Mail  
<<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgo.microsoft.com%2Ffwlink%2F%3FLinkId%3D5>



165

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:50 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Don't allow feral hog hunting in Mark Twain

**Categories:** Orange category

Dear Mark Twain National Forest,

Wild hog hunting on the Mark Twain has increased populations of damaging feral hogs in Missouri woods and fields. It also sabotages control efforts by other public agencies. Glades, riparian areas, wetlands, and other sensitive habitats don't stand a chance against feral hogs.

Wild hog hunting should be illegal on the Mark Twain as it is on other Missouri public lands.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

166

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:24 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern: I would just like to say that I am **TOTALLY OPPOSED** to closing Mark Twain National Forest to hog hunters. Hog hunters make a huge difference in eliminating the wild hog population.

167



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:53 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

I do not support the position to close Mark Twain National forest to Feral swine hunting. Please allow me to explain. On or about Sept. 2015 the Missouri Department of Conservation banned all feral swine hunting on all land owned or controlled by them in the attempt to eradicate this nuisance animal. In one particular location (Stockton Lake) they have made no improvements in eradication. I have personally seen feral swine while hunting this area. One only has to walk around the Army Corp of Engineers property to find traps abandoned by MDC and it's contractors. Can the MDC provide a number of animals taken from this area vs reproduction rate and total cost? I would think 3 years is sufficient time for eradication. Since we know they have not been able to do this on just 40,000 acres and a lot of taxpayer money ( local and federal funding) then how do they purpose to take care of 1.4 million acres and at what cost?

Has the Missouri Feral Hog Partnership drafted a formal proposal on how they will implement an eradication plan and what the proposed cost will be?

What was their original timeline for eradication?

How much has been spent to date by MDC?

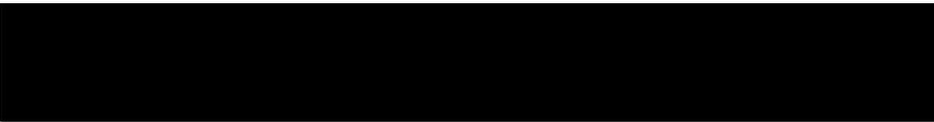
The MDC was created to regulate Missouri's native species. The protection of our natural resources is the job of another branch.

Planning and execution are the keys to success, none of which i think MDC are capable of handling.

thanks,



168



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:35 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Comments

**Categories:** Orange category

I support the closure of Mark Twin National Forest to feral swine hunting. Feral swine have been an increasing problem across the state. As a private landowner, I have very little control as to where feral swine move throughout the landscape, which now covers some of my land. Throughout this controversial topic, hog hunting advocates promote the "sport" of hog hunting as a private and public land right that should not be infringed. They claim that using hog dogs is an effective and economical way to eliminate hogs. Having been a resident in the Ozarks for many years and a lifelong Missouri resident, this hog hunting mindset is frustrating. It promotes the intentional release of swine into the landscape, which includes feral hog encroachment into my property. I feel that hog hunting advocates forget that I have the same property rights under the law as they do. I should have the ability to manage my land, timber, and natural resources without encountering the destructive behavior of hogs on my private lands. They destroy my property by rooting in my timber and other resources that I would like to protect. Rooting and rubbing, especially on my high-value trees, also costs me money by ruining timber quality and destroying my new trees. Pigs are a generalist species, eating nearly everything that fits into their mouth including snakes, salamanders, turtles, deer fawns, turkey eggs and poult, and vegetation.

After a few years of trapping, it is well known that feral swine rapidly disperse when being pressured by active hunting, especially with the use of dogs. This makes it very difficult to trap the entire group of pigs all at once since they are dispersed. Trapping for me, has been an effective way to eliminate up to 17 hogs at a time. It does require some initial cost for purchasing material and ongoing expense for bait, but very little time for checking and rebaiting the trap. In my experience, it is the most effective and efficient way to catch all or nearly the entire group of pigs. When dogs are used to hunt pigs, the group of pigs is dispersed making it difficult or impossible to catch the entire group.

