

Welcome to the neighborhood

For many people, having a piece of property next door to a national forest is the fulfillment of a dream. Living next to a national forest allows a homeowner to enjoy the beauty of the forest, abundant wildlife, spectacular scenery and a sense of solitude.

At the same time, it is important for property owners to understand what it means to live next door to public lands. National forests are “working” forests managed for multiple uses, including wildlife, timber, water quality and recreation. Opportunities are offered for you to get involved and participate in project planning and have input in these decisions during a process called “scoping.” Along with the many benefits of being a national forest neighbor, there are also responsibilities.

Selling or donating your land

The Forest buys land from willing sellers as funding is available. Properties that provide important wildlife habitat, protect endangered species, improve access to public lands, and consolidate Forest ownership are considered for purchase.

Land exchanges

Although there is no authority to sell national forest land, the Forest can convey land through land-for-land exchanges when it is clearly in the public’s interest. An effective land

exchange program consolidates forest ownership and improves protection and management of the national forest.

Boundary management & land lines

The most valuable advice Mark Twain National Forest can give you is to have your property surveyed by a licensed land surveyor. The fence you think is on the property line may not be. The site where you’d like to build your dream home may be partially on the Forest. If you construct a building on the Forest, it will have to be removed. Avoid costly mistakes by knowing where your property lines are. If you decide to harvest your timber, check your boundaries well in advance of the harvest. Cutting across property lines can be a costly mistake.



What about fences?

Fences are the responsibility of the landowner. It is your responsibility to keep livestock off national forest land. It is imperative that you ensure that the property lines are accurate before constructing your fence.

Feral Hogs

No permit is needed to kill feral hogs, except during deer and turkey seasons. Releasing hogs is illegal. Please call (573) 751-4155 to report hog sightings.

Mark Twain National Forest Ranger District Offices

Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs
Rt. 6 Box 614110
Ava, Mo. 65608
(417) 683-4428

Eleven Point
#4 Confederate Ridge Road
Doniphan, Mo. 63935
(573) 996-2153

Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek
108 South Sam Houston Blvd.
Houston, Mo. 65483
(417) 967-4194

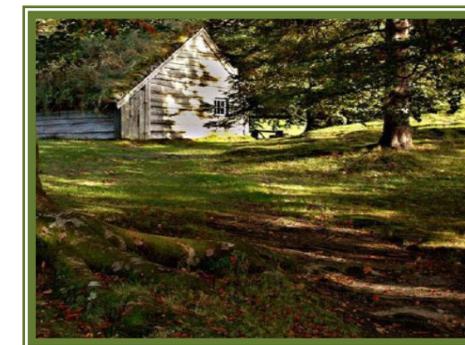
Poplar Bluff
1420 Maud Street
Poplar Bluff, Mo. 63901
(573) 785-1870

Potosi/Fredericktown
10019 West State Highway 8
Potosi, Mo/ 63664
(573) 438-5427

Salem
1301 South Main
Salem, Mo. 65560
(573) 729-6656

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Living Next Door to the Mark Twain National Forest



Landowners Guide

Forest Supervisor’s Office
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, Mo. 65401
(573) 364-4621

www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf

Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday



Who manages the roads?



Road systems within Mark Twain National Forest include state and federal highways, as well as county and township roads. Mark Twain National Forest

also maintains some roads. These roads may serve as access for recreational use, hunting, fishing, fire control and other activities. Motor vehicle maps are available free at forest offices.

Some roads that access the national forest cross private land on easements acquired from private landowners.

When Mark Twain National Forest Service acquires an easement across private property, the Forest regulates the use of the road. The public has the right to use the road unless the Forest has closed the road to public use.

Access by permit across the national forest to private lands may be granted under some circumstances, if other access is not available. Contact your local Forest Ranger District Office for more information.

Permits for utilities & events

Private uses of the national forest, such as private road rights-of-way and construction of public utilities, require special use permits. These permits are issued if the use is compatible with national forest purposes, and if it is in the public interest. Payment of an annual special use permit fee is required.

Uses of the national forest, such as recreation events and commercial services, also require special use permits, as do gatherings of over 75 people. Not all permit requests are approved, such as when an activity can be reasonably accommodated on private land. Processing an application for a special use permit takes time and fees may be billed to the applicant. Please contact your local Forest Ranger District office with questions.

What about fire?

Mark Twain National Forest is responsible for protecting the national forest from wildfire.



Local fire departments are responsible for fire suppression on private lands. The Forest suppresses fire on private land if it poses a threat to national forest land or when assistance is requested by other agencies. **For fires on or near national forest land, call 911.**

If a property owner allows a fire to escape onto Mark Twain National Forest land, the landowner may be billed for suppression and restoration costs and damages.

The Forest sometimes uses prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat or stimulate ecosystems. Prescribed fire can reduce the occurrence and severity of wild fire by clearing the buildup of flammable material that has accumulated in the forest. For current information regarding prescribed fire, visit Mark Twain National Forest's website at www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf.

Who provides law enforcement?

The county sheriff is the primary law enforcement authority and is responsible for the protection of residents and personal property. Report illegal activity to the local sheriff's office. **In the event of an emergency, dial 911.**



Missouri Department of Conservation is the primary authority dealing with matters related to state fish and wildlife regulations and violations. To report violations, please call **(800) 392-1111**.

The Forest has its own law enforcement officers. They are responsible for the protection of forest resources and visitors and enforce all federal regulations related to national forest lands. These officers work with the county deputies and state conservation officers. They can be reached by calling your local Forest Ranger District office.

Recreation

National forest recreation activities include camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, horseback riding and much more. The public must get landowners' permission to cross private land to access national forest land. The public has the right to recreate on national forest lands adjacent to private property but not on private land. Trees or fences marked with purple paint are signs of no trespassing.

Collecting firewood

The Forest issues permits for cutting firewood for a fee. For more information, contact the your local ranger district office.



Additionally, if you are visiting Mark Twain National Forest, leave your firewood at home. Do not transport it to campgrounds. Use firewood from local sources. This will help to reduce the spread of non-native insects, which can kill large numbers of trees.

Treating invasive weeds

The Forest is actively treating invasive plants on national forest land. If a population of invasive plants straddles both your property and national forest property, please contact your nearest Forest Ranger District office to discuss how to work together to control the plants.

Current land ownership website

The ownership pattern of national forest land in Missouri is very broken with private lands intermingled with public lands. The following website is open to the public and has current landownership information for all national forest lands nationwide.

http://apps.fs.fed.us/fsmapviewer/index.html?config=public-config/ALP_StatusAndEncumbrance.xml