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.

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Sincerely,
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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Sincerely,
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 8:43 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 8:37 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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I have seen the extensive damage caused by feral hogs at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, which is near the Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,
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,
Dear Forest Supervisor,

Please use trapping instead. Feral hogs need to be controlled year round.

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Sincerely,
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Hog Hunting Ban

I support closing the Mark Twain National Forest to feral hog hunting. Hunting of feral hogs tends to disperse sounders of feral hogs and spread hogs to new areas where they did not exist before.
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.

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 10:17 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 10:21 AM  
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 10:38 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 11:18 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 11:27 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 12:53 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 1:44 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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Sincerely,

Mary Taylor
5375 N Kenrick Pk Dr Apt 305
Saint Louis, MO 63119
marytaylor1327@gmail.com
(314) 962-0599

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. Please contact Lillian Miller at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500 for more information.
Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 5:40 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sincerely,
MDC (Missouri Department of Conservation) has closed hunting or killing feral hogs on all State land. This has been in effect for a couple of years. They are now pressuring The Forest Service to do the same to all Mark Twain National Forest. MDC’s control of the hog population on State property has been terrible. The landowners adjacent to the State-owned property that is closed to hog hunting are being overrun by hogs coming off the State controlled property. If they close hog killing and hunting on Federal land we will be overrun with feral hogs. Hunters take several thousand feral hogs from the population each year. If this method of hog control is banned, we will see a huge population explosion of hogs by the time they realize the hunting ban mistake. The wheels of government turn so slowly that it will be years to reverse this ban, if they ever do admit their mistake. The State and Federal land will only be rooted up and wildlife numbers will decrease, but to the landowning farmers it could mean bankruptcy due to crop damage. The area that is noticing a huge increase in hog populations are adjacent to, and on the lands owned and managed by MDC where hunting is banned.

MDC quote: Other attributing factors in the success of the feral hog elimination effort include MDC’s “Report, don’t shoot” message to encourage trapping, prohibiting the take of feral hogs on conservation areas, and a strong public awareness campaign.

My response: If they are noticing “success” why change? Trapping by itself will NOT work! My wife and I own 700 acres in northwest Ripley county. We have 2 traps on our land and trapped a handful of hogs in 3 years. They become trap wise and will not enter. In two years with dogs and stand hunting we have been a part of killing 130 mostly on weekends in winter months. Hunters kill thousands of hogs each year! If MDC states ‘they are noticing success’, why would they want to remove a source that is responsible for removing thousands of hogs? It is not the “don’t shoot” that is making a difference. It is the “shoot” by hunters that is helping to make a difference.

MDC quote: MDC can’t be everywhere at once, so the extra eyes will help increase our knowledge of feral hog distribution. “Without the public’s help, the elimination of feral hogs will be impossible.” McLain said.

My response: MDC recognizes the huge benefit of the public’s help and even asks for it to increase their knowledge in distribution, but MDC refuses to recognize the contribution many hunters make in controlling the population.

Quote: “Feral hogs have expanded their range in the United States from 17 to 38 states over the past 30 years. Their populations grow rapidly because feral hogs can breed any time of year and produce two litters of one to seven piglets every 12 to 15 months.”

Quote: “Meister says feral hogs are currently the worst in southeast Missouri. According to Meister, feral hogs are not native to Missouri and they’re not migrating here either. “They’re actually being released by people for opportunities to hunt them and they’re selling hunts charging people to go out and guide them to hunt the hogs,” he said. The hogs reproduce at a very high rate. A female hog can start reproducing at just six months old. She can have three litters a year, with several piglets in each litter.

