

*Hunting & Fishing Guide*  
**Senator Justin Brown**  
**Missouri Senate District 16**





## STATE SENATOR JUSTIN BROWN

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*Proudly serving residents of Camden, Crawford, Dent,  
Phelps and Pulaski counties.*

*Dear sportsmen,*

*This guidebook provides an introduction to the abundant hunting and fishing opportunities within the 16th Senatorial District. These five counties are blessed with some of the finest fishing waters in the state of Missouri, and the varied landscape within the district creates an ideal environment for the state's popular game species. We are truly fortunate to live in the heart of Missouri's Ozarks. It is my great pleasure to provide this publication to assist you in your enjoyment of the area's resources.*



**Justin Brown  
16th District**

*The Lake of the Ozarks attracts anglers from all across the nation. The Meramec, Big Piney and Gasconade rivers are famous for smallmouth bass, while trout fishermen flock to Montauk State Park or Meramec Spring Park to catch lunker trout. A number of Missouri's trout management areas are also located within the 16th District.*

*Hunters have no shortage of opportunity to pursue deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel and other small game on public lands managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.*

*The 16th Senatorial District is truly a sportsman's paradise. I encourage you to hit the water or get out in the woods and take advantage of the many resources that await you. I hope this guide helps you get started. And, as always, if there is anything I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact my office.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin D. Brown".

## **Important Numbers:**

**Missouri  
Department of  
Conservation:  
(573) 751-4115**

**Operation Game  
Thief/Operation  
Forest Arson:  
800-392-1111**

**Mark Twain  
National Forest:  
(573) 364-4621**

**On-the-Water  
Emergency:  
800-525-5555  
(or \*55)**

**Senator Justin  
Brown:  
(573) 751-5713**

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### **Gigging an Ozark Stream**



Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation

# Fishing Regulations

**Permits:** Generally, a permit is required to fish in Missouri waters. Children younger than 16 and residents age 65 and older may fish without a permit. Permits are not required when landowners fish on their own property. Exemptions also apply for certain disabled residents, as well as some veterans.

**Resident Fishing** ..... \$12  
**Non-resident Fishing** ..... \$49  
**Single-day Fishing** ..... \$7  
**Active-duty Military** ..... \$5  
**Trout**..... \$7

**Seasons:** Seasons, hours and methods vary by species and location. Consult the Missouri Department of Conservation for details, or look for posted signs. Most game fish may be taken with pole and line year-round. Within the five counties of the 16th Senatorial District, trout and black bass are the species typically limited by seasons.

**Methods:** Game fish are limited to fishing by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. Certain nongame fish (including bluegill, carp, suckers, buffalo, drum and gar) may be taken with alternative methods, such as bow, crossbow, gig, atlatl, snare, spearfishing, grabbing and snagging.

**Limits:** Possession limits may apply in certain areas and for some species. Check posted signs or refer to regulations published by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Any species taken into possession will count toward daily limit unless immediately released. Fish stored, preserved or refrigerated must be labeled with angler's name, address, permit number, fish species and date placed in storage.

**Catch and release:** Where allowed, catch and release decisions must be made immediately. You may not replace smaller fish in your possession with larger ones caught later. Fish must be returned unharmed immediately.

**Miscellaneous:** If using more than three poles, additional poles must be labeled with name/address. No more than 33 hooks may be used at any time. Trotlines, limblines, etc., must be labeled. Hooks on trotlines must be at least 2 feet apart. All lines must be attended every 24 hours or removed. Fish traps are not allowed. Live-bait traps must be checked every 24 hours. Porous-soled waders, shoes and boots are prohibited in most trout fishing areas. Lights may only be used above water surface. It is illegal to take fish by hand.

# Hunting Regulations

**Permits:** A hunting permit is required to take frogs, birds and most mammals. Separate permits are required for deer, turkey, ducks, migratory waterfowl or to trap furbearers in Missouri. With exception of waterfowl, deer and turkey hunting, permits are not required for landowners who hunt on their own property, children age 16 and under, or residents age 65 and older. Exemptions also apply for certain disabled residents, as well as some veterans and Warriors in Transition.

