I oppose the shutting down of hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest.
Mark Twain National Forest
Proposed Closure to Public Hog Hunting

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The Forest Service will consider public comments to determine:

1. If the proposal should be implemented as presented OR
2. Implemented with modifications suggested by public comments OR
3. If the forest will decline to implement a closure

To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows:

YOU CAN'T TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM US WHEN IT COMES TO KILLING HOGS, THEY ARE A PLAGUE TO LANDOWNERS!!! TRAP THEM, SHOOT THEM, POISON THEM ANYWHERE, ANY TIME, ANY WAY!

PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE TO HOG HUNTING!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Comments MUST BE received between May 24 and July 23, 2019!

Comments via email:
SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov

Comments via mail:
ATTN: Feral Swine Comments
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd  Rolla, MO  65401

Open House for PUBLIC COMMENTS
6 pm - 8 pm    June 18, 2019
Signature Event Center
1701 Martin Springs Drive  Rolla, MO
I tried to email my comments to SM.FS.MtFeralSwine@usda.gov <mailto:SM.FS.MtFeralSwine@usda.gov> - the email does not go thru when I email to this address.

I do not believe that you are making the right decision by closing the National Forest to hog hunting. There is to 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]
Dear Sirs,

I would like the opportunity to comment on the USFS proposal of banning feral hog hunting on USFS land. I believe it would be a mistake to ban the practice of hog hunting by dog and still hunters on USFS land and go exclusively with trapping to try and eradicate the feral hogs. I think we all need to work together combining trapping and hunting to try and solve a very complex problem. As a private forester who is in the woods every day, I have seen hogs and the damage they can do to a field and the woods.

Please consider my NO vote on a proposed ban for feral hog hunting on USFS land.

Thank you for your consideration,

Forester

This message is intended solely for the designated recipient and may contain confidential, privileged or proprietary information. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original and any copy or printout. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this e-mail are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the sender. Check this message and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The sender disclaims liability for any loss or damage caused through the transmission of this e-mail.
I am opposed to closing the Mark Twain forest to feral hog hunting. The hogs are destroying the land.
I support humane treatment of the animals. I would prefer seeing them relocated.

Marianne Branham
We support of the U.S. Forest Service’s proposal to close the Mark Twain to the take (hunting), pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land.
To whom it may concern:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of the proposal to close MTNF to hunting, pursuit, and release of hogs on forest land. Feral hogs are nonnative, invasive, and non-wildlife species known to cause great damage to the landscape, including crops, forests, and wildlife habitat. They should be eradicated. Feral hog eradication is supported by every credible outdoor organization in the state, government, or industry. Allowing hunting has only increased their populations. Trapping with no hunting interference is the proven best method in Missouri and other states to eliminate feral hogs. The Missouri Department of Conservation has already closed hog hunting on lands they manage and it has been showing positive results. Please join MDC and others in helping eliminate feral hogs from Missouri by closing MTNF to hog hunting.

Thank you.
Federal and state employees, policy makers. Instead of preventing hunters from shooting feral hogs you should be encouraging it and offering bounties.

If you are concerned about people ruining the site of traps set up then make it illegal to shoot near those traps and make the penalty significant to discourage those that prefer to ignore the law.

My place is bordering national forest at 3 places. This plan being proposed would cause me significant hardship when the hog population grows and they invade my land. I do not have the means to protect my land and livestock from them and keep myself and my pets safe.

Feral hogs are also potential danger to those who enjoy public lands.

This is real peoples lives you are messing with. Public land belongs to the public and you are charged with managing it for our benefit. Listen to us!

If your proposed plan is working elsewhere, prove it!

Sincerely,
Please protect our forests from damage.

We support improved restrictions on feral hog release.

