

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

**Mark Twain
National Forest**

Mark Twain National Forest

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2000

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Mark Twain National Forest 2000

It is my pleasure to provide you with this overview of the of Mark Twain National Forest's accomplishments for our Fiscal Year 2000. It was a busy year for employees across the country. Besides doing their regular jobs, many of our employees provided wildfire protection here, on Forest, during an unusually busy fire season. Many of our fire fighters and support personnel worked fires in Michigan, Florida, Texas, Idaho, Montana and California.

This report is the result of monitoring that we undertake each year. It provides a snapshot of what is happening on the Forest.

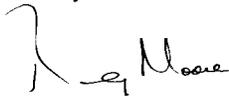
The "Fee Demo" project, which allows us to retain 80% of the revenue from our recreation areas, has proven a success at several of our recreation areas. Being able to reinvest funds where the revenue is generated has allowed us to refocus funds provided by Congress to areas that are less developed. Some of our recreation sites were put under concession to local businesses this past year.

Volunteers also helped enhance our recreation program. They helped with trail maintenance, litter removal, and many other day to day chores that have contributed to our success. Should you want more detailed information on present and proposed management activities or recreation opportunities, visit the Mark Twain National Forest home page at: www.fs.us/r9/marktwain/.

Our forested lands are home to a variety of wildlife. I would like to thank all individuals and groups who have helped with habitat restoration and improvement during the last year. We look forward to working with all of you in future years.

As I looked back on the past, I could not help but to think of the future. I know Mark Twain National Forest is important to all of us. It is important that we manage it to retain and improve its value. I look forward to the next year, working with you to manage this great national forest we call the Mark Twain.

Randy Moore



Forest Supervisor

THE FOREST PLAN - The National Forest Management Act directed all National Forests to develop a plan to guide Forest managers. Mark Twain's Forest Plan was approved in 1986. It is designed to cover a period of up to fifteen years. Congress has suspended the updating of Forest Plans pending new Forest Plan regulations. The Forest Plan provides an integrated, multi-resource approach to forest and watershed restoration and maintenance..

FOREST PLAN MONITORING - Each year, forest accomplishments are monitored and evaluated. This allows us to see if we are staying within Forest Plan standards and guidelines. It also lets us know if the Forest Plan need adjustments. This report highlights the results of Forest Plan monitoring.

APPROPRIATED DOLLARS - When the Land and Resource Plan was developed, plan objectives were set at 100% funding. In the reality of management, most programs are not completely funded. Since the implementation of the Plan, the Forest has operated with an average funding of 49.1%. Congress sets funding levels for programs. Some programs are funded at 100%, others are not funded and are often accomplished in conjunction with a funded project, through partnership money or by volunteers. This should be taken into account as you interpret the data.

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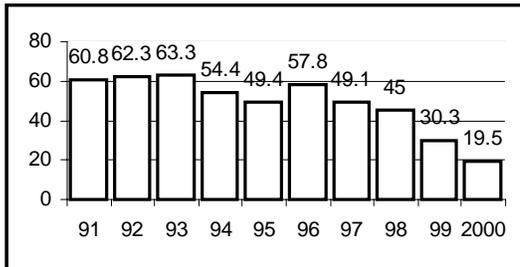
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MINERALS

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, royalty payments decreased to \$3,630,525 from \$4,405,516 last year. Royalty payments come from private mining companies that mine minerals from beneath Mark Twain National Forest. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the minerals owned by the federal government. BLM leases the mineral rights to private companies who in turn pay a royalty based on the value of the minerals mined. The federal government turns twenty-five percent of the royalty payment over to the state to distribute to counties with national forest lands, prorated on the number of acres of national forest land in the county. Funds are to be used for schools and roads. All counties that have national forest lands receive this benefit, not just those where minerals are mined.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

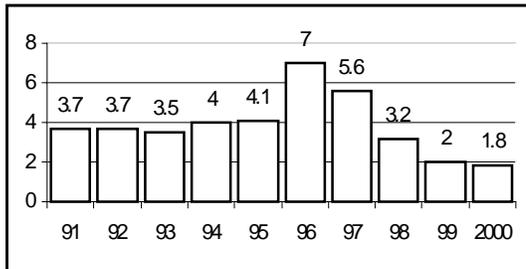
MMBF



The amount of timber being sold is continuing to decline with 19.5 million board feet (MMBF) of timber sold in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000. This is a decline from 30.3 MMBF in FY 1999 and the ten year high of 63.3 in FY 1993. The use of clearcutting as a harvest method decreased about 50% over FY 1999 while the percentage of shelterwood and seed tree harvest acres showed only a slight decrease. Overall, there was a 7% decrease in even-aged management from 1999 levels. Acres sold totaled 5,218 compared to 5,050 acres sold in FY 1999. Uneven-aged management and commercial thinning accounted for nearly 60% of the total acres sold.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

