MTNF:

I support the ban of hunting of feral hogs on the MTNF.
Greetings,

I'm writing to voice my official opposition to the rule allowing Feral Hog hunting in Mark Twain National Forest. Because of the nature of feral hogs, a concentrated trapping effort is the only way to effectively limit the spread of feral hogs and reduce their numbers from damaging farmland and enclosures for other animals. This ban is supported by the Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Pork Association, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Please add my voice to those supporting a ban on this type of hunting in this area.

Thanks,

Saint Louis (unincorporated town).
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 9:15 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Swine Comment - Mark Twain NF

Hello,

I am writing in support of the U.S. Forest Service’s proposal to close the Mark Twain NF to the take (hunting), pursuit, or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land. Feral hogs cause tremendous ecological and economic damage in Missouri, including on the Mark Twain NF. Feral hogs are non-native species and harm our native wildlife species and pose a threat to domestic swine and other livestock. Closing the Mark Twain NF to hog hunting will assist in the control and eradication of feral hogs as has been demonstrated by USDA/APHIS and other credible agencies and organizations. We must control feral hogs and closing hunting of them will assist with trapping and other control efforts by conservation agencies. Feral hogs pose a threat to the great natural resources of our state. Again, I support the closing of hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Jefferson City, MO
I support the proposed legislation to prohibit hunting of feral hogs in Mark Twain National Forest. The research supports prohibition of hunting. Trapping is more effective in reducing feral hog numbers than is hunting.
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:10 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: OPPOSE BAN ON LAWFUL HOG HUNTING IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Dear U.S. Forestry Service Service:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I believe that all tools and resources, Public and Private, of wild hog management must be utilized to keep the at-large population in check, while maximizing the benefit of an abundant American pork and recreation income commodity. Public harvesting efforts represent millions of dollars to our State and National economy.

Mark Twain National Forest contains over a million acres of Public property and is home to a large concentration of Missouri’s wild hogs. Deliberately banning or inhibiting thousands of law-abiding Public Hog Hunters, Trappers, and Landowners from participating in wild hog management on Mark Twain and other Public properties, and by default, adjoining Private properties, will not only inhibit the Public’s civil rights to property access, but will ultimately result in rampant wild hog over-population.

The closure of Mark Twain National Forest by the US Forest Service will also create undue Federal criminal charges against Citizens who have participated in wild hog management on Public properties for generations, for the lawful purposes of recreation, conservation, and human consumption.

I also support proper game management procedures and practices, including harvesting the hogs captured rather than dispatching and wantonly wasting them on Public property. Thousands of families across Missouri and the Southeastern United States eat wild hog as a staple meat protein, blocking or inhibiting access to a valuable and abundant food source must be considered in this debate.

Please accept my EMAIL in OPPOSITION to the proposal by the US Forest Service to BAN Public Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

<https://the-cavalry-group.rallycongress.com/email/images/1.gif?id=3749351&t=21449&a=5d31dca782e749.08293087>
<http://delivery.rallycongress.com/wf/open?upn=80d0RNZ64-2BChg3tKPlI2aZ-2F5S-2F1hDveeOizpXrvvcch1sPELR-2FZcKvWnzG0iys370xyZJihQkmrLPldh0-2Bx10M5tfzR HuluZtApay2PKWVcoxA3JqVvYAR e2rOUvJqBGKet-2Byd-2BjpxUOFV3pcLmrmQncd84cH2yGA2uzq-2FLiku bJTiwYua0rDeztGn36HMTPSGCTFNrSn6CnsZnIVHXIetXDGlJp8Vg2nseM-3D>
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:39 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Attn: Feral Swine Comment

I oppose the ban of feral hog hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Eminence Mo
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:45 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment

To whom it may concern:

DO NOT pose a NO HUNTING BAN on Mark Twain National Forest. Government Agencies should be working WITH Hunters!

Government Agencies cannot do this alone! To date the population is growing and will only continue should this ban be put into place, not to mention making Federal Criminals out of Sportsmen & Landowners trying to remove hogs from Private Property. Government Agencies have not eradicated hogs on State land much less close another 1.5 million acres!

I am totally opposed to this!