Closing the USFS Mark Twain National Forest would be a great step in feral hog eradication. By doing so, the MTNF would increase the effectiveness of its trapping program. It would also reduce the lands available for hog hunters to actively pursue feral swine which may help reduce the activity and its promotion. Effective prosecution on MTNF for feral hog hunting could also help to counteract the promotion and culture of hog hunting in Missouri. Elimination of feral swine from the landscape should be the goal of both public and private landowners in the state. Reduction in hog releases and hunting opportunities, I believe, is a good way to begin to remove hogs from the landscape.

Sincerely,



169



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:37 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog Hunting  
**Categories:** Orange category

I am totally opposed to closing Mark Twain Forrest to hog hunting.



Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8 Active, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

170

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:45 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine policy in Mark Twain NF

**Categories:** Orange category

Dear Policy Makers,

Please impose a ban on hunting feral swine in the Mark Twain NF.

I am so fortunate to live in Missouri with all of our varied and extraordinary natural features. Those land and water features need protection from destructive feral swine.

Trapping produces the greatest impact on these non natives. Hunting with night vision and assault weapons, which I understand is preferred, does little harm to the quantity of swine on our land. Rather, they are dispersed to expand their range.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

171

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:47 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

Feral Swine Comment

Hello,

I tentatively support the closure of the Mark Twain National Forest to the hunting of feral swine by the general public. The federal government should always utilize caution when considering impeding the activities of citizens, but this is a situation which will only continue to worsen without intercession.

I am familiar with the derogatory effects which recreational swine hunting imparts on formal efforts to eradicate wild pigs. The pursuit of both native and nonnative species, legally and illegally, with the aid of dogs is an entrenched tradition in many southern Missouri families. Curtailing the pursuit of feral swine hunting with dogs will lead to unsavory actions by some. Additional releases of swine, increased hunting pressure on private lands (with or without permission), and refreshed public resentment of government employees may ensue. I hope that the Forest Service has taken the implications of the proposed closure into account and planned for them. In addition, I hope the Forest Service has effective policies and available labor to mitigate backlash and brandish enforcement. Without enforcement the closure will be an expensive joke.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

172

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

Totally opposed to closing Mark Twain for feral swine hunting

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

173

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hogs

**Categories:** Orange category

I ask that you please leave the public land open to any and all hunters. Including hog hunters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

174



**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:05 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine

**Categories:** Orange category

This email is in regards to the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs on national forest land. I would first like to request some statistics or information of locations that MDC and USDA have been trapping and how effective this has been on the population. I am from a very farm rich area where a lot of farmers have had trappers come and go and while they may catch a couple here and there these hogs seem to acquire the ability to be trap smart and it has never been a very effective method for eliminating said hogs on their property. The most effective way has been dog hunters. They come in with their dogs and kill sounders of pigs in a bay. Our worry is that by eliminating the option of hunters in general our farms will be over taken by these pigs and cost our family's and community a way of living.

Sent from my iPhone

175

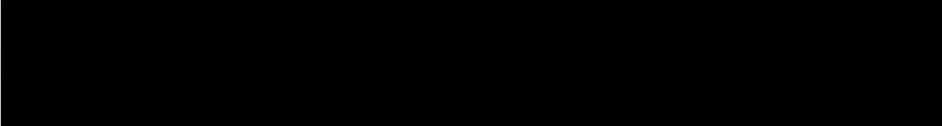
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:07 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine

**Categories:** Orange category

This email is in regards to the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs on national forest land. I would first like to request some **statistics or information of locations** that MDC and USDA have been trapping and **how effective this has been on the population**. I am from a very farm rich area where a lot of farmers have had trappers come and go and while they may catch a couple here and there these hogs seem to acquire the ability to be trap smart and it has never been a very effective method for eliminating said hogs on their property. The most effective way has been dog hunters. They come in with their dogs and kill sounders of pigs in a bay. Our worry is that by eliminating the option of hunters in general our farms will be over taken by these pigs and cost our family's and community a way of living. Please do respond with any helpful info you have available. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