**Small Game Hunting** ..... \$10  
**Active-duty Military** ..... \$5  
**Single-day, Non-resident**..... \$14  
**Small Game/Fishing**..... \$19  
**Archer's Hunting** ..... \$19  
**Migratory Bird** ..... \$6  
**Resident Trapping** ..... \$10  
*Various antlerless/antlered deer and seasonal turkey permits are available. Check with Department of Conservation for details.*

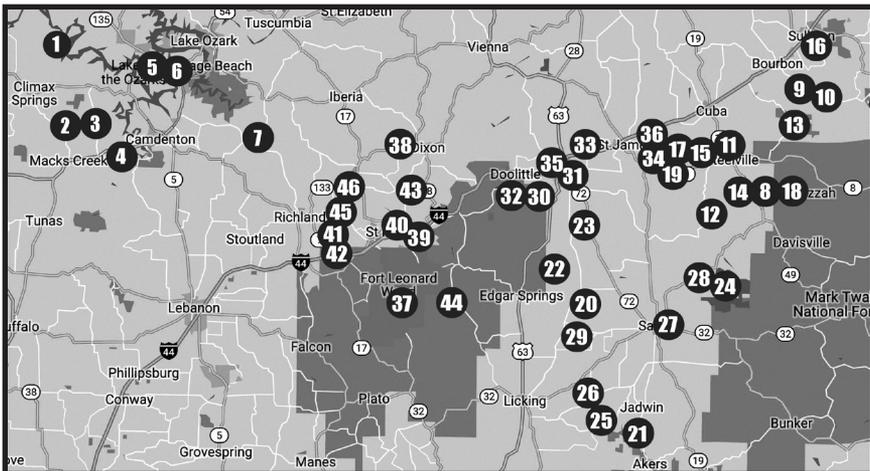
**Seasons:** Seasons, hours and methods are established annually by the Department of Conservation. Visit <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov> for details, or look for printed booklets where hunting and fishing permits are sold.

**Hunter Certification:** Completion of a hunter-education course is required. Certification is not required for children younger than 16 who hunt with a permitted adult, or for residents born prior to 1967. Landowners hunting on their own property are also exempt. More information about hunter education courses can be found at the Department of Conservation's website at <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov>.

**General Guidelines:** Nontoxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting and other hunting on many public lands. During firearms deer seasons, other wildlife may only be hunted with a .22 rimfire rifle or shotgun with No. 4 shot or smaller. Dogs may be used to hunt wildlife, except deer, turkey and certain furbearers. Artificial lights are only allowed when hunting frogs, raccoons or certain furbearers. Hunting from or across roads is prohibited, as is the use of bait while hunting deer or turkey. Wildlife transported or stored must be properly labeled. The use of hunter orange clothing is encouraged and required during firearms deer seasons.

*For more information regarding hunting in Missouri, visit:*

**<https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov>**



# MDC Areas in District 16

## Camden County

- 1 Brown Bend Access
- 2 Burnt Mill Cave CA
- 3 Fiery Fork CA
- 4 Larry R. Gale Access
- 5 Alice Ahart Mansfield CA
- 6 Shawnee Bend Access
- 7 Toronto Springs CA

## Crawford County

- 8 Anderson Memorial CA
- 9 Blue Springs Creek CA
- 10 Campbell Bridge Access
- 11 Bird's Nest Access
- 12 Crooked Creek CA
- 13 Huzzah CA
- 14 Keysville Towersite
- 15 Riverview Access
- 16 Sappington Bridge Access
- 17 Scott's Ford Access
- 18 Sizemore Memorial CA
- 19 Woodson K. Woods CA

## Dent County

- 20 Gerhild & Graham Brown CA
- 21 Cedar Grove CA
- 22 R.F. Clement Memorial Forest
- 23 Hyer Woods CA

- 24 Indian Trail CA
- 25 Montauk Hatchery
- 26 Montauk Towersite
- 27 Shawnee Mac Lakes CA
- 28 Short Bend Access
- 29 White River Trace CA

## Phelps County

- 30 Beaver Creek CA
- 31 Ber Juan Lake
- 32 Bohgian CA
- 33 Little Prairie CA
- 34 Maramec Spring Park
- 35 Schuman Park Lake
- 36 Rosati Towersite
- 19 Woodson K. Woods CA

## Pulaski County

- 37 Bloodland Lake
- 38 Dixon Towersite
- 39 Fort Leonard Wood Towersite
- 40 Gasconade Hills CA
- 41 Laughlin/Roubidoux Parks
- 42 Mitschele Access
- 43 Riddle Bridge Access
- 44 Ross Access
- 45 Roubidoux Creek CA
- 46 Schlicht Springs Access

# Conservation Facilities

## Camden County

**MDC Regional Office:**

**(573) 815-7900**

**Agent Tyler Brown:**

**(573) 836-3257**

**Agent Derek Warnke:**

**(573) 836-4503**

**Brown Bend Access (Lake of the Ozarks)** – Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish, walleye/sauger, white bass. Disabled accessible.