Sent from my iPhone
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:50 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: OPPOSE BAN ON LAWFUL HOG HUNTING IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Dear U.S. Forestry Service Service:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I believe that all tools and resources, Public and Private, of wild hog management must be utilized to keep the at-large population in check, while maximizing the benefit of an abundant American pork and recreation income commodity. Public harvesting efforts represent millions of dollars to our State and National economy.

Mark Twain National Forest contains over a million acres of Public property and is home to a large concentration of Missouri’s wild hogs. Deliberately banning or inhibiting thousands of law-abiding Public Hog Hunters, Trappers, and Landowners from participating in wild hog management on Mark Twain and other Public properties, and by default, adjoining Private properties, will not only inhibit the Public’s civil rights to property access, but will ultimately result in rampant wild hog over-population.

The closure of Mark Twain National Forest by the US Forest Service will also create undue Federal criminal charges against Citizens who have participated in wild hog management on Public properties for generations, for the lawful purposes of recreation, conservation, and human consumption.

I also support proper game management procedures and practices, including harvesting the hogs captured rather than dispatching and wantonly wasting them on Public property. Thousands of families across Missouri and the Southeastern United States eat wild hog as a staple meat protein, blocking or inhibiting access to a valuable and abundant food source must be considered in this debate.

Please accept my EMAIL in OPPOSITION to the proposal by the US Forest Service to BAN Public Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[URLs with hashbangs]
To the Mark Twain Forest Supervisor,

I am writing 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. As has been stated: "Feral hogs are non-native and not a wildlife species. They are wild-living hogs descended from domestic swine, and hybrids of domestic swine and Eurasian wild boar. Feral hogs can destroy agricultural crops, hay fields, and wildlife habitat while reducing water quality, contributing to soil erosion and the destruction of sensitive natural areas such as forests, glades, fens, and springs. They out-compete native wildlife for habitat and food." As a landowner myself, I can appreciate the constant assault our landscapes are under from development, invasive species, and many other pressures. Our wild landscapes must be preserved.

I agree to the "elimination of feral hogs as an essential step in the conservation of our public lands and to ease the enormous financial burden this invasive species puts on Missouri farmers and other private landowners." I believe the research on the issue of how best to manage these animals is clear, and has been made publicly available by the Missouri Department of Conservation and other organizations. The process must proceed according to the most efficient way available, which is not through hunting but by the trapping methods that have been developed and implemented by the Missouri Conservation Department and other agencies.

Sincerely,
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 12:18 PM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Opposition Feral Hog Hunting Ban/Mark Twain National Forest

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed feral hog hunting ban on Mark Twain National Forest land. I humbly disagree with the notion that banning hunting in favor of trapping is the best way to eradicate these animals. It defies logic that these methods cannot co-exist. Please consider the rights of hunters to harvest this resource for productive use along side those who want a trapping only approach. While I have read articles which claim that the trapping only approach has been proven by results in other states, namely the experience in Northern Tennessee, I have yet to see any on a hunting & trapping approach. Please consider trying this dual approach before considering removing the rights of Missouri hunters.

Sincerely,

[...] 
West Plains/Howell County, MO
If you would just drive around on the land that they are already trapping you would see they are still loaded with hogs we need to do this together not separate

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 1:22 PM
To: F5-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Hog Hunting

Please ban feral hog hunting on our public lands.
Thank you,

KCMO
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 2:34 PM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Close public lands to private party feral hog hunting

Forest Service:

I would like to support the US Forest Service in closing feral hog hunting to private citizens. I have viewed the destructiveness of feral hog activity first hand. We need to remove any incentive for people keeping feral hogs around. We need to increase funding to help government partnerships between Forest Service, National Park Service, Missouri State Park's, and Missouri Department of Conservation to eliminate the feral hog problem in Missouri.

Thanks,

Sent from my iPhone
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 3:06 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: OPPOSE BAN ON LAWFUL HOG HUNTING IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Dear U.S. Forestry Service Service:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I believe that all tools and resources, Public and Private, of wild hog management must be utilized to keep the at-large population in check, while maximizing the benefit of an abundant American pork and recreation income commodity. Public harvesting efforts represent millions of dollars to our State and National economy.