176



**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 7:46 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

My name is [REDACTED] and I am %100 against the proposed shutdown of mark twain and any federal government land for feral hog hunting. I think the federal government, MDC, and public should all work together to eradicate this highly invasive species. Trapping is not the only way that feral hog are going to be eradicated solely by itself. If one or more hogs are missed one time they will never step closer to a trap again. And because of that the feral hog are invading onto the National Park Service and also onto our land and hay fields. I think that all means of eradication should be used. ( like trapping a specific area such as the sunklands areas, Johnson shut-ins ares) for a certain amount of time (a few months) then open it to the public to kill whatever feral hog population is left. And if is necessary I would be happy to contact an agent to get a free written permit to do such things in that designated area. I feel that after trapping and aswell after all other efforts are made to eradicate them, the feral hogs will be more on edge and be more susceptible to being caught by a trap in the future. Trapping alone will not eradicate this species.

Sent from my iPhone

177

**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 2:51 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

Very sad day that the MDC and forest service refuse to work with farmers and hunters and landowners to remove the feral hogs in Missouri without the use of hunters and houndsmen the feral pigs will just continue prospering in the ozarks, people needs to use common sense and understand that you cannot even get traps into the majority of state and federal (public access) lands, but hunters and doggers can access these areas, you can just close public access areas to hog hunting cause it suits your situation there are many ways to control hog populations but fighting with the farmers hunters and landowners will just drastically increase their populations and build a resentment towards the MDC and forest service which is already been done, best way to remove hogs put a \$20 bounty on all hogs no matter how big or small. Will it fix the problem no, but it will help control the population. The feral pigs are here get used to it, they need to be shot on sight no protected, they are a feral evasive species and need to be viewed and treated as such.

179

**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Two Landowner coops in Total Support of the ban on haunting  
**Categories:** Orange category

I represent two major landowner coops in Missouri. The Niangua some 10,000 acres and 20 land owners and the Grouse coop, 100,000 acres and over 110 landowners.

We totally support the managed removal of the feral swine by government means and DO NOT support hunting of the feral hog, proven ineffective in Texas, and it encourages illegal planting of the hogs on federal lands to be then hunted by so called guided hunts.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or contact me.



Wildlife Partner

As of January 2017, QUWF has impacted 5.7 Million Acres of Wildlife Habitat with a value of \$19.4 million dollars. That is "Turnin-The-Dirt". Our landowner members have spent \$154 million dollars in their local communities since 2010.

"Preserve the Land and Clean Streams.....Build the Habitat.....Hunt and Fish for generations" with QUWF.

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179

**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 5:19 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain National Forest Closure Notice

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern,

As a feral hog hunter of more than 40 years, I have learned that the only way to control the feral swine population is hunters. The Mark Twain National forest is too thick and wooded for helicopter shooting to be effective. The MDC has tried trapping and they have not put a dent in the population.

It only takes a phone call to talk to people in Texas and Florida both who have tried the methods that MDC is using right now. Those in charge will tell you it does not work. The only way to keep the feral swine population in check is to allow hunting year round with no limits.

The land you are trying to close belongs to we the people not you the big brother!!! If you want to close anything that belongs to we the people then you should be putting it to a vote so that we the people can decide.

**DO NOT CLOSE THE MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST TO DOG HUNTING OR ANY OTHER HUNTING !!!!!**

Sincerely,

180

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 8:14 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Swine Removal from Mark Twain National Forest

**Categories:** Orange category

As a Missouri Master Naturalist and Concerned Missouri Voting, Tax Paying Citizen I am very interested in see all Missouri **Natural Resources** managed with Good Stewardship. Feral Hogs are like trash. Is dumping trash allowed in our Mark Twain National Forest?