*From Climax Springs, take Highway 7 west 3.5 miles, then Route DD north 4 miles, then Route FF for 5 miles, then FF-14 for 2 miles.*

**Burnt Mill Cave CA (Little Niangua River)** – 340 acres.

Hunting: deer, turkey. Fishing: catfish, black bass, white bass, sunfish, crappie.

*From Macks Creek, take Route N north 5 miles, then Kolb Hollow Road east (right) 3.2 miles.*

**Fiery Fork CA (Fiery Fork Creek, flows into the Niangua River)** – 1,609 acres. Fishing:

white bass, sunfish, black bass. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel. Disabled accessible.

*From Climax Springs, take Highway 7 east 4.3 miles, then Granger Lane south 2 miles.*

**Larry R. Gale Access (Lake of the Ozarks)** – 192 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, quail. Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish, walleye/sauger, white bass. Disabled accessible.

*From Camdenton, take Highway 54 west 4 miles to Route AA, then north 2.5 miles. At the fire station, turn east onto Koehler Road (AA 101), and go 1 mile to Larry R. Gale Road (AA-101D).*

**Alice Ahart Mansfield CA** – 80 acres. Hunting: deer.

*From Osage Beach, take Route KK northwest to Baydy Peak Road, north to area parking lot.*

**Shawnee Bend Access (Lake of the Ozarks)** – Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish, walleye/sauger, white bass. Disabled accessible.

*From Sunrise Beach, take Highway 5 south, then Route F about 1 mile, then Route TT northeast about 2.3 miles to the access.*

**Toronto Springs CA (Wet Glaize Creek)** – 889 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail. Fishing: black bass, white bass, catfish, sunfish.

*From Montreal, take Route E northeast 3 miles, then Route A east 1.5 miles.*

## Crawford County

**MDC Regional Office:**  
**(636) 441-4554**

**Agent Kyle Clinton:**  
**(573) 308-7931**

**Agent Patrice Reese:**  
**(573) 259-1734**

### **John N. and Melba S. Anderson Memorial CA** – 340 acres.

Hunting: deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey. Trapping with special use permit.

*From Steelville, take Highway 19 south 2 miles, then Valleyside Road east 1 mile to the parking lot.*

**Blue Springs Creek CA** – 859 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel. Trapping with special use permit. Fishing: black bass, catfish, rock bass, sunfish, trout.

*From Bourbon, take Route N south 2.5 miles to Blue Springs Road.*

**Campbell Bridge Access (Meramec River)** – Fishing: white bass, catfish, sunfish, black bass. Disabled accessible.

*From Bourbon, take Route N south 10 miles.*

**Crawford County Bird's Nest Access (Meramec River)** – Fishing: black bass, catfish, rock

bass, suckers, sunfish.

*From Steelville, take Highway 19 north approximately 1.5 miles, then Grand Drive east, then Bird's Nest Road north (left) and stay left to the access.*

**Crooked Creek CA** – 337 acres.

Hunting: deer, squirrel, turkey. Trapping with special use permit. *From Cherryville, take Route 19 south approximately 7 miles, then Route VV northwest 5 miles.*

**Huzzah CA (Meramec River, Huzzah & Courtois creeks)** – 6,225 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel. Trapping with special use permit. Fishing: black bass, catfish, rock bass, suckers, sunfish. Disabled accessible. *From Leasburg, take Route H south 5 miles.*



**Keysville Towersite** – 80 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. Trapping with special use permit. *From Steelville, take Route AA south 5 miles, then east on Tower Road.*

## Whitetail Deer



Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation

**Riverview Access (Meramec River)** – Fishing: sunfish, black bass, white bass, catfish.  
*From Cuba, take Highway 19 south 1.5 miles, then Route O west.*

**Sappington Bridge Access (Meramec River)** – Fishing: white bass, catfish, sunfish, black bass. Disabled accessible.  
*From Sullivan, take Route D south, then Sappington Bridge Road east.*