My response: If feral hogs are expanding their range, isn’t that the same as migrating? Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana have had hogs for years. Is it not possible they expanded their range (migrated) from other states? Hogs don’t know state boundaries. How did little short legged armadillos get in Missouri? I would suggest they expanded their range!
Quote: “The folks with agricultural don’t want them, folks in conservation don’t want them, people who enjoy nature don’t want them. They’re just bad,” said Alan Leary, who oversees the statewide MDC program to eliminate feral hogs. You might think the best way to combat feral hogs would be to shoot them on site. But authorities say no. In fact, it’s illegal to hunt feral hogs on MDC land.
Leary and Meister say the hogs run in herds known as sounders. If somebody shoots one, then the rest might scatter and get away.
That’s why traps are used.
Feed is put in the traps to attract many hogs then the animals trip a device and they can’t get out. The hogs are then shot and killed.
And the battle isn’t only being fought on the ground. Authorities at times shoot hogs from helicopters.

My response: They will not trap the entire sounder with trip traps. Trip traps are the only type they can and are using in the remote areas. They will only catch a few of the sounder and shoot them while the rest will scatter and become trap shy.
I guess shooting them from helicopters will not scatter them?
It seems only when hunters shoot at them that they scatter!
Dog hunters catch and kill several from a sounder initially and then continue to pursue the ones that do scatter catching many of them as well.

Quote: It’s a full court press to trap and kill as many feral hogs as possible.
“We gotta get rid of them,” said Dammrich.

My response: This is the one thing we agree on! I could continue with several more inconsistencies in the MDC approach, but the bottom line is we need to work together. Hunters can hunt in times and places that they can’t trap, while they can trap in times and places hunters don’t hunt. Hunters can and do make a huge difference. Hunters and tax dollars are where MDC and Mark Twain get their resources! Why drive a wedge between hunters and landowners with MDC and the forest service? If they close Mark Twain to hunting and killing hogs it will only create a sanctuary for an invasive species. We will not be able to protect our land from hog damage. Without the ability to chase hogs and catch them and kill them on public land, the only recourse for landowners will be to purchase traps or contact MDC and allow them full access to your land to attempt to trap hogs. They will have complete control of personal property. This is just another attempt at government control and regulation. I use all means possible to control the population on our property. It requires all methods to be effective! No one method by itself will be as effective as all.
Please contact the Forest Service and let them know you are opposed to anymore regulations and restrictions. Tell them not to ban hog hunting and killing on Mark Twain National Forest. We have until July 23, 2019 to be heard. Don’t miss this opportunity! Contract them at:
BY MAIL
ATTN: Feral Swine Comment
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd.
Rolla, MO 65401
BY E-MAIL
SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov
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,
Dear Forest Supervisor,

I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. I fully support hunting game species, and I don't want the hogs to simply be killed and discarded. I hope there's a way to effectively trap the hogs, but allow the folks who want them to feed their families with them.

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Sincerely,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2013 7:34 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:06 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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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,
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 11:01 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

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

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Sincerely,
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 3:42 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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.

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Sincerely,
Hello,

I am writing to express my concern for the epidemic growth of the feral hog population and to support the use of trapping to control population.

Please consider these arguments:

1. Trapping with no hunting interference is the proven best method in Missouri and other states to eliminate feral hogs.
2. Attempts to control feral hogs by hunting scatters herds and exacerbates population growth.
3. Support of feral hog control is not in conflict with sport hunting within the national forest.

Thank you.
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 9:05 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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,
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 10:32 AM  
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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.

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Sincerely,
Missouri Conservation Pioneers

Statement in Favor of Proposed Feral Swine Hunting Ban on USFS Lands in Missouri

July 3, 2019

I write on behalf of the Missouri Conservation Pioneers, retired biologists, conservation agents, foresters, hatchery workers, and many others who are personally invested in the state of Missouri's natural resources.

Members of the Missouri Conservation Pioneers have devoted entire careers to conserving Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. So, it is with considerable pride and enthusiasm that I write on behalf of these retired biologists, conservation agents, foresters, hatchery workers, and many others who are personally invested in the state of Missouri's natural resources.