As responsible citizens we clean up trash.

Please join in with the Majority of Missouri Citizens with removing Feral Swine from our Forest.

Thanks I know you'll do the right thing!

[Redacted]

Missouri Master Naturalist

Sent from my iPhone

[Redacted]

181

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 10:22 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog Hunting Closure on USFS Land

**Categories:** Orange category

I approve the closure of hog hunting on forest service land in the state of Missouri. Hog hunting scatters hogs and makes it more difficult to kill the entire group while trapping allows you to bait the group of hogs and eliminate the whole group. I personally have property in Southeast Missouri in Wayne County where there are healthy hog populations. I have been able to eliminate every hog that has been on my property because of trapping. My largest catch has been 17 hogs, I do not think hog hunters would have this much success. Hog hunters do not want the pigs gone, they do it in order to have fun. This just gives them more incentive to release more pigs so they can hunt. If you close the forest service land to hog hunting this will benefit the state of Missouri in their efforts to eradicate hogs from our state.

182



**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 11:39 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

My name is [REDACTED] I oppose the closure of the Mark Twain National forest and any other Federal government land for feral hog hunting. In my opinion, the Federal government, MDC and the public should work together to eradicate this highly invasive species. While trapping hogs is one way to eradicate the issue, it will not solve the issue itself. The hogs are smart animals. If one hog is missed by the trap, it will never step close to the trap again. Because hogs continue to be missed, they are now moving into National Park Land as well as our personal property. This means public land, crop and hay lands are being destroyed. Neighboring states are dealing with the same issues and have recognized that trapping alone will not eradicate the issue of feral hogs. All means of eradication including trapping and hunting should be used immediately. I am not opposed to acquiring a free permit to hunt feral hogs. I would also be happy to check in or report the number of feral hogs I have killed. My family consumes feral hogs on a regular basis. We have food pantries and citizens in need of food. Feral hogs can help solve the issue of citizens starving or going without proper food. Feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

■ Sent from Mail



FLinkId%3D54697%7C1&

sdata=Xs3vY%2FKljq4smilwR5%2B%2FEeWEjZvAeTbZu3G%2Be894FSQ%3D&reserved=0> for Windows 10

183

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 11:49 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

My name is [REDACTED] I attended the Feral Swine meeting held in Rolla, MO June 18. I oppose the closure of the Mark Twain National forest and any other Federal government land for feral hog hunting. In my opinion, the Federal government, MDC and the public should work together to eradicate this highly invasive species. While trapping hogs is one way to eradicate the issue, it will not solve the issue itself. The hogs are smart animals. If one hog is missed by the trap, it will never step close to the trap again. Because hogs continue to be missed, they are now moving into National Park Land as well as our personal property. This means public land, crop and hay lands are being destroyed. Neighboring states are dealing with the same issues and have recognized that trapping alone will not eradicate the issue of feral hogs. All means of eradication including trapping and hunting should be used immediately. I am not opposed to acquiring a free permit to hunt feral hogs. I would also be happy to check in or report the number of feral hogs I have killed. My family consumes feral hogs on a regular basis. We have food pantries and citizens in need of food. Feral hogs can help solve the issue of citizens starving or going without proper food. Feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

184

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 11:49 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Public Hog Hunting Comments

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern,

I live and work in rural ██████████ County where the amount of damages from feral hogs is ridiculous. Not only do they tear up vast amounts of property but you also have to be aware when enjoying nature even on your own property at times. The idea to discontinue public hog hunting is absolutely nothing less than stupid. By not allowing the public to hunt them you are adding danger by increasing the number of feral hogs. One feral sow can have up to 2 litters per year with up to a dozen piglet with each birth. If you have never seen what a feral hog can do or tried to trap them you wouldn't understand. A feral hog like any other is very intelligent despite what the common person might think. They get wise and know to avoid the traps, therefore decreasing the amount caught by so called conservationists. Please consider seeing the damages and dangers up close and personal and with your own eyes, not from behind a desk and on paper.