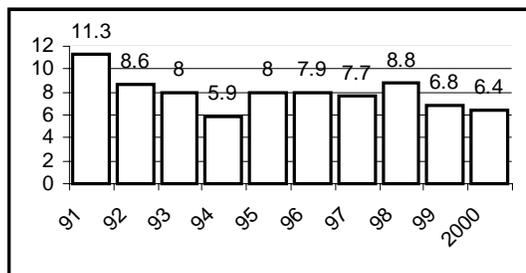
1,000 ACRES



One goal of forest management is to improve the quality of timber on national forest lands. Timber stand improvement (TSI) was completed on 1,800 acres in FY 2000. This was done by thinning and removing unwanted trees, allowing the remaining trees to grow healthier and more vigorously. Most TSI is done in young stands to establish good growth and development.

REFORESTATION

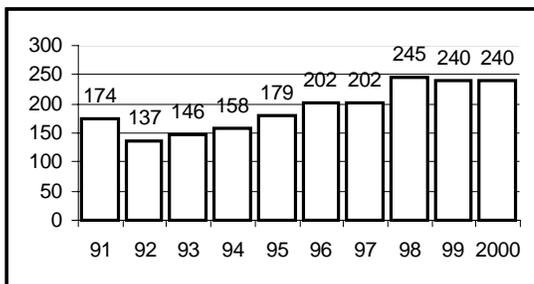
1,000 ACRES



In FY 2000, 6,422 acres were reforested, a slight decline from FY 1999. The decline in reforestation is a reflection of the decline in harvested acres over the past years. Reforestation is accomplished in three ways: sprouts from stumps of harvested trees; selected trees left during harvesting to provide a seed source; and planting. Reforestation is also used to reclaim areas that were once forested but converted to pasture or farm lands. This is usually done in riparian areas along streams and rivers.

RECREATION USE

10,000 RVDs (1)

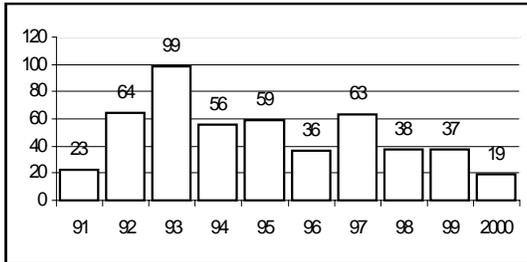


Recreation use remained about the same as the past two years, just over 2,400,000 recreation visitor days (RVDs). These figures do not include Wilderness or wildlife-related uses such as hunting and fishing, which are reported elsewhere in the report. The hot, dry summer led to reduced recreational use at some sites. Rivers, such as Eleven Point Scenic River, received the same or greater use. Six of the larger recreation areas were operated by local business through Special Use Permits. Eight areas were operated under the fee demonstration program. Over 80% of the fees collected from these areas were retained to maintain or enhance the recreation sites and their operation. Without these two programs, the forest would not have been able to operate all of these recreation areas. The new Hendrickson Boat Launch on the Black River in Butler County was opened, and improvements were made to Cobb Ridge Campground in Christian County.

HERITAGE RESOURCES – The heritage program surveys national forest lands to identify historical and cultural sites. Each site is recorded for interpretation and protection. In FY 2000, 9,294 acres of national forest lands were surveyed for cultural resources. Fifty-nine sites were identified for preservation and protection, and one site was interpreted. As part of a Passport in Time project, 20 volunteers, along with Forest Service personnel, researched the Huff site located along the Eleven Point River in Oregon County. The Huff site is both a prehistoric and early historic. Work is underway to nominate two types of culture resource site to be listed as the National Historic sites.

Trail - Construction / Reconstruction

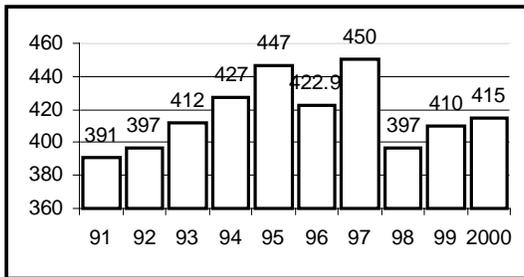
Miles



Trail Construction/Reconstruction - The forest constructed 9 miles of new trail connecting the Courtois Creek Section of the Ozark Trail, and reconstructed 19 miles of existing trail. Portions of the Ozark Trail were maintained through a partnership with AmeriCorps, and through assistance from Conservation Federation Trail Team volunteers. While there were inadequate resources to maintain all trails to standard, over 500 miles of the 750 miles of trails on Mark Twain were fully maintained in FY2000. Two new trailheads were constructed on the Ridge Runner Trail, with parking areas designed to serve equestrians.