Feral hogs are a significant threat to Missouri's natural resources, our agriculture, and the state's economy. This level of threat explains why every significant conservation organization in Missouri supports the elimination of feral swine, a position that is held by the state itself through its Departments of Conservation, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.
Missouri and the USDA are spending large sums to eliminate feral hogs, so it makes little sense for the U.S. Forest Service (another USDA agency) to allow the national forests to serve as reservoirs from which hogs can spread, or, be purposefully moved to other areas by those who want hogs firmly established throughout the state. Conventional thinking would lead to the belief that sport hunting would assist in reducing hog numbers when, in reality, the exact opposite is true. Hunting interferes with other effective hog removal techniques such as trapping because it disperses animals to new areas, and hunting also provides the source of live animals used in illegal transfers of hogs to new locations. The Forest Service manages 3 million acres in Missouri and prohibiting feral hog hunting on these federal lands is critical to the wild hog removal and control programs. It clearly will be counter-productive to prohibit wild hog hunting on state lands and then allow it on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Please remember these points as you deliberate the proposed rule:

* Feral swine are not wildlife. They are escaped farm animals.
* They pose very significant environmental threats to natural resources, including our fish, forests and wildlife.
* They threaten both crop and animal farming practices in a broad range of ways.
* Those who want to continue feral hog hunting have among their ranks individuals who are willing to relocate live hogs to new areas. That’s how the animals have spread to date, and that is why some individuals maliciously support continued sport hunting of hogs.
* Hunting makes it more difficult to eliminate hogs by dispersing them and making them more difficult to capture.
* Hunting becomes an incentive to perpetuate feral hogs, not control their numbers.

Thank you very much for this chance to comment in support of the proposed rule. We applaud your proposed actions and trust you will make the proper decision.
-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 3:21 PM
To: FS-Mailroom R9 Mark Twain <SM.FS.MarkTwainNF@usda.gov>
Subject: WWW Mail: Feral hog hunting

As a resident of Missouri and a conservationist, I wanted to comment that I am in favor of discontinuing feral hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest. Allowing public hunting of these animals only makes it more difficult to capture them in quantity by trapping and provides an incentive for illegal stocking of this destructive animal. Please change your regulations to conform to those promoted by the other natural resource and agricultural management agencies in Missouri. Thank you for considering my input.
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 2:29 PM  
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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,
I support the Mark Twain National Forest's proposed closure of hunting feral hogs on the MTNF.

I am a landowner who is surrounded on three sides MTNF lands. I am an avid hunter and angler who frequently visits the forest and has seen firsthand the damage caused by feral hog (Mill Creek).

I encourage the MTNF to continue to cooperate and coordinate feral hog eradication efforts with its sister agency in the USDA, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and many other governmental and citizen conservation and agricultural organizations who want to rid our state of these unwanted swine.

I would also encourage the MTNF to increase law enforcement efforts to catch and charge those selfish and misguided individuals who are illegally releasing pigs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Respectfully,
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 5:00 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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,
I urge you to ban hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. These violent and detrimental animals will scatter and spread because of this practice and their damage to the environment will increase also. Thank you for your consideration. I am an avid fan of MO State Parks as a member of the MO Parks Assoc. and frequently hike in Mark Twain Forest.
I support the proposal to stop hog hunting on the Mark Twain NF. It is needed to remove the incentive for people to release hogs so they can hunt them.
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 8:48 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest

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,
Dear Forest Supervisor,

I support a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. Missouri has the best state conservationists in the country listen to them.

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.

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Sincerely,
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Mark Twain Forest and feral hogs

I am writing in support of the US Forest Service proposal to ban the take, pursuit and release of feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. I am in favor of eliminating feral hogs in Missouri. Trapping by agencies such as the Missouri Department of Conservation has proven to be the most effective way to remove feral hogs. Feral hogs cause many problems including those listed below:
-damage to crops
-degradation of habitat for native species of flora and fauna
-spread of diseases to domestic animals

Both landowners and public agencies spend a lot of money to address the problems caused by feral hogs. Please do all that you can to eliminate feral hogs.
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,
Suggestion: Have Managed Hog Hunts, as done in European Countries. Hog chairs and stands for hunting. Hunters to pay a fee. Donate hogs to Food Pantries.
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: \text{Harvest Wild Hogs}

Sincerely,

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

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