

# Mark Twain National Forest

*Missouri*

## Bell Mountain Wilderness

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Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

February 9, 2010.

### Highlights

This 9,143 acre wilderness is part of the St. Francois Mountains, one of the oldest landforms in North America. The wilderness is named for a family that once lived and farmed along the ridge top that is now known as Bell Mountain. Elevations range from 1,702 feet at Bell Mountain to 970 feet in the Joe's Creek drainage. Local relief is about 600 feet and is characterized by steep felsite and rhyolite outcroppings. Both Bell Mountain and Lindsey Mountain offer outstanding views of the surrounding area. The associated granite glades provide a variety of interesting plant and animal life.

Shut-in Creek crosses the area. It is a perennial spring fed stream with several shut-ins or gorges along its course. Steep talus slopes intersect the stream at several locations. Joe's Creek is another small perennial stream within the wilderness.

A Wilderness is a special area set aside by Congress which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..." The area is rugged and is for experienced hikers only. Before you start, be prepared with adequate supplies; water sources within the Wilderness are not recommended for drinking.

### Trail

There are 14 miles of trail within the wilderness open to hiking and equestrian use, including 2 miles of the Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail in the southwest corner of the wilderness. Trailheads are located on A Hwy approximately 5 miles south of Hwy 32, on Forest Road 2228 2 miles east of A Hwy, and at the end of Forest Road 2359 (2 mile trail to Lindsey Mtn.).

### For More Information

*Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District*

*Hwy 8 West, PO Box 188,*

*Potosi, MO 63664*

*Phone: (573) 438-5427*

*Fax: (573) 438-2633*

*Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm*

**Directions:** From Potosi, MO, south on Hwy 21, west 7 miles on Hwy 32, and south on Hwy A.

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

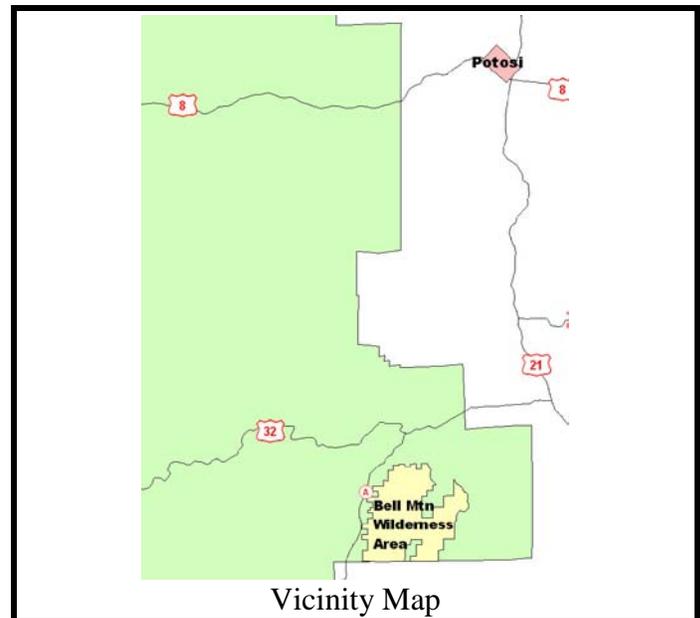
**Length:** 14 miles of hiking/equestrian trail

**Best Seasons:** Fall, winter, spring

**Restrictions:** No motorized or bike use. Maximum of 10 persons per group. No camping or fires within 100 feet of trails or streams.

**Safety:** During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods. There are few signs posted, carry a map, compass and knowledge of their use. First Aid Kit should be carried with you at all times.

**Surface Type:** Unsurfaced, native material



Vicinity Map

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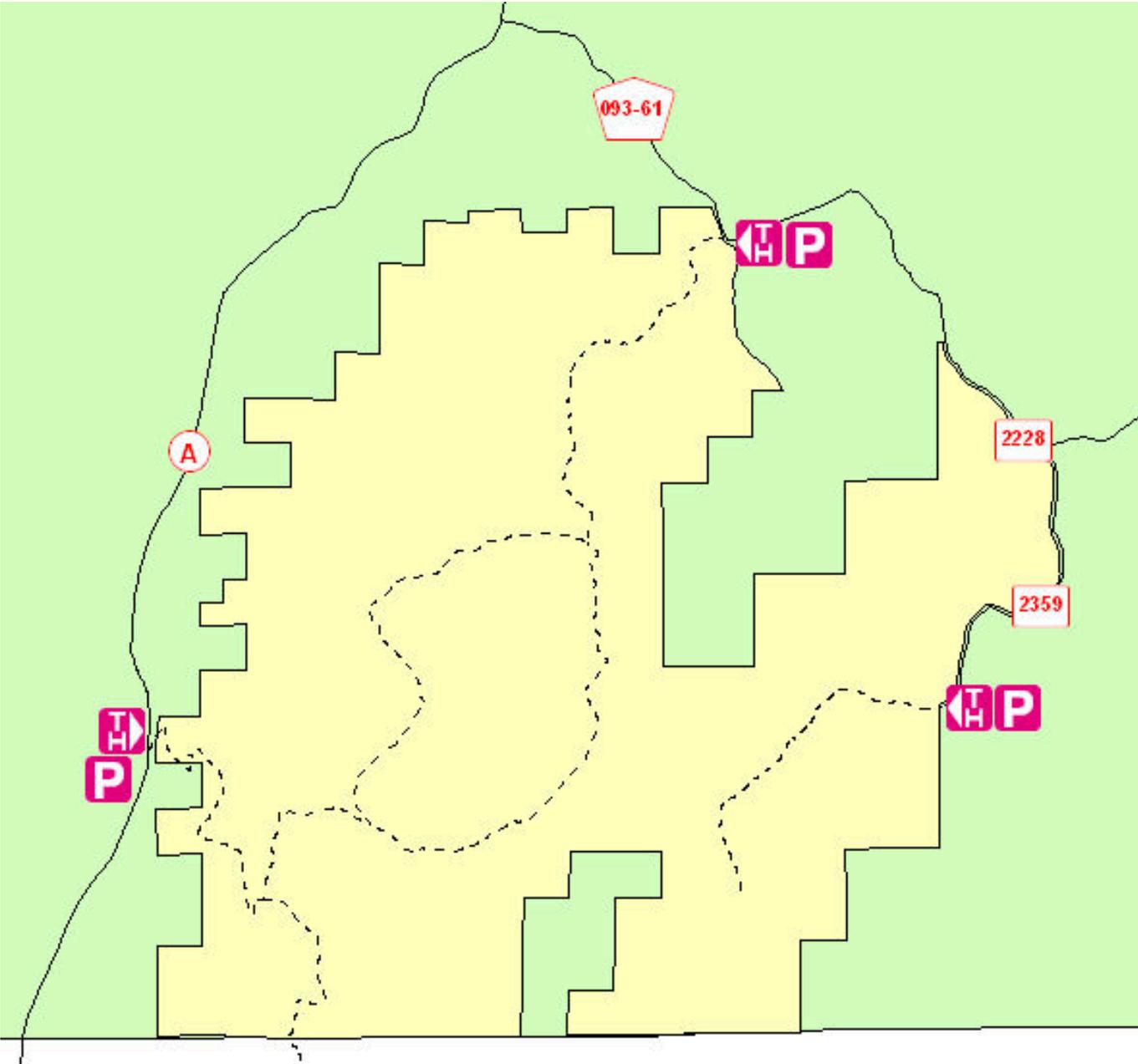
**Mark Twain National Forest**

401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain>



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Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail