

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Mark Twain
National Forest



Mark Twain National Forest

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2002

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

In April 2002, several tornados struck the Poplar Bluff and Fredericktown Ranger Districts. Because of the number of private structures close to the tornado blow down and the possibility of wildfires, the Forest Service put together a team of resource specialists to expedite the removal of damaged trees.



Trees downed by tornados increased the danger of wildfires near homes and private property.



Fires lanes were constructed, and downed and damaged trees were removed to reduce the danger of wildfires.

Mark Twain National Forest 2002

Hi, I'm Ronnie Raum, Mark Twain National Forest's supervisor. I replaced Randy Moore, who in 2002 became the Eastern Region's regional forester, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It's a pleasure to move from Texas to Missouri to work with the talented, dedicated Mark Twain employees and see their accomplishments, which are summarized in this annual report.



Since coming to Missouri, I have attended several public meetings and met with a lot of people who are interested in what is happening on Mark Twain National Forest and how it is managed. Over the nearly seventy years since Mark Twain National Forest was established, we have seen changes in the Forest and how it is managed. Over these years, the forest has been managed for a variety of goods, services and public values. We have also seen changes in what the public wants from national forest lands. While there is still a strong demand for timber products, recreation uses continue to expand and diversify.

Managing Missouri's unique ecosystems continues to be our top priority. As part of that emphasis, we continue to monitor invasive species; build-up of forest fuels and potential for wildfires; and unmanaged recreation such as ATVs. We have also kicked off developing our next forest plan, the road map for our management over the next 10-15 years. This is a lengthy process that should be completed by early 2005. Your participation is vital. We encourage your comments and questions.

FY 2002 was a busy year for unexpected events on the Forest. We had spring flooding on some of our districts. The Forest experienced two tornados that blew down 5,000 acres of national forest timber. The Forest provided support for suppressing wildfires in the western states. I am proud to say that the employees of Mark Twain were able to meet these added challenges with the up most professionalism and dedication.

In the next year, I look forward to meeting and working with you. I encourage you to visit, get to know and enjoy your national forest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Raum". The signature is stylized and cursive.

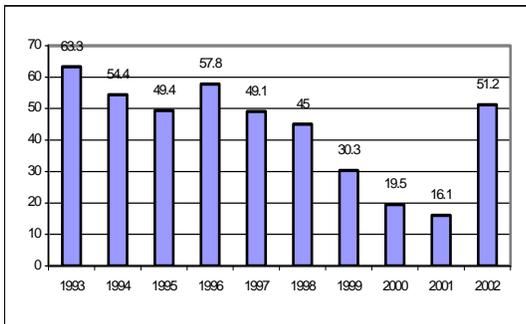
Ronnie Raum
Forest Supervisor

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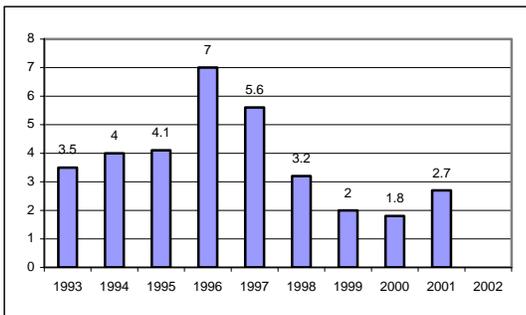
Minerals – Deposits of lead, zinc and copper are found under Mark Twain National Forest. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the agency that is responsible for the management and leasing of minerals on federal lands. BLM has 36 leases totaling 24,395 acres beneath Mark Twain National Forest. The Federal government collects a royalty for minerals mined from federal land. Twenty-five percent of the royalty collected is returned to the State of Missouri to be distributed to counties with national forest lands. In FY 2002, the Minerals Management Service paid \$601,979 to Missouri.