Mark Twain National Forest contains over a million acres of Public property and is home to a large concentration of Missouri’s wild hogs. Deliberately banning or inhibiting thousands of law-abiding Public Hog Hunters, Trappers, and Landowners from participating in wild hog management on Mark Twain and other Public properties, and by default, adjoining Private properties, will not only inhibit the Public’s civil rights to property access, but will ultimately result in rampant wild hog over-population.

The closure of Mark Twain National Forest by the US Forest Service will also create undue Federal criminal charges against Citizens who have participated in wild hog management on Public properties for generations, for the lawful purposes of recreation, conservation, and human consumption.

I also support proper game management procedures and practices, including harvesting the hogs captured rather than dispatching and wantonly wasting them on Public property. Thousands of families across Missouri and the Southeastern United States eat wild hog as a staple meat protein, blocking or inhibiting access to a valuable and abundant food source must be considered in this debate.

Please accept my EMAIL in OPPOSITION to the proposal by the US Forest Service to BAN Public Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[URL]
Dear U.S. Forestry Service Service:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I believe that all tools and resources, Public and Private, of wild hog management must be utilized to keep the at-large population in check, while maximizing the benefit of an abundant American pork and recreation income commodity. Public harvesting efforts represent millions of dollars to our State and National economy.

Mark Twain National Forest contains over a million acres of Public property and is home to a large concentration of Missouri’s wild hogs. Deliberately banning or inhibiting thousands of law-abiding Public Hog Hunters, Trappers, and Landowners from participating in wild hog management on Mark Twain and other Public properties, and by default, adjoining Private properties, will not only inhibit the Public’s civil rights to property access, but will ultimately result in rampant wild hog over-population.

The closure of Mark Twain National Forest by the US Forest Service will also create undue Federal criminal charges against Citizens who have participated in wild hog management on Public properties for generations, for the lawful purposes of recreation, conservation, and human consumption.

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Please accept my EMAIL in OPPOSITION to the proposal by the US Forest Service to BAN Public Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

<https://the-cavalry-group.rallycongress.com/email/images/1.gif?id=3749444&t=21449&a=5d3224ed126f57.71607103>
<http://delivery.rallycongress.com/wf/open?upn=hOd0RNZ64-2BChg3tKPlI2aZ-2F55-2F1hDveqO1zpXrvvccjnxYjii5lgNnLNeNm0hI0oGlzDaeNesBqbsrxx5A37fPutq30LltBqRL5ls5YVArdaWUxPbAmmqwxsiOnuOL06A76Tabz8B4MFb1TEZOGCcBvC-2FBBQx7g16csLau8f-2BS3l1o7mgj407STEX9elVxBdf9qZH-2Fjh4nrwCs9YRmyyk2LjNAuzYjzfAX3rA-2BL4 Dw-3D>
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 3:37 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Hogs

Please act in the Mark Twain National Forest to eliminate feral hogs. There are lots of other animals to hunt in Missouri, and wild hogs are really damaging!
Good Day

My name is [Name] and I am an individual. As such, I ask your agency to ban hunting of feral hogs on Missouri's National Forestland. Missouri's Natural Resources, Soil, Water, Plants and Animals are threatened by feral hogs and other invasive species. It is vitally important that the most efficient methods of eradicating these pests be implemented immediately. The literature I have read gives hunting very low marks as a management tool, and in fact can add to the problem. Mark Twain National Forest is a key player in eradicating feral hogs along with other state partners Missouri Department of Conservation, State Parks, and Private Landowners. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to comment.
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 5:51 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Hog hunting on Mark Twain National Forest

I support the ban of hog hunting on MTNF.

Hallsville, Mo

Sent from my iPhone
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 7:43 PM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Feral Swine

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to Express my support of a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Hunting has shown itself to be ineffective at best if not counterproductive in controlling/reducing the feral swine population.

The best method to achieve this goal is trapping and this should be not only the preferred method but the only method allowed by law on public lands.

Also, Restrictions should be put in place regarding private hunting lands adjoining Mark Twain National Forest to ensure that hogs used for hunting on these properties are effectively contained within these properties and are unable to wander off property and into the National Forest.