Thank you for your time.

██████████

185

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 11:53 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hog Comment

**Categories:** Orange category

I am emailing to this comment to oppose the closure of the Mark Twain National forest and any other Federal government land for feral hog hunting. In my opinion, the Federal government, MDC and the public should work together to eradicate this highly invasive species. While trapping hogs is one way to eradicate the issue, it will not solve the issue itself. The hogs are smart animals. If one hog is missed by the trap, it will never step close to the trap again. Because hogs continue to be missed, they are now moving into National Park Land as well as our personal property. This means public land, crop and hay lands are being destroyed. Neighboring states are dealing with the same issues and have recognized that trapping alone will not eradicate the issue of feral hogs. All means of eradication including trapping and hunting should be used immediately. I am not opposed to acquiring a free permit to hunt feral hogs. I would also be happy to check in or report the number of feral hogs killed. My family consumes feral hogs on a regular basis. We have food pantries and citizens in need of food. Feral hogs can help solve the issue of citizens starving or going without proper food. Feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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186

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Local Resident Vs Feral Swine Elimination

**Categories:** Orange category

My name is [REDACTED] year old resident of Fredericktown, Mo.

Having lived in this area my whole life, my family property directly butts against the Mark Twain National Forest, along with so many other families I know personally. We all have land, livestock, and families to keep and take care of.

This new proposal to ban the hunting of feral hogs on forestry ground is a large mistake. These animals reside within the forestry grounds, but often travel into neighboring properties and farms. I am a first hand witness to the destruction they cause - having seen them tear into land used for crops and livestock, going after and killing livestock, killing other wildlife, and actually try to attack people themselves.

I have seen the conservation put multiple traps and hunts on private and public land for the hogs in an effort to trap, kill, and keep population down, but frankly, most have failed. The population is ever growing.

Many times have we started a hunt for feral hogs on private property and had to take to the forestry to follow, to up our chances of getting most of the herds.

Cutting people off from trying to help the situation will cause a great negative outcome - resulting in more property damage and unsafe environments for people and other wildlife.

As a local resident, I am completely against this new proposal and demand a better idea for a proper outcome.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

187

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 5:29 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog hunting

**Categories:** Orange category

Leave our hunting lands and the hogs alone.

Sent from my iPhone

188

[Redacted]

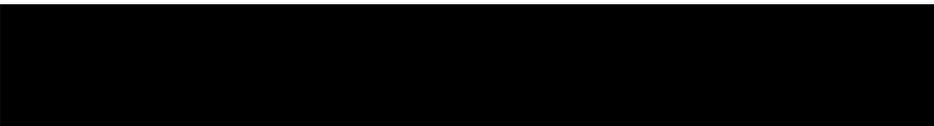
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 10:39 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hog Eradication

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom 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 illuminating 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 an combined effort between the general public and state/federal officials.

Thanks  
[Redacted]

189



**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 10:55 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** FS feral swine closure

**Categories:** Orange category

I wanted to submit my opinion. All too often, only the ones against a closure voice their opinion. I didn't want that to be the cause here. I am all for the FS closing the hunting of feral swine on their land. I was at the meeting at Rolla. I had to sit and listen to hog doggers blabber about how they were the only ones qualified to remove pigs. They exaggerated their takes and the number of pigs seen. Someone told me that there are more pigs on Fort Leonard Wood than ever. I have 65 cameras on flw for a pop index study. All numbers are down, so I know he is exaggerating to make it sound like we aren't doing our jobs. I have it on good authority that they often count all fetuses in the show they remove as pigs removed. This would inflate their numbers but approximately 6.8 I saw at least two hog doggers there that have been known to move pigs to new areas. In short, hog doggers are a scourge on the Ozarks and I would believe a word any of them say.