**Scotts Ford Access (Meramec River)** – Fishing: catfish, crappie, sunfish, black bass, white bass, trout.  
*From Steelville, take Highway 8 west 4 miles, then Thurman Lake Road north 2 miles.*

**Pearl G. and John J. Sizemore Memorial CA** – 180 acres.

Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. Trapping with special use permit.  
*From Steelville, take Highway 19 south 2 miles, then Valleyside Road east-southeast (left) 2.5 miles.*

**Woodson K. Woods Memorial CA (Meramec River & Dry Fork Creek)** – 5,658 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail, waterfowl. Fishing: black bass, rock bass, sunfish, trout. Disabled accessible.  
*On Highway 8, southeast of St. James.*

### **SAFETY FIRST**

**Always wear ear and eye protection when shooting firearms!**

## Dent County

**MDC Regional Office:**  
**(417) 256-7161**

**Agent J. David Ingram:**  
**(573) 308-6174**

**Agent Jason Midyett:**  
**(573) 308-6173**

**Gerhild and Graham Brown CA** – 189 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail. Fishing: sunfish.

*From Salem at the junction of Highway 72/Route H, take Route H west 3.5 miles, then Route DD north 3 miles.*

**Cedar Grove CA** – 880 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. *To the larger tract (720 acres): From Jadwin, take Route K south 3 miles. To the smaller tract (160 acres): From Salem, take Highway 19 south 16 miles, then Route WW west 1 mile.*

**R. F. Clement Memorial Forest and WA** – 520 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. *From Salem, take Highway 72 north, then a left on Route C, west 5 miles, then right on Route O north 2 miles, then a left on Route OO west 3.5 miles.*

**Hyer Woods CA** – 30 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. *From Salem, take Highway 72 north 14 miles to Lake Spring, then left on County Road 2070 west, then an immediate right (north) on Old Highway 72 across the bridge of the Hyer Branch, then left on County Road 2060.*

**Indian Trail CA** – 13,503 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. Fishing: black bass, white bass, sunfish. Disabled accessible. *From Salem, take Highway 19 northeast 12 miles.*

**Montauk Fish Hatchery/ Montauk State Park** – Fishing: trout. Disabled accessible. *Southeast of Licking. From Highway 137, take Route VV east to Highway 119, then turn right.*

**Montauk Towersite** – 40 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. *From Salem, take Highway 32 west, left on Highway 19, then west on County Road 6020 to site.*

**Shawnee Mac Lakes CA** – 257 acres. Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish. Disabled accessible. *From Salem, take 10th Street east 2 miles.*

*For maps, access hours and other information about Conservation Department facilities, visit:*

**<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.**

**Short Bend Access  
(Meramec River)**

– 86 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. Fishing: black bass, sunfish.

*From Salem, take Highway 19 northeast about 9 miles.*

**White River Trace CA**

– 2,044 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail. Fishing: catfish, black bass, white bass, sunfish. Camping. Field trials with special use permit. Disabled accessible.

*From Highway 72 in Salem, take Route H west approximately 9 miles to Dent County Road 253. Headquarters is approximately 1.30 miles south on Dent County Road 253.*

**Rabbit Hunting**



Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation

*From Highway 63 in Rolla, head east on 10th Street, then one block north on Holloway Street.*

**Bohigian CA (Mill Creek) – 437**

acres. Fishing: trout. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, quail. *From Interstate 44 in Doolittle, take Route T south to Newburg, then Route P west 5 miles, then Route AA south.*

**Phelps County**

**MDC Regional Office:  
(417) 256-7161**

**Agent Darrin Wood:  
(573) 202-9438**

**Beaver Creek CA – 157 acres.**

Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel. Archery range.

*From Rolla, take Highway 63 south 3 miles.*

**Ber Juan Lake (Rolla) – Fishing:** black bass, catfish, sunfish.

**Little Prairie CA – 342 acres.**

Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, quail, waterfowl. Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish. Disabled accessible.

*From Rolla, take the north outer road of Interstate 44 east about 5 miles, then Route RA north.*

**Maramec Spring Park – 1,388**

acres. Fishing: black bass, sunfish, trout. Privately owned, but stocked by Conservation Department.

Entry fee per car required.