Sincerely,
I strongly oppose the hunting of feral hogs in the Mark Twain National forest or anywhere else you might come up with later. Feral hogs do terrible things to our rivers and forests not to mention anywhere else they roam.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2019, 5:29 PM Missouri Parks Association <info@missouriparks.org <mailto:info@missouriparks.org> wrote:

The struggle to eradicate feral hogs from Missouri is at a critical juncture with a public comment period now open on a US Forest Service proposal View this email in your browser <https://gccOl.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmailchi.mp%2F1c577c9774d8%2Fferal-hogs-in-missouri-action-needed%3Femail%3D151310fa98&data=01%7C01%7C7C91e4d605cc94b38bb0208d70e3e8998%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee037fa0d4691128h3%2B%2BVJIR21Odm%3D&reserved=0> Missouri Parks Association Members:

The struggle to eradicate feral hogs from Missouri is at a critical juncture with a public comment period now open on 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, have a lot at stake in the success of the ban. To learn about the impact of feral hogs in Missouri, click here to download the upcoming Heritage article focusing on the issue. <https://gccOl.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmailchi.mp%2F1c577c9774d8%2Fferal-hogs-in-missouri-action-needed%3Femail%3D151310fa98&data=01%7C01%7C7C91e4d605cc94b38bb0208d70e3e8998%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee037fa0d4691128h3%2B%2BVJIR21Odm%3D&reserved=0>

It is critical for large numbers of conservationists and private landowners to submit written comments by the July 23 deadline supporting the Mark Twain's proposal to ban hog hunting on the forest, and for as many as possible to attend one of the two public open houses June 18 and 20, at which staff from the Mark Twain, USDA, MDC and MDA will be present to share information and answer questions. Small but well-organized groups of avid hog hunters will be working hard to oppose the ban. This is the time to demonstrate that Missouri conservationists care.

* Attend one of the two public open houses to learn about the issue and make your concerns known: in Rolla, Tuesday June 18 from 6-8pm at Signature Event Center, 1701 Martin Springs Drive; or in Fredericktown, Thursday June 20 from 6-8pm at Black River Electric Cooperative, 2600 US Highway 67.
* Email comments to the Mark Twain: SM.FS.MTferalSwine@usda.gov <mailto:SM.FS.MTferalSwine@usda.gov>
* Mail comments to Forest Supervisor, Attn: Feral Swine Comment, Mark Twain National Forest, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401.

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for Missouri's public lands and natural resources.

Sincerely,
Deborah Schnack  
President

Please note-if using Internet Explorer you may have issues opening the links within the email so please try Google Chrome or FireFox.

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*MPA Membership*

Our mailing address is:  
Missouri Parks Association  
P.O. Box 8531  
Kansas City, MO 64114

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You can update your preferences

This email was sent to orioniggies@gmail.com <mailto:orioniggies@gmail.com>  
why did I get this?

76
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 7:56 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Comments on proposed rule to ban hog hunting on the Mark Twain National Forest

Forest Supervisor
Attn: Feral Swine Comment, Mark Twain Natl. Forest, 401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla MO 65401

To whom it may concern:

I am in total support on the U.S. Forest Service's proposed rule to ban feral hog on the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are a significant threat to the Missouri landscape, the wildlife and plant resources of the State, Missouri's federally listed Mead's Milkweed, Geocarpon, Missouri Bladder-pod, and the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly. These nuisance animals are reservoirs for numerous diseases and threaten the state's economy by destroying valuable crops. The only way to significantly reduce the spread of this exotic is through a complete ban on the release and hunting of feral hogs as recommended by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Consequently, I am in total support of the proposed ban.

Sincerely,
I am a Missouri resident, birder and outdoor enthusiast. I whole heartedly support the ban on the release and hunting of feral hogs in Mark Twain National Forest.
From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:  

Sunday, July 21, 2019 8:05 PM  
FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Ban on feral hog release and hunting on MTNF

Attn: Forest Supervisor:

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

Boone Co Missouri
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 8:25 PM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Burroughs Audubon of Greater KC Supports Ban on Feral Hog Hunting in Mark Twain 
Attachments: Feral HogFINAL.pdf 

July 21, 2019 
To Whom it May Concern at Mark Twain: sm.fs.mtferalswine@usda.gov 

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City is a 100 year old organization representing almost 2,000 members in the Greater Kansas City area. 

This letter voices our strong support for the ban on the pursuit and hunting of feral hogs in Mark Twain National Forest lands. 