TIMBER PRODUCTION
MMBF



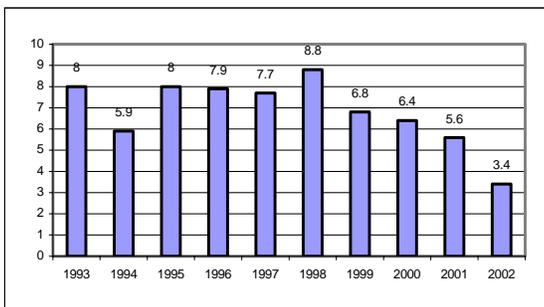
The amount of timber sold increased to 51.2 million board feet in FY 2002. This is a major increase over the last few years. This increase is a result of the approval of several environmental documents and timber salvaged from damage done to the forest from tornadoes and red oak bores. In FY 2002, 3,387 acres were sold as salvage. Most salvage was done to reduce the chance of wildfire in downed timber, that could quickly spread onto privately-owned lands.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT
1,000 ACRES



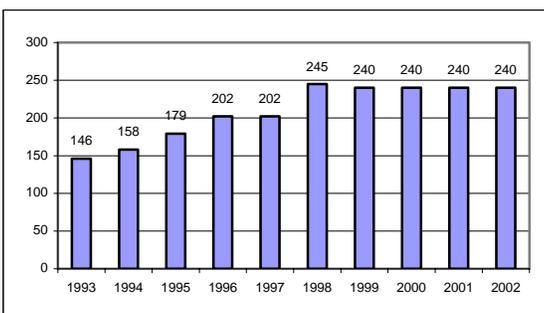
Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) is done to improve the quality of trees on national forest lands. This is usually done by thinning and removing unwanted trees in young stands of timber. Due to priorities of other work, including salvaging blown down timber to reduce fire danger, no TSI was completed in FY 2002.

REFORESTATION
1,000 ACRES



During FY 2002, 3,387 acres were naturally regenerated and 360 acres were planted. This decline is the result in the number of acres harvested in the past years. Reforestation is done depending on the tree species and location. Most reforestation on Mark Twain National Forest is accomplished by sprouting from stumps of harvested trees. Other methods of reforestation including leaving trees as a seed source and planting tree seedlings.

RECREATION USE
10,000 RVDs(1)



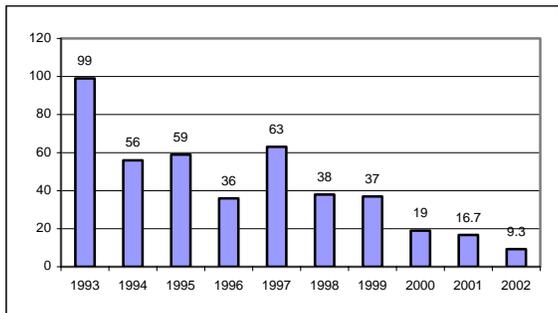
Recreation continues at about the same level, with a slight drop in camping and an increase in motorcycle and Off-highway vehicle use. River use remained high but was affected by low water in the fall and spring flooding. Six of the most popular recreation sites are operated by local businesses and eight sites were managed under the fee demonstration program, in addition to Chadwick and Sutton Bluff ATV/motorcycle areas. Recreation uses shown here do not include use in wilderness or hunting and fishing, which is shown elsewhere in this report.

In FY 2002 the Forest participated in a visitor use survey that will provide additional information about recreational use of the Forest.

Geocaching is popular on national forest lands. In geocaching, an object is placed in the forest and the location recorded using a Global Positioning System. The location is then posted on a web site so others can find the site.

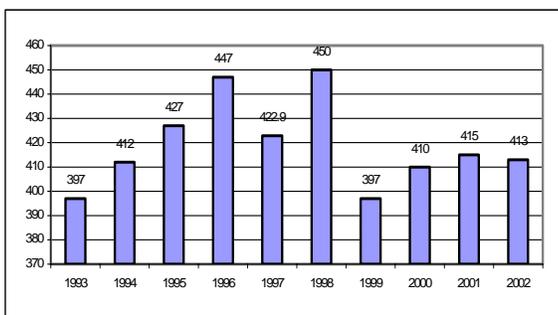
Heritage Resources - The heritage program's purpose is to protect significant heritage resources including archaeological and historical sites to ensure future generations will have an opportunity to discover the human story etched on the landscape of our National Forest. To work toward this goal, in 2002 over 20,000 acres of national forest lands were surveyed and approximately 400 historic and prehistoric sites were identified for preservation and protection.