*From St. James, take Highway 8 southeast 6 miles.*

# Four Rules of Gun Safety

1. Assume every gun is loaded.
2. Keep muzzle pointed in safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Always be sure of your target and what is behind it.

**Schuman Park Lake (Rolla)** – Fishing: bass, catfish, sunfish. In Rolla, take N. Oak Street south to E. 16th Street to park.

**Rosati Towersite** – 92 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. From Rosati, take Route KK southwest 0.50 mile.

**Woodson K. Woods Memorial CA (Meramec River & Dry Fork Creek)** – 5,658 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail, waterfowl. Fishing: black bass, rock bass, sunfish, trout. Disabled accessible. On Highway 8, southeast of St. James.

## **Pulaski County**

**MDC Regional Office:**  
**(417) 256-7161**

**Agent Casey Simmons:**  
**(573) 528-2147**

**Bloodland Lake (Fort Leonard Wood)** – Fishing: black bass, catfish, sunfish. Disabled accessible. From Interstate 44, take Exit 161

to Fort Leonard Wood. Access limited to military personnel, including retirees.

**Dixon Towersite** – 48 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. From Dixon, take Highway 133 west 3 miles.

**Fort Leonard Wood Towersite** – 66 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. From St. Robert, take the south outer road of Interstate 44 east 1 mile.

**Gasconade Hills CA** – 371 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, squirrel. Fishing: black bass, catfish, sunfish. From Dixon, take Highway 28 south, then County Road 28-462.

**Laughlin/Roubidoux Parks (Waynesville)** – Fishing: black bass, rock bass, sunfish, trout. Disabled accessible. In Waynesville, downstream from the Roubidoux Spring.

**Mitschele Access (Gasconade River)** – Fishing: black bass, rock bass, sunfish.

*From Richland, take Highway 7 south about 5 miles.*

**Riddle Bridge Access**

**(Gasconade River)** – Fishing: black bass, catfish, crappie, rock bass, sunfish.

*From St. Robert, take Route Y north 6 miles.*

**Ross Access (Big Piney River)** –

Fishing: catfish, crappie, sunfish, black bass, white bass.

*From Duke, take Route K west to Western Road then Windsor Lane north 0.50 mile.*

**Roubidoux Creek CA** – 178 acres. Hunting: deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, dove, quail. Fishing: trout, black bass, white bass, catfish, sunfish.

*From Waynesville, take Highway 17 north 1 mile.*

**Schlicht Springs Access**

**(Gasconade River)** – Fishing: black bass, rock bass, sunfish. Disabled accessible.

*From Crocker, take Highway 133 to Resort Road south, then Riverside Road east 1 mile.*

## A Refuge for Those Who Serve Hunting and Fishing at Fort Leonard Wood

**A**s a secure military facility, Fort Leonard Wood is off-limits to most civilians. However, active duty, retired, Reserves and National Guard military personnel may hunt and fish on the base.

Eligible persons must first obtain an Outdoor Recreation Permit and a FLW Sportsman Permit through the Outdoor Adventure Center. Call (573) 596-4223 for details.

Numerous fishing opportunities exist within Fort Leonard Wood. There are 18 ponds and lakes managed for fishing. Base recreation permits

are required. The Big Piney River and Roubidoux Creek both pass through the base. While FLW recreation permits are not required for these streams, gate access rules apply for the portions on base.

The Lake of the Ozarks Recreation Area on the Grand Glaize arm of the lake is managed year-round for active-duty and retired military personnel, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserves. The LORA offers boat and jet ski rental, camping, cabins, RV sites and a store. For more information, call (573) 346-5640.

# Trout Management Areas

In addition to Montauk State Park and Maramec Spring Park, the 16th Senatorial District is home to some of Missouri's best wild trout streams. These waters offer a challenge to sportsmen willing to make the effort.

## **Blue Ribbon Trout Areas**

These small streams support naturally reproducing rainbow trout. Minimum length is 18 inches. One fish daily limit. Artificial lures and flies only.

- **Blue Spring Creek (Crawford County)** – *From Blue Springs to the Meramec River (4 miles).*
- **Current River (Dent County)** – *From Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove Bridge (9 miles).*
- **Little Piney Creek (Phelps County)** – *From county line to Milldam Hollow Access, including Piney Spring Branch (9.9 miles).*
- **Mill Creek (Phelps County)** – *Yelton Spring to Little Piney Creek, including Wilkins Spring and spring branch (7.7 miles).*
- **Spring Creek (Phelps County)** – *Relfe Spring to Big Piney River (6.2 miles).*

## **Red Ribbon Trout Areas**

High quality habitat, stocked primarily with brown trout. Minimum length is 15 inches. Two fish daily limit. Artificial lures only.