The few hunters, albeit well organized in their support to continue this horrific threat to Missouri's native flora and fauna, in no way should have priority over the beautiful ecosystems that draw so many to our state. Additionally the severe economic damages done to both public and private lands should not have to be carried by private landowners and taxpayers. This is truly a case where wants of few should not take priority over natural areas and private property. 

On behalf of the almost 2,000 members of Burroughs Audubon that enjoy and invest in the wildlife, flora and fauna of Missouri, we support the ban on feral hog release and hunting in the Mark Twain forest. Do not squander our children's ecological inheritance. Do not allow this destructive practice continue. 

Sincerely, 

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
To Whom it May Concern at Mark Twain:
sm.fs.mtferalswine@usda.gov

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City is a 100 year old organization representing almost 2,000 members in the Greater Kansas City area.

This letter voices our strong support for the ban on the pursuit and hunting of feral hogs in Mark Twain National Forest lands.

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On behalf of the almost 2,000 members of Burroughs Audubon that enjoy and invest in the wildlife, flora and fauna of Missouri, we support the ban on feral hog release and hunting in the Mark Twain forest. Do not squander our children's ecological inheritance. Do not allow this destructive practice continue.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

[Position]

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 8:42 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral hog hunting

This is to request your support to ban feral swine hunting. Feral hogs threaten native wildlife and plant communities and they tear up agricultural fields and sensitive riparian areas. Hunting does not control swine populations. These prolific, smart animals become more cautious when they are hunted, so hunting hampers trapping and eradication efforts. We have a home in Iron County and we have personally had trouble with hogs tearing up our fields. USDA trappers have effectively gotten rid of the problem because hogs came to bait and traps. Hogs cannot be trapped in areas where they are hunted, they're too skittish. Hunting also incentivizes the release of hogs. It's the responsibility of the USFS to protect native wildlife and plant communities as well as the ecological integrity of their forests. Banning hog hunting will not limit access to public lands, it will enforce responsible stewardship of our public natural resources and protect surrounding communities from costs associated with hog damage to private property. Again, please support the ban on feral swine hunting.

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We have updated our Data Protection Notices to meet the high data protection standards set by the new European General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"). The changes are effective 25 May 2018. You have the right to object to the processing of personal data for direct marketing purposes at any time. For more information about our data protection practices and to view a copy of our Data Protection Notices please refer to our Privacy <https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.milliken.com%2Fen-us%2Ffour%7C%7C1dc13562b7943d00dce08d70e45dbd8d%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03ca0d4697%7C1&sdata=2WhU36fJrUOQS2W224%2BlidaFEnXKd3G36RCQVwig4p4%3D&reserved=0> page.
Please consider this support for the ban on individual hunting of feral hogs within the Mark Twain National Forest, and throughout the state of Missouri. I have witnessed the massive destruction wrought by feral hogs, and their rampant reproduction rate. Individual hunting techniques are proven to be detrimental in the rapid reduction of the feral hog population and may, in fact, increase their distribution. Please do not let this destruction spread. A ban on individual hunting, and the support of methods that trap a complete sounder is imperative.

Thank you for your support.
Dear U.S. Forestry Service Service:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I believe that all tools and resources, Public and Private, of wild hog management must be utilized to keep the at-large population in check, while maximizing the benefit of an abundant American pork and recreation income commodity. Public harvesting efforts represent millions of dollars to our State and National economy.

Mark Twain National Forest contains over a million acres of Public property and is home to a large concentration of Missouri's wild hogs. Deliberately banning or inhibiting thousands of law-abiding Public Hog Hunters, Trappers, and Landowners from participating in wild hog management on Mark Twain and other Public properties, and by default, adjoining Private properties, will not only inhibit the Public's civil rights to property access, but will ultimately result in rampant wild hog over-population.

The closure of Mark Twain National Forest by the US Forest Service will also create undue Federal criminal charges against Citizens who have participated in wild hog management on Public properties for generations, for the lawful purposes of recreation, conservation, and human consumption.

I also support proper game management procedures and practices, including harvesting the hogs captured rather than dispatching and wantonly wasting them on Public property. Thousands of families across Missouri and the Southeastern United States eat wild hog as a staple meat protein, blocking or inhibiting access to a valuable and abundant food source must be considered in this debate.

