

Chris Dinkins
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**MISSOURI HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**



July 18, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express support for the continued allowance of feral hog hunting in Mark Twain National Forest and oppose all efforts by the government to end the hunting of feral hogs on public land.

The feral hog population continues to pose a serious risk to Missouri citizens, farmers, and our state's natural resources. These animals can reproduce at a rapid rate, and across the nation, we see millions of dollars in damages to our land and waterways. The feral hog issue is not just one here in Missouri, but across the country.

By allowing Mark Twain National Forest to remain open to hunting feral hogs, we can continue pushing forward to reducing the populations and addressing the issue. However, closing the Mark Twain National Forest will only serve to create a "safe space" for these animals to continue to breed and grow in population. We know from what is occurring across the country that the only remedy to the feral hog problem is an "all of the above" approach that involves hunting, trapping, and all other strategies for population management. We need to be expanding population management strategies, not shutting down effective methods for curbing the growth of feral hogs in our state and country.

I'm confident that we can find the solution to this issue, and I fully support the continued efforts to get the feral hog population under control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dinkins".

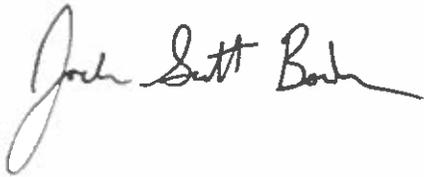
Chris Dinkins
State Representative – District 144



Louis Riggs
State Representative – District 005



Jim Murphy
State Representative – District 094



Jack Bondon
State Representative – District 056



Mike Moon
State Representative – District 157



J. Eggleston
State Representative – District 002



Kathryn Swan
State Representative – District 147

OZARK LAND TRUST

Conservation Close to Home



July 23, 2019

Forest Supervisor
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, MO 65401

Sent via [email: SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.MTFeralSwine@usda.gov)

Re:Feral Swine Management Comment

Dear Forest Supervisor.

I am writing on behalf of Ozark Land Trust (www.ozarklandtrust.org) in support of the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to ban the hunting, pursuit or release of feral hogs on Mark Twain National Forest land. Ozark Land Trust, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, is a nationally accredited land trust that has protected and conserved almost 30,000 acres of land throughout the Ozark region.

Feral hogs are neither non-native nor a wildlife species, and cause billions of dollars in damage nationwide to farmers, landowners and to local state and federal agencies charged with managing public lands. Many of the landowners we work with throughout the Ozarks are seeing major damage to their property caused by feral hogs. Feral hogs destroy agricultural crops, hay fields and wildlife habitat, reduce water quality, cause soil erosion and the destruction of sensitive natural areas. These animals multiply rapidly and carry and transmit numerous bacterial and viral diseases to livestock, pets and humans.

While the damage caused by feral hogs is undeniable, there is ample evidence that trapping is the proven best method to eliminate (or significantly reduce the numbers of) feral hogs. **Hunting feral hogs, on the other hand, exacerbates the problem by causing the population to spread and grow to a broader geographic area and this in turn makes them harder to trap.**

We are pleased to discuss this matter with you further. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or desire additional information.

Sincerely,



Larry Levin
Executive Director
Ozark Land Trust
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Columbia, MO 65205
(573) 817-2020 (main)
(314) 420-0460 (Larry)

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