TRAILS-Construction/Reconstruction
MILES



Over nine miles of existing trails were reconstructed and three miles of new trail were constructed in FY 2002. Limited resources and damage from heavy spring rains kept the Forest from maintaining more than 120 miles to standard, out of the 750+ mile trail system. Receipts from the Fee Demonstration Project funded additional trail maintenance and reconstruction at Chadwick and Sutton Bluff motorcycle and ATV trails system.

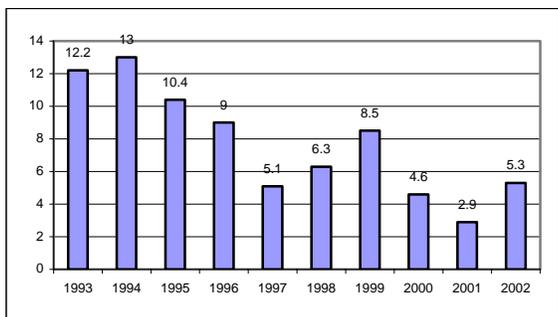
WILDLIFE USE
WFUD (2)



National forest lands in Missouri provide habitat for more than 530 animal species and Mark Twain personnel work closely with Missouri Department of Conservation to manage wildlife habitat and wildlife recreation. Forest management projects are designed to provide and protect a variety of habitat for wildlife and fish. Most of the 1.5 million acres of Mark Twain National Forest are open to the public for hunting, fishing and other wildlife related uses. For many people public lands are the only areas available for their use.

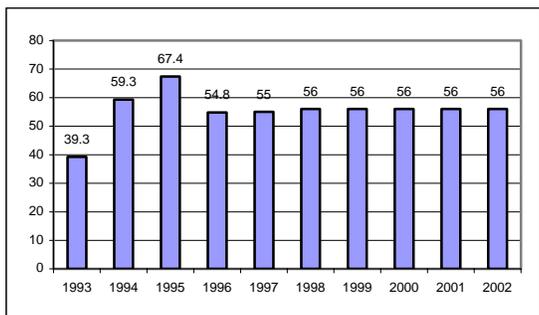
Mark Twain National Forest is the largest area of public land in Missouri open to the public for hunting. Hunting and fishing on national forest lands is done under the laws and regulations of the State of Missouri.

WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS
1,000 ACRES



The Forest provides a diversity of wildlife habitats for wildlife that makes the forest their home. In FY 2002 wildlife habitat improvements were done on 5,301 acres, an increase from last year. Among other work, the forest continued to convert fescue pastures back to native grasses, conducted prescribed burns, placed fish structures and installed devices such as bat gates for the protection of threatened and endangered species. Some areas are set aside for the protection of habitat that will not have any active forest activities, such as timber harvesting or road construction.

WILDERNESS USE
1,000 RVDS (1)

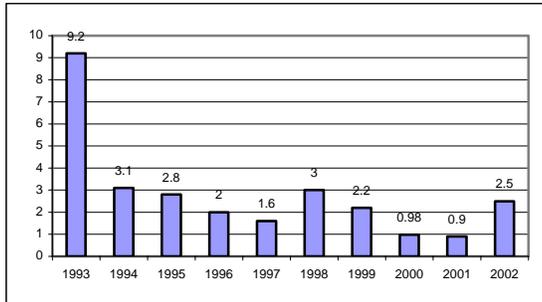


Horseback riding and hunting remain the highest uses of the seven Wilderness areas of the National Forest. White's Creek Float camp in the Irish Wilderness and the float through Devils Backbone Wilderness on North Fork River are the most used access points into Wilderness areas. Most visitors to Wilderness are not specifically seeking a Wilderness experience but are looking for dispersed recreation opportunities that may occur in Wilderness.

Range, Soil and Watershed – Watersheds within Mark Twain National Forest are comprised of a varied landscape of forests, glades, wetlands, and grasslands with national forest ownership and privately owned lands intermixed. Restoration and protection of watersheds was one of the original charges given to the Forest Service. Healthy watersheds provide quality water and help control flooding. The Forest completed 50 acres of watershed improvements during FY 2002. Improvements include reforestation, fencing cattle out of riparian areas, converting pastures to native grasses, and designing roads and trails to reducing soil erosion.