Please accept my EMAIL in OPPOSITION to the proposal by the US Forest Service to BAN Public Hog Hunting on Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

[Email addresses and links redacted]
I support the use of science, and since science has proven that hog hunting is ineffective at reducing hog numbers, and in fact reduces the impact on trapping efforts, then I support the ban on feral hog hunting on Mark Twain National Forest Lands. These non-wildlife need to be eradicated from our state in the most effective way possible.

Columbia, MO
From: 
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2019 11:02 PM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Hunting to control feral hogs is not the answer 

Please consider my comments:

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

Hunting to control feral hogs is not the answer. Trapping without hunting is the best method in Missouri and other states to eliminate feral hogs.

Feral hogs are an invasive-introduce species that doesn't belong in the MTNF and hunting could help increase the existing populations.

Thank you,

"Once upon a time every single flower in the world was a wildflower" Miriam Goldberger 'Taming Wildflowers'
I am writing in support of the closure of hog hunting on USFS land. I’m a landowner in Shannon County and I have seen the damage hogs do. Continuing to allow hog hunting just encourages the illegal release of more hogs. Please implement the ban and use as many resources as possible to trap and eradicate these noxious animals.

Thank you,
Missouri Parks Association (MPA) supports a ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest. Missouri state parks, along with other lands both public and private in hog-infested areas of the Ozarks, have a lot at stake in the success of the ban. With few natural predators, feral hogs have multiplied rapidly across much of southern Missouri, creating issues at state parks in the area.

Parks with known hog damage—in addition to Johnson's Shut-Ins, Taum Sauk, Roaring River and Stockton—include Hawn, Elephant Rocks, St. Francois, Washington, Sam Baker, and Wappapello. These are parks with extraordinary natural resources, including carefully restored glades, prairies, woodlands, fens, wetlands, and high-quality streams attractive to hogs. All are in proximity to units of the Mark Twain and groups of active hog hunters and are in danger of continued hog damage despite vigilant trapping by park staff and professional federal trappers.

The proposal to close the Mark Twain to the hunting of feral hogs will be important to helping agencies and partners make positive progress towards feral hog eradication. Enacting this ban will be helping protect surrounding natural communities, state parks, and farmland from feral hog damage, as well. Missouri Parks Association overwhelmingly supports a ban on feral hog hunting and passing this ban in the Mark Twain National Forest is a very sensible action to take.

Sincerely,
Forestry Supervisor:

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

A ban on feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain is essential to eradication of this highly destructive non-native, non-game species.

Eradication is best accomplished with the proven method of trapping, used in Missouri and other states, that can only be effective with non-hunting interference.

Please protect our highly important public area as well as nearby residents and agricultural crops etc, by banning feral hog hunting in the Mark Twain National Forest.
From: 
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 10:08 AM 
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment 
Subject: Feral Hog hunting in Mark Twain 

Please do not allow Feral Hog Hunting in Mark Twain National Forest.

St James, Mo
I support the current Ferrel HogTrap/eliminate rather than Sport Hunting to eliminate Ferrel Hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Bob Borman

Sent from my iPad
I agree with the proposal of the US Forest Service to close off the public hunting of hogs on Mark Twain National Forest lands. I live in a location that has been overrun with hogs and the Missouri Department of Conservation has set-up traps. They have had success, however, when hunters (illegal) and dogs are in the area, the hogs become spooked and trappings do not occur until months later. I believe the incidents are related. Once hogs are scared (from one being shot, shot at, or with dogs running), the others member of the sounder scatter or are smart enough to leave the area, hence trapping does not capture the entire group. By allowing continued hunting, it may also encourage those who enjoy the chase, spend money on the efforts, and trained dogs to perhaps release (illegally) additional animals to support the sport and their enjoyment.

Overall, it appears that neither the US Forest Service nor the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has sufficient staff to deal with the hog problems. This needs to become a priority. Both agencies need to find managers who can tell state and federal Congressional members that this is the number one problem with dealing with the hogs in order to obtain more earmarked money. Get more field-going staff hired to deal with the hogs. Even if they are hired as temporary employees. But if private hunters are no longer allowed to hunt them, problems will worsen without sufficient agency staffing to deal with the hogs.