- **Dry Fork Creek (Dent and Phelps counties)** – *Upstream from the elevated cable crossing.*
- **Meramec River (Crawford and Phelps County)** – *Highway 9 Bridge to Scott's Ford, includes Dry Fork Creek from the cable crossing to Meramec River (8.2 miles). Note: A daily trout tag is required for possession of fish where stream intersects with Maramec Spring Park.*
- **Roubidoux Creek (Pulaski County)** – *Downstream from the cable crossing (2.2 miles).*

## **White Ribbon Trout Areas**

Coldwater streams capable of supporting trout year-round. No length limit for brown trout, 15 inch minimum for rainbows. Daily limit of four trout.

- **Current River (Dent County)** – *Downstream from Cedar Grove Bridge (7.7 miles)*
- **Little Piney Creek (Phelps County)** – *Downstream of Milldam Hollow Access (3.7 miles).*
- **Roubidoux Creek (Pulaski County)** – *Upstream from the utility cable crossing, below Business 44 bridge (0.9 miles).*
- **Stone Mill Spring (Pulaski County)** – *Entire spring branch (0.3 mile). From Nov. 1 to Feb. 28, catch and release only.*

# Lake of the Ozarks

**W**ith 54,000 acres of surface water and 1,150 miles of shore, the Lake of the Ozarks is one of the most popular fishing destinations in the nation. Fed by the Osage and Niangua rivers, and Grand Glaize and Gravois creeks, the lake is home to bass, crappie, catfish, walleye, paddlefish and bluegill. You can access the Lake of the Ozarks from several public access ramps located in Camden County.

**Brown Bend Access (Osage Arm)**  
– From Climax Springs, take Highway 7 to Route DD to Route FF. GPS: 38.213371, -93.027741.

**Larry R. Gale Access (Niangua Arm)** – From Camdenton, take Highway 54 to Route AA to AA 101D. GPS: 38.021174, -92.831746.

**McCubbin’s Point (Grand Glaize)** – Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Osage Beach. Highway 54 to Highway A off Lake Road A-33. GPS: 38.101751, -92.606018

**Public Beach #1 (Grand Glaize)**  
– Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Grand Glaize Recreation Area. Highway 54 to Highway 42, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Exit 134. GPS: 38.116123, -92.671233.

**Public Beach #2/Pa He Tsi Access (Grand Glaize)** – Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Osage Beach. Off Highway 54. GPS: 38.116230, -92.671322.

**Shawnee Bend Access (Osage)** – From Sunrise Beach, take Highway 5 south to Route F to Route TT northeast. GPS: 38.263545, -93.417574.



Fishing the Lake of the Ozarks

Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Natural Resources

# New Law Makes Poaching Costly

**L**egislation passed in 2019 imposes stiff fines for poaching wildlife. Persons found guilty of chasing, pursuing, killing, processing or disposing of wild turkey, paddlefish, antlered white-tail deer (excluding does), black bear or elk in violation of legal methods, seasons and

limits may be required to make restitution. Fines for poaching wild turkey or paddlefish range from \$500 to \$1,000. Taking or possessing antlered deer could result in fines of \$1,000 to \$5,000. Fines for illegally pursuing, taking or possessing black bear or elk range from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

## A catch to remember!

The Missouri Department of Conservation offers a number of ways to recognize memorable catches of all kinds. For more information, visit <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/trophies-certificates>.

**First Fish Certificate** – A keepsake of your (or your child’s) first catch. Record the location, species, length and weight. You can even include a photograph.

**I Released a Lunker Award** – Earn a patch after catching and releasing a lunker trout of at least 18 inches at one of the state’s trout parks during the regular season. Earning a patch at all four parks qualifies an angler for a Grand Slam patch.

**Master Angler Award** – This award recognizes memorable fish catches. Qualifying weight and length requirements vary by species.

**State Record Fish** – Catch a fish that breaks a previous record? To be considered a record, fish must be examined by a Department of Conservation fisheries biologist or conservation agent familiar with the genus. Color photos are required.



*Any fish can be a catch to remember.*

Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation

# Mark Twain National Forest

**T**he Mark Twain National Forest encompasses 1.5 million acres of public land in 29 Missouri counties. Portions are located in Pulaski, Phelps, Dent and Crawford counties.

The densely wooded forest offers Missourians some of the most isolated and rugged recreational environments in the state. Many areas of the forest are only accessible on foot, horseback or mountain bike.

Throughout the forest, public land is interspersed with private property. Users must pay close attention to property markings to avoid trespassing.

The U.S. Forest Service has topographic, vehicle use and visitor maps available for areas of the Mark Twain Forest. For more information, call (573) 364-4621.



## Hunting

More than 1.4 million acres of land is open for public hunting. Deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes and various species of upland game birds are encountered. No fees are charged to hunt, but all usual hunting regulations and permit requirements apply. Some areas of the forest are closed to motorized vehicles and certain areas are limited to walk-in hunters during turkey seasons. Contact the forest supervisor's office for details.

## Fishing

Fishing opportunities abound within the Mark Twain Forest, which includes more than 340 miles of perennial streams, many suitable for floating with canoes or kayaks. In addition, many small lakes and ponds are found at locations throughout the forest.

## Mark Twain Forest

**Supervisor's Office:**  
**401 Fairgrounds Road**  
**Rolla, MO 65401**  
**(573) 364-4621**

**Houston/Rolla District:**  
**(417) 967-4194**

**Salem District:**  
**(573) 729-6656**

# Hunter Education

Completion of Missouri's hunter education course is required for any hunter born on or after Jan. 1, 1967. The hunter-education certification course covers:

- **Hunter responsibility and ethics,**
- **Firearms operation and safety,**
- **Firearm handling skills and hunting techniques,**
- **Wildlife conservation and management,**
- **Rules and information unique to Missouri.**

Anyone age 11 or older is eligible to take the course, which may be completed in-person at regularly scheduled public classes or online. Youths, age 11 through 15, must attend a four-hour skills

session and pass the final exam in-person. Only those age 16 and older may complete the entire course and take the exam online.

For more information, to order materials or enroll in an online course, visit <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/hunter-education-skills-training>.

The Department of Conservation also offers a Bowhunter Education course, as well as hunting and shooting skills classes and wingshooting workshops.

Individuals, age 16 or older, may experience hunting without becoming certified by enrolling in the Apprentice Hunter Authorization program. Apprentice hunters may go into the field with a properly permitted adult. All other permit rules apply.

## **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

The Conservation Department has established CWD Management Zones that include counties located within approximately 10 miles of chronic wasting disease detections. Crawford County was designated a CWD Zone for the 2019-2020 deer season. For the latest information about chronic wasting disease and regulations that affect particular counties, please consult the department's website at <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/regulations>.



# Invasive Species & Black Bears

## **Fight Rock Snot!**

Didymosphenia geminate, otherwise known as “Didymo,” or rock snot, is an invasive alga that is spreading in streams worldwide. The stringy alga catches on hooks and makes fishing all but impossible. Already it’s been found in Arkansas.

To combat Didymo, the Conservation Department has banned porous-soled waders in most trout waters of Missouri.

Anglers must switch to non-porous footwear or seal felt soles. Look for wader cleaning stations at Missouri’s trout parks.



## **Black Bear Sightings Increase**

**B**lack Bears are becoming more common in Missouri as bears extend their range. Do not approach or feed bears. Avoid leaving garbage, pet food or other bear attractors outside. The Department of Conservation is mapping bear sightings and asks Missourians to log their bear encounters at <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/report-wildlife-sightings>.

# Feral Hogs Threaten Missouri

**N**on-native feral hogs continue to wreak havoc throughout southern Missouri. Invasive wild boars destroy habitat, cause soil erosion and damage crops. They can also spread diseases to people, pets and livestock. Feral hog populations are established in 30 Missouri counties, including those within the 16th Senatorial District. The Department of Conservation is attempting to trap feral hogs out

of existence. Although its legal to kill wild pigs on private property, the Conservation Department prefers that Missourians not hunt feral hogs, but report them to the department instead. Hunting feral hogs is prohibited on Conservation Department land and the U.S. Forest Service is considering a similar ban. It is illegal to release feral hogs. For more information, or to report feral hogs log onto [www.mdc.mo.gov/feralhog](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/feralhog).