

## Missouri Wilderness Proposal Fact Sheet

- The current Wilderness proposal would add seven areas in Missouri long recognized for their wilderness character to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Seven Areas are:
  - Lower Rock Creek (13,435 acres)
  - North Fork (8,009 acres)
  - Van East Mountain (2,020 acres)
  - Smith Creek (2,195 acres)
  - Spring Creek (6,730 acres)
  - Swan Creek (9,366 acres)
  - Big Spring (8,048 acres)
- Designating the seven areas as Wilderness Areas will reaffirm their past management and permanently protect their wilderness character by eliminating such damaging activities as road building, logging, mining, and off-road vehicles. The areas will remain open to hiking, hunting, and equestrian use.
- The effort to protect these areas goes back more than 30 years, and is supported by a wide range of individuals and organizations from around the state.
- The proposal increases the acreage of Wilderness in Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest from about 63,000 acres to 110,000 acres, or from 4.3% to 7.3% of the 1.5 million acre national forest. About 3,500 acres of the Big Spring proposed Wilderness are managed by the National Park Service as part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.
- This proposal will not take away or restrict access to any private land in or around the seven areas. Off road vehicle use is already illegal in these areas, so Wilderness designation will not further restrict such use.
- Designating these areas as Wilderness will have no impact on the overall volume of timber removed from the Mark Twain National Forest. Each year The Forest Service timber program approves cutting roughly 50 million board feet of timber on about 20,000 acres elsewhere on the forest.
- The Mark Twain National Forest has 4,604 miles of roads – or 2 miles for each square mile of national forest. The seven areas have already been managed for decades as roadless, and as such affects only about 0.2% of all national forest lands in the state.
- Wilderness designation can only happen through an act of Congress. Constituent support is critical in this effort. Write (e-mail is best--see the web addresses on the back of this sheet) to both Missouri Senators and your Congressman and ask them to help protect Missouri wilderness.

For more information, see the publication "Wilderness for Missouri," visit [www.mowild.org](http://www.mowild.org), or email [scottm@mowild.org](mailto:scottm@mowild.org). And please, GET INVOLVED!

**Senators:**

**Kit Bond**

[www.bond.senate.gov](http://www.bond.senate.gov)

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Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Claire McCaskill**

[www.claireonline.com](http://www.claireonline.com)

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**Representatives:**

**Todd Akin**

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**Jo Ann Emerson**

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**Emmanuel Cleaver**

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**Mark Twain National Forest:**

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Rolla, MO 65401

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[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/contact/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/contact/)

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways:**

Russ Runge - Acting Superintendent  
404 Watercress Drive  
PO Box 490  
Van Buren, MO 63965

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[www.nps.gov/ozar/contacts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ozar/contacts.htm)

The Missouri Wilderness Coalition's Proposal For Wilderness Areas has been endorsed by the following organizations. This is a growing list, as we continue to add more conservation, sportsmen's, recreational, and local citizen groups.

*As of May 6, 2008*

Alpine Shop  
Audubon Missouri  
Cedar Creek Landowners  
Columbia Audubon Society  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
East Ozarks Audubon Society  
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society  
Greenway Network  
Heartwood  
L-A-D Foundation  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
Missouri Forest Alliance  
Missouri Park and Recreation Association  
Missouri Parks Association  
Missouri Whitewater Association  
Missouri Wilderness Coalition  
Ozark Greenways of Springfield  
Ozark Mountain Paddlers  
The Ozark Society  
Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club  
Photozarks  
Republicans for Environmental Protection  
Sierra Club - Missouri Chapter  
Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
St. Louis Open Space Council  
Webster Groves Nature Study Society

**Missouri Wilderness Coalition**  
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## **What Can I Do To Help Preserve Missouri's Wilderness?**

1. Write letters to your two state Senators, and your District Congressional Representative. Let them know you support the Missouri Wilderness Coalition's proposal to designate seven new Wilderness Areas. *Addresses are available on page 2 of this packet.*
2. Write letters to your Mark Twain National Forest and Ozark Scenic Riverways, and let them know you support the Missouri Wilderness Coalition's proposal. *Addresses are available on page 2 of this packet.*
3. Write Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper(s), showing your support for the Missouri Wilderness Coalition proposal.
4. Ask your business, club, city council, church group, or other such group to endorse the Missouri Wilderness Coalition proposal, and join the list of supporters.
5. Join the Missouri Wilderness Coalition mailing list and stay informed. Sign up today, or drop us a line via email or postal address.
6. Talk to your friends and family about the proposal and Wilderness Areas in Missouri. Help raise awareness.
7. Visit and learn more about Missouri's Wilderness Areas and proposed areas. Hike, hunt, ride a horse, camp, backpack, study, and explore in a primitive, remote setting.