Hogs have really wreck several portions of my property and my neighbor’s, but through the continuous efforts of MDC, those problems should lessen. At least I am not trying to earn a livelihood off of my land. Hogs have become such a severe problem in Missouri, but now hopefully the issue has become in the fore-front. I understand that because of the large land ownership of the US Forest Service in Missouri and so many private land owners within the Mark Twain National Forest administrative boundaries, hog are finding a great place to live, feed, and breed. If managers, biologists, planners, and Congress can just come together and do things right, feral hogs will become history in Missouri. Close off all public lands to hunting and ensure sufficient funding for Missouri’s public land owners to deal with them.
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 10:35 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Swine Comment — please BAN hunting in Mark Twain

Forest Supervisor,

Please support the proposed ban on feral hunting in our Mark Twain National Forest so proven methods can be used to address the problem of this highly destructive non-native, non-game animal!!

A decision to ban feral hog hunting in the 1.5 million-acre public land of the Mark Twain National Forest will present the greatest good to the greatest number of people and protect the important natural resources of the area. Local residents, growers of agricultural crops, vacationers, and other users of the area will all benefit by a ban on feral hog hunting so proven trapping methods can be used effectively to eradicate this highly destructive menace.

Thank you,

Peculiar, MO
To whom it may concern

I support the ban on the release and hunting of feral swine at Mark Twain National Park. These animals are dangerous and destructive. We have them where I live and they are preventing people from going to the state park without a rifle for protection.

Sent from my iPhone
I support prohibiting public hunting of feral hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

The evidence shows that recreational hog hunting impedes trapping. They damage crops, pastures, woodlands and glades; they wallow in the wetlands; they eat eggs and young of ground-nesting birds and other wildlife, along with berries, roots, nuts, and other human and wildlife foods; and they carry many diseases that can spread to wildlife, livestock, pets and humans.

Thank you,

Fenton, MO
I am writing this final plea to ask the US Forest Service to not agree to MDC’s request to ban feral hog hunting on Mark Twain. As a land owner in Ripley County I have first hand knowledge of what will work and what will not. I trapped feral hogs on my property for 2 years and caught 9 hogs. I then got dogs to help control the population. In the next 2 years I caught 131 hogs with dogs and hunting. I am surrounded by Mark Twain and we have been successful in reducing feral hog populations in our area in the last 2 years. It takes both hunting, dogs and traps to work. While studies may show better success with traps it simply will not be 100% effective as MDC would lead you to believe. Radio controlled traps in smaller areas will be effective but the remoteness and size of the Mark Twain forest will require all methods to be successful.

If MDC and USFS are really interested in trying to eradicate the hogs it will require a combined effort using all means possible. I would suggest a panel of a few landowners, hunters, MDC, and the Forest Service in each county to meet and share information in an effort to control hog populations. I would suggest trapping around less remote areas and during summer months, and hunting in the remote areas during cooler weather. If we share information as to sounder locations and work together we should be able to make a difference.

Thank you
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 11:40 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Feral Swine Comment

To whom it may concern,

I am officially submitting my comments to the US Forest Service in favor of my support of the Mark Twain National Forest’s Forest Closure Order to ban the take, pursuit, and release of feral swine. This is an important and monumental step towards the control and hopefully elimination of feral pigs and hogs in Missouri. With the number of acres managed by the Mark Twain National Forest, controlling feral swine in the state is not possible without this ban.

Over the last few decades, the negative impacts of feral swine have been well documented throughout the southern United States. The destruction these animals are capable of is hardly limited to natural landscapes, they also root and reduce productions of agricultural lands. They are also indiscriminant omnivores that will root and consume anything in their path. This includes eggs of ground nesting birds such as wild turkeys and northern bobwhite quail, some of the country’s most popular game birds. Sensitive areas (including areas harboring rare and endangered species) and wetlands are often stripped bare of vegetation after a sounder moves through.

I would also like to speak to how I believe hogs reduce the recreational and esthetic value of the land. I am, like many people who regularly visit Missouri State Parks, Missouri Conservation Areas, the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and the Mark Twain National Forest, an enthusiastic fisherman, hunter, camper, and hiker. Put simply, I enjoy the outdoors. As such, I have had numerous and increasing encounters with feral swine as the years come and go. None have been good, and all have detracted from the outdoor experience at hand. I have had to follow miles of rooted up leaves and dirt only to find a sounder of hogs in my way. I have unknowingly jumped hogs while driving UTVs and been stunned by their speed and power. I have also hike to some of my favorite scenic areas in the Ozarks only to find the once common, beautiful, and striking plant diversity marred or removed completely by hogs.