The materials in this message are private and may contain Protected Health Care Information or other information of a sensitive nature. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to copy, distribute, or retain this message and any copies thereof. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender via telephone.
I support your efforts to control feral hogs by trapping with no hunting interference. Sincerely,
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 12:03 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Protecting Mark Twain NF from feral hogs

I fully support the plan to prohibit hunting and releasing feral hogs in Mark Twain N F. And support the use of controlled trapping as the best means to protect the forest and surrounding lands.
Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone
I support the policies on no-hunt, no-dump of swine in any and all public lands. Feral swine on the land are, and have always been, a serious pest and desese vector since DeSoto's murderous rampage through the south east of N. America. Dumping and hunting swine is for the enjoyment of a very small minority of people. They should be eradicated.
I support the U.S. Forest Service’s proposal to close the Mark Twain National Forest to the take (hunting), pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land.

Hunting to control feral hogs is not the answer. Trapping with no hunting interference is the proven best method in Missouri and other states to eliminate feral hogs.

Let’s do the right thing and try to reduce the numbers of feral hogs in our state, preserving our native animals and flora.
I oppose the closing of the Mark Twain National Forest to hog hunting.

Sincerely,
Hello, I am writing you to encourage Mark Twain NF leadership to close the National Forest to feral hog hunting and hog pursuit. As a land owner surrounded on three sides by Mark Twain in South Ste Genevieve County Missouri, I have always been a good neighbor to Mark Twain. I would greatly appreciate Mark Twain NF returning the favor by doing their part to control Feral hog populations by restricting hog hunting and instead trapping hogs as MDC is doing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 4:03 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment:
Subject: Feral hogs.

Please close the Mark Twain National Forest to hog hunting or release of feral hogs.

Sent from my iPhone
I am opposed to allow the hunting of feral hogs on Mark Twain Forest property. Proven control of the feral hog problem is trapping without hunting interference. If hunting is permitted, it will only result in an increase of the feral hog population and the destruction of public and private property.
To whom it may concern,

Re: email from the

I have a few comments about the whole wild hog situation though this is not related to the Mark Twain Wilderness.

I am quite unhappy with MDC as I reported a dumped adult pair of red wattle boar/sow and seven piglets on an abandoned property just up the road from me here in Webster County. This was in the early spring of this year. I found out from canvassing the other farms that these hogs had been observed out there for several weeks before I saw them out by the road.

Nothing was done about them. No traps set, nothing. These were clearly pure bred red wattle hogs and not fearful of me or my vehicle. The county game agent said the person in charge of dealing with feral hogs wasn't interested. They felt, quote, 'the owner', would just come get them at a later time. Well, they didn't. That's bullshit. So I honestly cannot be sympathetic to efforts by MDC or any other so-called concerned entity trying to stop hunting of feral hogs. Why bother? People dumped lots of livestock over the winter due to no hay from our drought last year. Horses and hogs here. It would have been easy to catch these hogs when I reported them as during the time seen, these things are still tame. No one would come get them collected to nip the problem in the bud.

By now that sow is pregnant again or has pigged another litter and that first litter of seven that we all saw are now 100% feral. Great. Sooner or later they will make it my way and tear my property up even though I tried hard to get the problem taken care of. The problem is no one really cares and this is just another way to create a bigger problem which will affect area landowners and hunters and put more controls on them instead of being as proactive as possible. I am highly disappointed.

Sincerely,
This is a critical rule we need to establish. We live adjacent to the Mark Twain National Forest (Cobb Ridge Off Road motorcycle area). We get feral hogs at times and also get requests from hog hunter to run their dogs on our land. We have had success in trapping hogs in conjunction with MDC, on one occasion killing 27. We also see occasional hog signs and hear a gunshot before there are no longer hogs which have moved on. Please consider banning all hog hunting on federal lands so the trapping programs can move forward.

“We are using nature's gifts as if we had more than just one Earth at our disposal,” - Marco Lambertini
Please follow through and ban feral hog hunting on Mark Twain National Forest. Give the biologists a real chance to fix the problem. If after 5 years, they have not made a difference, then it could be opened up for hunting again.

Thank you!
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:17 AM  
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Cc:  
Subject: My experience in relation to Feral Hogs in Missouri (against hunting as it creates more herds)

To whom it may concern:

I am a co-owner of [REDACTED] acres of land in southwest Missouri, in Phelps County.

We had a feral hog problem on our property for 2 years. We contacted the Conservation department, they sent [REDACTED] who solved our problems by setting a corral trap several times.

The meat was not wasted, and the system worked! Our pond is restored and our fields are not affected.

If there is hunting, the herds will split, and more herds will be established, as is the case elsewhere. Not to mention the safety of hunters and visitors in the national forest.

I protest the allowance of hunting in the Mark Twain Forest and am in favor of the trapping and killing of complete herds.

Respectfully yours,
Mark Twain National Forest
Proposed Closure to Public Hog Hunting

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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2. Implemented with modifications suggested by public comments OR
3. If the forest will decline to implement a closure

To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: *Feral Swine are not native to America and they don’t blend with nature. Instead of rooting anyway, *they* cause major damage to agricultural and scenic environments. How can they continue to *use* the area? Who will want to pay for further damage?

Sincerely,

Comments MUST BE received between May 24 and July 23, 2019!

Comments via email:
SM.FS.MT.FeralSwine@usda.gov

Comments via mail:
ATTN: Feral Swine Comments
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd  Rolla, MO  65401

TWO Open Houses for
PUBLIC COMMENTS

6pm - 8pm  Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Signature Event Center
1701 Martin Springs Drive  Rolla, MO

OR

6pm - 8pm  Thursday, June 20, 2019
Black River Electric Cooperative
2600 US-67  Fredericktown, MO
Comment:

I will not debate the hog hunting vs. hog trapping on public lands although the public does seem to get shut out from public lands. I am no expert on controlling the feral hog population & the best methods. However, I am certain that there is a better way to dispose of the carcass remains of the trapped hogs after they are put down. As all your printed material states, they can carry lots of diseases & rotting bodies & flesh left to decay or be scavenged by vultures & coyotes can also contaminate our water. We all live downstream & I spend lots of time outdoors & do not want to come upon one of these open removal grounds. We were told at the Rolla meeting that the areas were inaccessible to equipment etc. Well if you can get these big machines in & setup, does manpower to fast & monitor work? You can also get a back hoe in to bury the bodies.

Place in secure box at meeting, or mail to: ATTN: FERAL SWINE COMMENT
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd.
Rolla, MO 65401

Do a complete job of taking care of our environment! 30+ roll of care! How about a will?
Mark Twain National Forest
Proposed Closure to Public Hog Hunting

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: I do not want hog hunting restricted in Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[Name]
Address
Phone

Comments MUST BE received between May 24 and July 23, 2019!

Comments via email:
SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows:

I am opposed to the closing of MTNF to hog hunting. It should remain open using all methods including hunting with dogs.

Comments MUST BE received between May 24 and July 23, 2019!

Comments via email:
SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov

Comments via mail:
ATTN: Feral Swine Comments
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd Rolla, MO 65401

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: [Handwritten: decline to implement and changes]

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: This would be a grave mistake!

Sincerely,

[Name]

Comments MUST BE received between May 24 and July 23, 2019!

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SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov

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401 Fairgrounds Rd Rolla, MO 65401

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows:  If the forest will decline to implement a closure

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows:

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Sincerely,

Name

Address

Phone

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Please consider my comments as follows:

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Sincerely,

Name                        Address                        Phone

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows:

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: __________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

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To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider my comments as follows: I am a tax paying citizen and voter of Ripley County. I am against the proposed closure of Public Hog Hunting. These hogs destroy land and the landowners should be allowed to hunt them. There are a lot of poor families and they would love to have this meat. We need to follow the example of other states that hunt these hogs and are considering building processing plants. I pray that you will reach the correct decision.

Sincerely,

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Sincerely,

Name                            Address                            Phone

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Please consider my comments as follows:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Name

[Redacted]
Address

[Redacted]
Phone

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Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Name

Address

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Black River Electric Cooperative
2600 US-67 Fredericktown, MO
Hello, To whom it may concern

My name is [redacted] and I currently reside in [redacted], County Mo. I'd like to request that the USFS take a bold stance against the feral hog eradication program the Missouri Dept of Conservation is pressing for in the MTNF.