Sent from my Samsung Galaxy , an AT&T LTE smartphone

190

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2019 5:43 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting Hogs in the Mark Twain Forest.

**Categories:** Orange category

To Whom it may concern:

Please add my voice to those who support your efforts to eradicate Feral Hogs from Missouri by banning the hunting of them in our National Forests. Please take the long view of protecting our native species over the shortsighted hunters who find scattering the hogs good sport.  
Thank you for your efforts!

[REDACTED]  
St. James, Missouri

Sent from my iPhone

91

**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2019 9:21 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Hunting feral hogs

**Categories:** Orange category

I have been hunting feral hogs on on Mark Twain National forest for 14 years. The method we use is to just hike and stalk. We have only seen one corral trap in all those years. In addition, we have only seen 4 other groups hunting hogs in all those years. We have taken 14 hogs and ran into the sounders just over the next hill. So they do not scatter like we read from the the MDC. The MDC is doing a good job and winning some battles but they are losing the war. It is estimated that there are between 30,000 to 50,000 hogs in Missouri. The MDC has trapped around 10,000 hogs last year which is well below the percentage just to keep the population stable.

Another way to look at at MTNF is from a mathematical sense. Take the portion of Mark Twain southwest of Potosi which is 223,000 acres. Hogs have a home range of 4 square miles. To effectively trap all the hogs you would have to have 87 traps all space properly - this is not happening. We went hog hunting the week after the MDC did a flyover of Bell Mountain and ran into a sounder with 12 hogs - we took only two but this shows that even with killing 56 hogs there are many left.

I am also a little concerned that The MDC keeps blaming the increase on people still releasing hogs. I doubt that this is really going on in a big way any more but I do believe it was a problem many years ago.

With that said, I really doubt that closing hunting hogs is going to have an impact at all. So please keep one of my favorite recreational activities.

Sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

192



**Sent:** Saturday, June 22, 2019 10:36 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral Hogs

**Categories:** Orange category

I'm messaging you in response to the closing of the National Forest to us hog hunters. I would like to see all of us work together to manage the problem. I'm sure the hog hunters would buy a tag if we have to to hunt them with our dogs. Maybe you all could trap during May thru July and we could dog them from then on? Just trying to come to solution that works for all of us. Thank you for listening.

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

193

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 6:28 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** feral hogs

I favor the attempt to eradicate feral hogs from Missouri., including the Mark Twain National Forest. I favor the no hunting rule.

[REDACTED]

194

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral swine on national forest

To who it may consent,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a avid hog hunter. I don't believe shutting down National Forestry to hunting is the correct answer. I personally believe it is going to take all avenues of hunting and trapping to even get a remote handle on the hog problem. I understand that you believe hog dogging scares the pigs out of an area, this is very untrue. Pigs become more scared of your trip wire traps then the dogs.

Once a trap is set off the pigs on the outside of the trap become trap aware! There fore I truly believe the Forest Service, usda, mdc, and other originations should work with the hunters to use all means necessary. If not I am afraid you are going to do as the mdc has done and creat a massive breeding ground for the hogs.

Another thing to consider is when the hog population gets out of control, which it will with this ban, what are you going to do when these hogs start attacking the public as they use the ground to deer, coon. Squirrel hunt etc?

Again I ask you to reconsider this ban and consider actually working with hunters. Don't ban the public from using public ground.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Leasburg, Mo

Sent from my iPhone

195

**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

TAC

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 8:55 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment

[REDACTED] We oppose the closure of the Mark Twain National forest and any other Federal government land for feral hog hunting. In our opinion, the Federal government, MDC and the public should work together to eradicate this highly invasive species. While trapping hogs is one way to eradicate the issue, it will not solve the issue itself. The hogs are smart animals. If one hog is missed by the trap, it will never step close to the trap again. Because hogs continue to be missed, they are now moving into National Park Land as well as our personal property. This means public land, crop and hay lands are being destroyed. Our family operated business could be affected by the nuisance animals destroying trails, the beautification of our area and could cause personal injury to our trail riders by scaring the equine and causing an accident. Neighboring states are dealing with the same issues and have recognized that trapping alone will not eradicate the issue of feral hogs. All means of eradication including trapping and hunting should be used immediately. We are not opposed to acquiring a free permit to hunt feral hogs. We would also be happy to check in or report the number of feral hogs I have killed. Our family consumes feral hogs on a regular basis. We have food pantries and citizens in need of food. Feral hogs can help solve the issue of citizens starving or going without proper food. Feel free to contact us if you need additional information.

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[REDACTED]

197

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 9:14 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Closing of National forest to hog hunting.

I am a farmer in Texas county and I'm also a hog hunter. I'm opposed to the closing of national forest to hog hunting. 100 percent of the hogs I've killed in the last year were on national forest. I am very familiar with the areas where several Sounders are located. I think closing national forest to hog hunting is a serious infringement on our hunting rights. Please **help us** keep our hunting rights. Sincerely [REDACTED]

198

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 10:03 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment; FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Feral hog hunting

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a life long citizen of Missouri and a life long hunter and fisher of the lands and waters around us. I am also a land owner and I am beyond angry with the sneaky, conniving stunt that the MDC already pulled but even angrier that there is an attempt to keep hunters off of federal land to hunt hogs.

MDC can say whatever they want about their success at trapping hogs but I have hunted and lived in the areas that are infested with hogs. I have worked in an area that backs to a park and MDC is NOT SUCCESSFUL with their attempts to eradicate feral hogs. MDC has found a way to receive tax payer money, now looking for federal money, and the success of the hunter is a threat.

In 2018 there were a reported 1,871 hog harvests reported to Missouri Hunting and Working Dog Alliance (MWHDA, 01/04/2019). For the MDC to harvest that many at \$280/head would be \$523,880; not to mention that this survey only had 22 participants and there are more hunters/ land owners out there that didn't report due to fear of backlash.

So I ask you, if only 22 hunters/land owners reported with just over half a million dollars saved of tax payer money why are we being threatened with banning our efforts on federal lands? Why would our presence cause a problem? We do not leave our kills to rot, that meat is harvested as a food source. It could be used to help those that are in need also as a lot of infested areas are also areas of low economic status.

Yes I have heard the warnings of worms and disease, as was the broadcasted story about so many other animals that are now widely hunted. It is a ploy to scare the hunter and the general population. Deer can have worms, rabbits, raccoons, squirrel, even fish! Proper food preparation can eliminate or reduce those threats.

So again, I ask you. Why are we a threat? Why close off federal lands when the survey of a meager 22 people reported just over half a million savings of tax payer money with the restriction of conservation land already in place?

We are a threat because we are successful and with that success we save the taxpayer money. I urge you to reconsider, I urge all agencies to reconsider and work with the hunter, trapper, landowners to go at this together. We all want the same thing and that is control/eradication of these animals.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

199

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** Mark Twain national forest

I'm a sportsman. I'm expressing my freedom of speech and my opinion. Please don't restrict the hunting of hogs on my Mark Twain National Forest

[Redacted]

Ripley County

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[Redacted] 2VgQocT%2BuH  
DMZNwKGR%2BUjaO6wOxLCBBMqxQ%3D&reserved=0>



[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 6:28 PM  
**To:** FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
**Subject:** ATTN: Feral Swine Comment

June 24, 2019

I am writing in support of the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to ban the take (hunting), pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land.

When landowners try to control feral hogs through hunting, hog herds scatter. Trapping with no hunting interference is the best method to eliminate feral hogs.

To eliminate damage to farm and crop land and protect quality habitat for wild turkey, deer and native species for all the current and future citizens of Missouri, please support the ban of feral hog hunting as proposed.

--  
[REDACTED]  
Columbia, Missouri