LAND ADJUSTMENTS

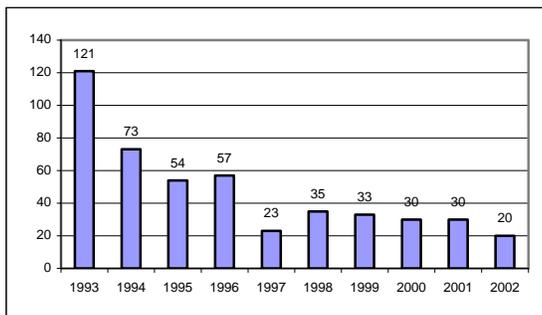
1,000 ACRES



Boundaries for Mark Twain National Forest were set by Congress and contain about 3 million acres, but the United States only owns about 1.5 million acres intermixed with privately owned land or about 50 percent of the land within the boundary. The amount of land entrusted to the Forest Service has remained about the same for the last forty years but the Forest works toward consolidating ownership through a land exchange program. Consolidating land ownership reduces trespassing and the amount of boundary that must be maintained, and helps resource managers manage the natural resources. In FY 2002, 704 acres were purchased with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds and 2,483 acres were exchanged. All land purchased and exchanged are done on a "willing seller, willing buyer" basis.

PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY

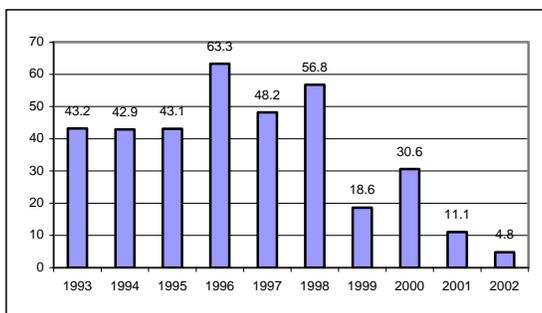
MILES



With the intermixed ownership of federal, state land, private and corporate lands within the Forest boundary, it is estimated there are 7,200 miles of national forest boundary line to be marked and maintained. In FY 2002, 20 miles of boundary line was surveyed and 10 miles of boundary line was maintained bringing the total miles of surveyed boundary to 1,989 miles. Besides determining national forest boundaries, surveys define special management and recreation areas, road and utility right of ways.

ROADS DEVELOPMENT

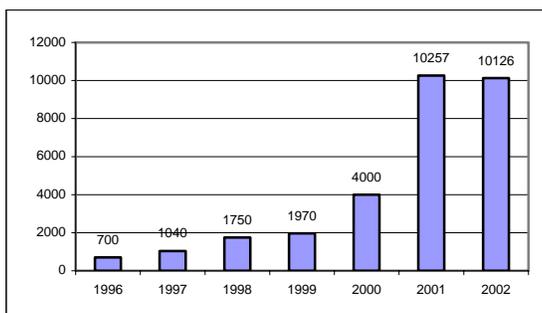
MILES



Forest Service roads vary from paved roads in campgrounds to single lane two track roads designed for timber harvesting. Roads open the forest for a variety of forest users and resource managers including hunters, campers, anglers and wildlife and bird watching. Many roads on national forest lands are not part of the national forest road system. Many of these non-system roads were on the land when the Forest Service acquired the land, old logging roads or user made roads. Unless a road has a road number posted at its entrance, it is not part of the roads system and should not be driven. In FY 2002 the Forest completed 4.8 miles of road reconstruction.

FUEL REDUCTION

ACRES



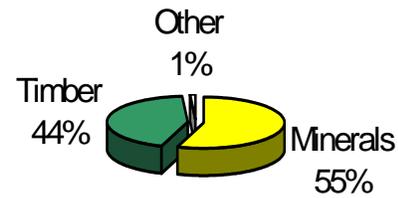
The National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest initiative continued with an aggressive hazardous fuels reduction program. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments are used to reduce fuels, but prescribed fire is the tool of choice on Mark Twain. In 2002, an Interagency helicopter and helitack crew was used to aid in the ignition of prescribed fire and to suppress wildfire. The largest project was on the Rolla/Houston/Cedar Creek Ranger District; where the helicopter and crew ignited and burned 2,963 acres of hazardous fuels. In late spring, the Forest experienced two tornados that blew down 5,000 acres of national forest timber. By early winter Mark Twain crews and contractors reduced blown down fuels around private structures, protecting them from the spring fire season. In FY 2002, there were 114 wildfires burning 3,055 acres, and the Missouri Iowa Interagency Coordination Center located on Mark Twain sent 900 individuals resources to off forest incidents.