I myself personally believe and know that the MDC cannot protect our natural resources period they exercise that daily in the Ozarks by not being able to apprehend poachers in the Carter, Shannon, Oregon, Ripley, Wayne, Counties we see this a lot in the Cotham tracts 1-2 of the MTNFs also in the Cedar Bluff, Spout springs area and handy area Green Mtn area.

I have been hunting, hiking, camping all these areas above for over 50 yrs and you can rest assured that the MDC DOES NOT HAVE THE Forest and its Natural resources in the best interest of the Voting Citizens that use it, Tax Paying citizens that use it, Tourist from all over the world come to the Ozarks that use it.

18.7 million dollars spent in 2017 and 2018 as reported in feral hog eradication (12,000), that is 1,558.00 per hog. That is very poor in any standard and waste of US Dollars.

Take 18.7 million dollars and divide that by $50.00 Bounty gives the US Forest Service and others a 374,000 Head of Hogs Eradicated (potential) versus 12,000 head that dose not even touch the 70% range to just control them. The bounty dollars will be spent and put back into the system in the form of state commerce (doing business) purchases, fuel, ammo, camping, goods, food, bait the list is too long to type, it's a win with any form of hunting the hogs on federal lands.

MDC has done showed what happens when they closed state land 2016 they lost control immediately.

I do believe the Forest Service/ USDA Will I remember the Irish Wilderness feral hog Out Break A lot of us Hunted that, and killed a lot of hogs, Tread Lightly and got the job done with the forest service help yes collateral damage was done but, it was what it was to save the Irish Wilderness. MDC Spending money on Media with outdated facts and spread of rumors of the meat is as bad, as poaching and or cutting of trees as that has been done in land sell offs and leaving 85% good to great timber on the ground (CFLR using Mexican cutters to slash we seen this and talked to the translators its fact) and taking food sources away for wildlife very bad bad business.

I could type for a year on Verifiable Wrongs By MDC, but this hog issue is purely avoid able and to make it a federal crime to kill a hog and tie the federal court system up on this alone is as bad as the current Political situation across the board. A feral hog is not a native species under Mo wildlife code nor US code it was brought here by settlers it was a domesticated animal that returns to its wild state.

A HUGE NO ON CLOSING THE MTNF

Thank you [redacted]
Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing in support of the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to close the Mark Twain to the hunting, pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land. Already there are feral hog problems in 37 Missouri counties, most of which contain Mark Twain National Forest land, and which threaten the 1.5 million acres of your national forest land in Missouri. Nothing is filthier than hogs. If you've ever been within fifty miles of a hog farm, you will know it immediately. I was raised on a farm in Missouri, where pork was a staple, and we had hogs. But, feral hogs are non-native and not a wildlife species; they bear no resemblance to the hogs grown for food. It is a bad, bad idea to introduce them or allow them to be hunted on land shared and treasured by our nation. Trap them, yes, they are to be eradicated, but not by hunting. I hope you will the Forest Service's proposal.

Yours truly,
I am in support of the U.S. Forest Service’s proposal to close the Mark Twain to the take (hunting), pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land.
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 11:07 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Please Ban Hunting and Release of Feral Hogs in Mark Train National Forest

Feral hogs are an awful scourge on native and cultivated lands which benefit only a small group of people. It would be irresponsible to allow sport hunting to stand in the way of a necessary policy. The National Forest and the other parks and private land which these feral hogs spread to are far too important an asset to allow the current situation to continue and potentially worsen; these resources must be protected!

Please approve (and strongly enforce!) the proposed ban on hunting of feral hogs; it is the only way to stop their continued illegal release and to enable conservationists to get their populations under control.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments.

Best,
Dear Forest Supervisor,

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

The elimination of feral hogs is an essential step in the conservation of our public lands and would ease the enormous financial burden this invasive species puts on Missouri farmers and other private landowners. Those involved in meeting this goal overwhelmingly support a ban on feral hog hunting. Enacting this ban in the Mark Twain National Forest is a very sensible action to take.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

This message was sent using a web-based email client and should not be forwarded with Click Clack. Please contact me at a.t @ knowwho.com to ensure future correspondence is not sent via email.
I'm surprised a ban is not already in effect, because the damage done by feral hogs to agriculture, private and public property, and native wildlife and ecosystems is painfully clear. The small but vocal minority of Missourians who value their personal enjoyment of hog dogging above all other considerations may have cowed our state legislature, but the stewards of Mark Twain National Forest have a higher mission than appeasing constituents: according to the USDA website, "Natural Resources and Environment ensures the health of the land through sustainable management. Its agency works to prevent damage to natural resources and the environment, restore the resource base, and promote good land management."