The only people who think they benefit are those attempting to build an industry around hog hunting. These are also the individuals that help perpetuate feral swine populations through actively transporting and releasing animals and therefore robbing the rest of us the opportunity to properly enjoy and utilize both public and private property (for recreational and/or economic reasons). Why do the private lands (yards, gardens, pastures, etc.), logging industry, deer and turkey hunters, and recreational hikers have to suffer for the slight benefit of just a few selfish individuals? I believe the Mark Twain National Forest belongs to all of us. It can support the activities of nearly all other special interests groups (deer and turkey hunters, ORV enthusiast, horseback clubs, historical organizations, hiking organizations, and biologists) that are invested in its resources. It can support these activities because they can be controlled and implemented with respect to one another. Hog hunting cannot. Hogs will travel and leave paths of destruction wherever they roam. We cannot control whether or not they choose to root in a sensitive natural community, destroy a horseback trail, or reduce a pasture’s ability to feed livestock or produce hay. Thus, protecting hog hunting on the Mark
Twain National Forest will only serve to reduce the Forest's economic and recreational value to its visitors and neighbors.

In my conclusion, the existence of feral swine in Missouri negatively effects nearly everyone. The recreational and economic values of both public and private lands suffer. To do the greatest good and positively support the largest number of special interests groups and people, this ban on hog hunting is a necessity. It is imperative. Without the Mark Twain National Forest taking action to disincentivize the transport and releasing of hogs, all efforts to reduce and remove populations in this state are for nothing. Please support this Forest Closure Order and ban the hunting of feral swine on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Thank you for your time,

803-637-7608 – Direct line | www.nwtf.org
I support the US Forest Service proposal to ban hunting of hogs on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad
As a concerned Missourian, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques.

Thank you,

[Name]

Saint Louis, MO
From:  
Sent:  Monday, July 22, 2019 11:56 AM  
To:  FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment  
Subject: Support ban on feral hog hunting

I am aware of the growth of feral hog populations but feel strongly that hunting is not the best way to eradicate them, as research is showing that hunting simply disperses the group and actually increases populations. Please ban traditional hunting of these animals and control the population by trapping the entire group. Thank you.

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Kristin Riott

Twitter and Instagram:  

http://www.bridgingthegap.org/?data=01%7C01%7C%7C27103f88d88846685f0608d70ec58f7c%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1&sdata=Vn6ozHqcolpgEMpRCD%2BQ2Ylb2eampSACgP2pLCs%3D&reserved=0>
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 11:57 AM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Support Ban on Hunting Feral Hogs

As a concerned Missourian, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques.
I am a concerned Missouri citizen, and I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. I have learned that feral hogs are invasive and destructive, and they pose a threat to ecosystems and the wildlife they support.

Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven – and I hope humane - trapping and removal techniques.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
As a concerned Missourian, and a hunter, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques.

Sent from my iPhone
From: 
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 12:02 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: support ban on hunting feral hogs

To whom it may concern:

As a concerned Missourian, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques.

Thank you.
As a concerned Missourian, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques.

Thank you for your consideration.
From:

Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 12:06 PM
To: FS-Mark Twain Feral Swine Comment
Subject: Supporting ban on hunting feral hogs in Missouri

To Whom it May Concern:

As a concerned Missourian, I support the proposed ban of hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. Feral hogs are invasive, destructive, and are a threat to our natural resources. Please ban the hunting of feral hogs in the national forests in order to expedite their elimination from Missouri through proven trapping and removal techniques. I saw three, including a baby piglet, at Hercules Glades Wilderness just a week and a half ago.

Thank you for allowing public input on this important matter for our natural resources. The National Forest is one of Missouri's greatest assets.

Sincerely,

St. Louis, Missouri

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
For the survival of our forests, and the safety of our residents, I support the proposed ban on hunting feral hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. We can learn from Hawaii's experience, where feral hogs have even killed people who wandered into their territory. Trapping family groups and removing them intact is the way to go, not sport hunting, which has been shown to promote distribution of the groups over wider expanses.