Forest Finances

EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM	DOLLARS
Minerals	125,000
Range	178,000
Land Management	844,000
Wildlife/Fish	894,000
Timber	3,480,000
Fire	4,379,000
Recreation Management	1,127,000
Road Improvements and Maintenance	625,000
Trail Improvements and Maintenance	318,000
Law Enforcement	153,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	595,000
Vegetation and Watershed Management	694,000
Forest Planning/Inventory and Monitoring	1,255,000
Additional Miscellaneous Programs	4,250,000
TOTAL	\$18,917,000

INCOME



INCOME

PROGRAM	DOLLARS
Minerals	2,400,000
Range	10,500
Land/Uses	37,500
Timber	1,947,000
Recreation	10,000
TOTAL	\$4,405,000

In the past, each year the National Forests returned 25% of all revenues to the states where national forest lands are located. This money was distributed to the counties, prorated on the number of national forest acres in the county. These funds are to be used to benefit public schools and county roads. In FY 2001, the "Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" took effect. Counties could choose to take the average of the three high years since 1986 or continue to receive the standard 25% of revenues. The high three years for Mark Twain were 1988,89,90. During these three years, royalties from mining minerals were included in the forest revenue and these revenues were very high. When the law was passed, it did not address the mineral royalties received by "Weeks Law" land in the eastern United States. Therefore, this year counties that chose to adopt the secure payment received the average of the high three which included mineral royalties and the 25% royalty payment for FY 2001. This may change in the future. Counties with federal lands also receive Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). PILT funds are not limited to schools and roads. (* Counties that did not elect: Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000)

County	NET NF ACRES	FY2002 FULL PAYMENT BASE or 25% FUND	FY 2002 MINERALS PAYMENTS	FY2002 PILT PAYMENTS	TOTAL
Barry*	55,067	22,614	22,187.58	66,332	111,133.58
Bollinger*	1,646	676	663.21	1,620	2,959.21
Boone*	4,140	1,701	1,668.09	4,109	7,478.09
Butler	48,374	85,364	19,490.84	44,223	149,077.84
Callaway	12,168	12,355	4,902.73	12,136	29,393.73
Carter	90,646	160,722	36,523.06	98,870	296,115.06
Christian	52,077	91,389	20,982.85	51,284	163,655.85
Crawford	50,053	88,019	20,167.34	49,226	157,412.34
Dent	72,492	124,677	29,208.45	73,423	227,308.45
Douglas	40,910	72,600	16,483.44	40,239	129,322.44
Howell	49,434	86,896	19,917.93	48,375	155,188.93
Iron	95,314	169,197	38,403.89	93,716	301,316.89
Laclede*	30,425	12,495	12,258.83	28,341	53,094.83
Madison	51,306	89,040	20,672.20	50,507	160,219.20
Oregon	104,703	189,531	42,186.90	103,898	335,615.90
Ozark	38,672	68,516	15,581.71	60,819	144,916.71
Phelps	65,352	113,751	26,331.61	61,719	201,801.61
Pulaski	39,026	83,935	15,724.34	45,850	145,509.34
Reynolds	89,915	158,271	36,228.52	109,679	304,178.52
Ripley	97,259	169,707	39,187.57	95,462	304,356.57
Shannon	83,122	147,754	33,491.49	122,991	304,236.49
St. Francois*	673	276	271.16	650	1,197.16
St. Genevieve	10,254	18,176	4,131.54	10,089	32,396.54
Stone	10,304	27,366	4,151.68	55,397	86,914.68
Taney	65,300	113,445	26,310.66	90,835	230,590.66
Texas	49,274	85,977	19,853.47	46,775	152,605.47
Washington	82,398	145,712	33,199.78	81,076	259,987.78
Wayne	88,330	154,799	35,589.90	137,971	328,359.90
Wright	7,159	12,560	2,884.50	7,042	22,486.50
TOTAL	1,485,793	2,507,521	598,655.27	1,692,654	4,798,830.27