It's agency works to prevent damage to natural resources and the environment. A significant step toward that goal is banning the release and hunting of feral hogs on national forest lands. Please enact such a ban soon, and make clear that it will be enforced.

Thank you,
Hello:

As a Missouri resident, Missouri Parks Assoc. Member, and a concerned conservationist I would urge the banning of feral hog/swine hunting in Mark Twain National forest.

The best way to rid Missouri of these invasive and non-domestic animals is trapping by experts.

Thanks for your consideration.
To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask that you keep the Mark Twain National Forest open to hog hunting. As we all know, hunters play a vital role in the elimination of feral hogs.

Missouri's hunters help our farmers and land owners throughout our state control the high population. As we all know, this is a mutually beneficial and very important relationship... one that should not be legislated against.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hello,

I recently heard that you are looking for comments on hunting feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest.

My comment is to leave things alone.

Let hunters eradicate them. By shutting down hunting you let them grow to large sounder groups and they are hard to eradicate.

Allowing hunting on public areas ,on certain dates, would do more to eliminate them than hoping to catch an entire sounder at once.

Thanks,

Belgrade, Missouri
Please let the MO Dept of Conservation ban hunting feral pigs. If trapping is the best way to rid Mark Twain forests of feral hogs, then please allow them to do that.

As a Brentwood MO resident, I enjoy our Missouri outdoors. I'm a Master Naturalist, and I appreciate native plants and animals. These aren't natives.
I’m sending this note to express my opposition to the possible ban of hunting in Missouri Mark Twain National Forrest.
Difficult to assess potential efficacy of trapping when no metrics are provided in the National Forest plan indicating a decrease rate for the state plan for trapping - general statements are used such entire groups, etc - what metrics do the trapping events actually represent. Landowners are at most risk for any plan, suggest the more active engagement of landowners and conservationists in MO prior to any change in Forest policy.

Sent from my iPad
Please support this ban. Feral hogs are a bane to Missouri farmers and landowners. They multiply at ridiculously fast rates, have no natural predators, and are able to destroy tens of acres overnight. They can only be controlled by professionals, who trap whole groups of them. Hunters who shoot individual hogs only make the remaining members of these groups wary and much harder to kill. Please ignore the selfish wishes of these few but vociferous hunters and pay attention to the majority of Missourians instead.

Sincerely,
Hello,

I am in favor of closing Mark Twain National Forest to hog hunting. I believe that doing so while pursuing a robust plan of trapping and public outreach on the benefits of trapping over hunting in eliminating hogs is the most responsible management decision.

The research shows this, and I know the greatest challenge in implementing this policy will be getting Ozarkers to understand the science and the importance of trapping to completely eliminate feral hogs.

I grew up a mile away from the Black River on ___________ Piedmont. I saw the hog wallows emerge on the river, damaging one of my favorite places. About 5 years ago, my family moved to the Brunot area, where the family dog chased — and was chased by — angry, nasty feral sows.

I do not want these animals to spread any farther than they have, creating additional cost for private landowners and government agencies. I believe the best way to stop this spread is trapping them, educating the public about the repercussions of hunting hogs, and perhaps for those Ozarkers who must hog hunt, pointing them to infested areas nearby in northern Arkansas.

If possible, please withhold my email address from public review.

Thanks,
I have hunted in Mark Twain Forest for the last 10 years. I have seen & taken a few hogs within that time frame. The area that I hunt has a hog pen / trap in it and you know what? It neve; has been checked, repaired, or even used. As far as killing a hog scatters the group, it's all B/S. The hogs continue to root, feed and live where they always have. If the cause to fix this problem is to follow what the State of Missouri suggests then be prepared to never have the problem fixed. And if shooting them from a helicopter during the winter is going to be used then they WILL NEVER be controlled due to the close location of Ft. Leonard Wood and the impact ranges there. That air space will be closed since this area is where the A-10's practice every day and night.

Why don't you consider a "Special Season" for hog hunting? A federal license with a nominal fee (50 -100 dollars), along with the appropriate state hunting license. Still hunting from Tree Stands and dogs could be used. Utilize those monies for roads, trails, etc... within the National Forests. Advertise across the nation for these hunts and do not charge residents from states other than Missouri an exorbitant fee to hunt here, the state will make their monies from the out of state license requirements. You could limit the number of hunters per area, designated by having specific areas within the Mark Twain Forest.

In addition to this special season/big game hunt, allow the deer hunter to take any hogs they see during November. Not everyone sees or harvests a White Tail during deer season, however a hog sighting and taking one is quite a hunting experience. The trapping of hogs in the Mark Twain Forest would have to be shown to me with the numbers trapped before I would change my opinion on his matter. I personally have been told by Missouri Conservation Officers (Game Wardens) that they could not / would not investigate hunting violations within the Mark Twain Forest and it was Federal Game Warden's job. Their numbers (Federal Wardens) are few and the amount of area they have to cover is a lot more area than the state wardens. Given that, how could you ensure the hogs are not being killed if it is illegal?

If a specific season for hogs was established and ALL hunters from all states could apply and hunt I believe that your problems would be solved within 10 years. Hunters from Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and other Southern states would love to come here and get rid of these pests. And the hiring of "Professional Hunters" will only reduce the herd temporarily, as the Feral Hog is a pretty smart animal, and will adapt, not to mention a waste of taxpayers monies.

Finally, a large portion of the hogs in Mark Twain Forest actually reside on Fort Leonard Wood and come in to the forest to feed, wallow, etc and return to the fort. The rules at Fort Leonard Wood, check in times, and being told a certain "Area" is closed that day due to training will certainly not help. If the hogs are not disturbed they will stay there. Additionally, send your own people and actually go check the forest. I would suggest the area where the Rouibideaux River borders Mark Twain Forest, you will see plenty of sign and hogs. And if you don't see them you WILL hear them growl at you. Don't believe all that the state of Missouri tells you, use your own biologists and Wardens for your information. Don't be like the Corps of Engineers, etc.. and follow what the state(s) want, use your own resources and make a GOOD decision.

Thank you for your patience.

Friday, June 28, 2019 7:13 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Hog Hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri

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As an avid outdoorsman and farm owner, I would like to encourage the Forest Service and the Mark Twain National Forest Units, in particular, to enact the proposed ban on hog hunting on lands owned by them. The impacts of feral hogs on wildlife and natural areas is documented and obvious. While I grew up in the deep south with a hog hunting tradition, I understand and appreciate the negative impacts that hogs have on their environment. I for one am willing to forgo the ability to hunt a few hogs in my state of residence in order to protect ground nesting birds, herptiles, and other Missouri wildlife and native plants. This is not to mention the damage that hogs could do to my small farm holding.

I urge you to help support the state of Missouri’s Departments of Agricultural and Conservation in their efforts to eradicate hogs from the state by banning hog hunting and allowing trapping by state and federal trappers on forest service lands.

Sincerely,
Dear Sir,

I am writing to voice my support of the U.S. Forest Service’s proposed policy of eliminating sport hunting of feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest in an effort the systematically control/eradicate these pests from Missouri’s public lands.

I was manager of a 13,000 acre cattle and wildlife operation in East Texas. My background is range and wildlife management. During those years, I learned some valuable lessons and made a few enormous mistakes.

One of the lessons I learned was that feral hogs despise anything that looks like habitat improvement. My coworker once observed that if you turned over a shovel-full of soil in the forest, a wild hog would come tear it up to see what you were trying to do! All kidding aside, the feral hog problem we had on the acreage I managed was a self-inflicted wound of the land owner. He introduced hogs, as many do, to have a hunting species with no season or bag limits. I can’t deny there were plenty of hunters who had a great time hunting a big Russian boar. But the down side was the horrible habitat destruction we had to live with, especially in the wetlands.

The enormous mistake we made (land owner’s idea that I went along with), was trapping hogs and hauling them to the sell barn. If I had known then what I know now, I would never have agreed to it and I’m sorry I ever participated in that kind of thing. I’m sure some of those animals were purchased cheap and hauled to points north, and are now causing grief and destruction right here in Missouri.

My two cents worth is just this: I am in favor of any effort to rid Missouri’s public lands of these destructive invaders, which I understand involves ending sports hunting of wild hogs and systematically trapping out areas. If private land owners wish to have feral hogs on their property, that’s their business (for now anyway), but our public lands have many stakeholders who are not well-served by allowing feral hogs to continue to roam our public lands and natural areas.

Sincerely
I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. Hunting of feral hogs does not help decrease the population. It has the opposite effect, causing these populations to explode. Please do not be persuaded by the intense lobbying from hog-hunting supporters. Their primary goal is to make money. We need to do all we can to preserve the remaining wild places — not every resource should be monetized.

Thank you for reading and considering my comments to support the ban on feral hog hunting.

Sincerely,
The fact of the matter is hunting these hogs are a good way to eliminate them and also brings lots of revenue to this massive area! Go ahead and trap them but also allow a hunter to help reduce the number. These hogs are smart and learn the traps but do both double up on them. What does it matter to hunt them? By not hunting them will double very rapidly?

Sent from my iPhone
I am opposed to the closure and have already sent an email addressing that fact. However, in conversation with others, I heard that you all were looking for solutions as well as eliciting comments. I believe there are a few reasonable things that we could do to truly address the problem of feral hogs. First, and I cannot stress this enough, allow licensed deer hunters who are already perfectly within their rights to be hunting our National Forest lands for deer, to continue to take feral hogs when they have an opportunity. This is the lowest hanging fruit available and in my honest opinion, simple common sense. IF hunting pressure disturbs the hogs and causes them to disperse, the hunters are already on National Forest ground deer hunting anyway. There are no trapping operations underway then because of the no baiting rule during the Missouri deer seasons. I am in no way convinced that hunting pressure causes them to disperse, because I have found hogs in the same areas time and time again, in spite of heavy hunting pressure. But, unless you close the whole forest to ALL hunters, all of the time, you cannot prevent this from happening. This would be HIGHLY unpopular with Missourians as you might imagine. Second, clearly identify areas where trapping operations are underway. I’ve heard numerous times that this can’t be done because people will simply go there to hunt hogs over the bait. This argument is not well thought out. A multitude of Missourians and American citizens from surrounding states come to visit Mark Twain National Forest for lots of reasons besides hunting. I for one, wonder how many hikers, or horseback riders have inadvertently interfered with trapping operations, out of ignorance that they were even taking place. By not clearly identifying these areas, you invite unsuspecting outdoor enthusiasts to exactly that. You all are surely aware that not every hog is captured when a trap drops. These hogs become almost impossible to catch and given time and sanctuary, will quickly replace the hogs that have already been removed. When you find these types of hogs, share their general location with the public and ask them to help kill those last few hogs. They’re really the most critical. Offer a bounty on the hogs with a sliding scale. Something like $10 for a pig up to $50 dollars for an adult sow, which should be the focus of everyone’s efforts due their ability to quickly reproduce. It would be a much better approach than to simply isolate a whole block of outdoorsmen by treating us all as if we were the problem, when in truth it’s a very small minority. It will take every tool in the tool box to combat this threat. Using one method and refusing the rest is just plain foolish. I recently watched the Missouri Conservation Commission meeting online, and I heard Director Pauley make the statement that in essence said that if you all refuse to close the forest to hog hunting, that they would need to re-evaluate the money that they are currently devoting to this problem. The commissioners asked her to make it clear to their “partners” that the funding they have been handing out would dry up. This sounded very much like a spoiled child who threatens to take his ball and go home when they begin to lose a game. You will never have a better friend than the average Missouri hunter. We have proven our worth time and time again when it comes to managing the fish and wildlife of our great state. The Missouri Department of Conservation has forgotten this altogether under the leadership of Director Pauley and public opinion on this issue shows it.