WILDLIFE USE

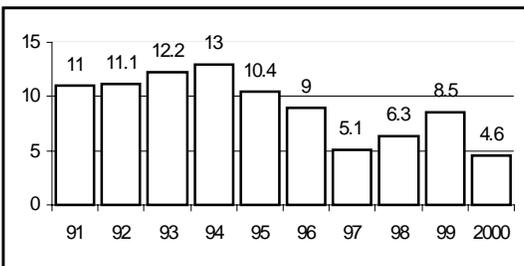
WFUD (2)



Wildlife Use - The forest provides habitat for over 530 animal species. Mark Twain National Forest and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) work closely in the management of wildlife habitat and wildlife recreation opportunities on national forest lands. Forest Service wildlife biologists design projects that provide a variety of habitat for wildlife and fish. In the past year, both consumptive (hunting and fishing) and non-consumptive (bird watching and photography) wildlife use has remained constant.

WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS

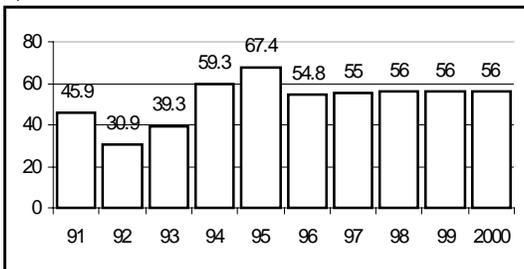
1,000 ACRES



Wildlife Improvements - Recovering and conserving federally-proposed and listed species, and agency-designated sensitive species are fundamental, legal responsibilities of the Forest Service. The existing and future welfare of threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) species is a key indicator of NFS aquatic, forest, and rangeland ecosystem health. Improving conditions for these species, including the re-introduction of natural patterns of disturbance and other ecological processes, also benefits many other wildlife and plant species. The number of acres of wildlife improvements decreased from last year to 4,752 acres. Much of this work is accomplished through partnerships that provide funding and volunteer work.

WILDERNESS

1,000 RVDs



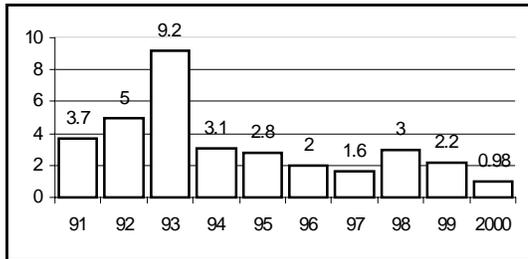
Wilderness – The use of designated Wildernesses remains constant at 56,000 Recreation Visitor Days (RVD's). Uses associated with hunting and wildlife study are not included in this figure. In the fall of FY 2000, wildfires burned the western part of the Paddy Creek Wilderness near Roby Recreation Area, but there should be no long-term visibly noticeable changes to those areas. Horseback riding and hunting continues to be high uses for Wildernesses. Campsite impacts were monitored in Hercules Glades and Patty Creek Wildernesses.

(1) A Recreation Visitor Day equals 12 hours of recreation use.
 (2) A Wildlife and Fish User Day equals 12 hours of use.

RANGE, SOIL AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT -The agency's objectives for managing rangelands are diverse, including enhancing grassland bird habitat, restoring native prairie grasses and maintaining forage for domestic livestock. These objectives include protection and restoration of riparian habitat and native vegetation. The goal of watershed and soil management is to maintain an adequate supply of clear, clean water in streams flowing through the Forest. This is done by maintaining and restoring hydrologic functions of our watersheds, monitoring water quality and watershed condition including improving soil productivity. In FY 2000, the Forest Service improved watershed condition on about 100 acres of system lands.

LAND ADJUSTMENTS

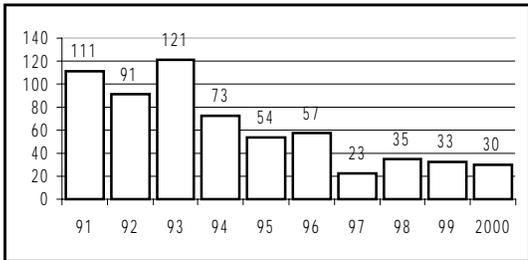
1000 ACRES



Land Adjustments – The Forest continues to consolidate ownership within the Forest Boundary. In FY 2000, the Forest purchased 607 acres of land and three land exchanges were completed for 382 acres. Land purchases and exchanges are done on a willing seller, willing buyer basis. Consolidation of ownership improves the land managers ability to manage the resources of the forest, reduces trespass, and the amount of forest boundary that must be maintained. Lands were purchased with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.

PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY

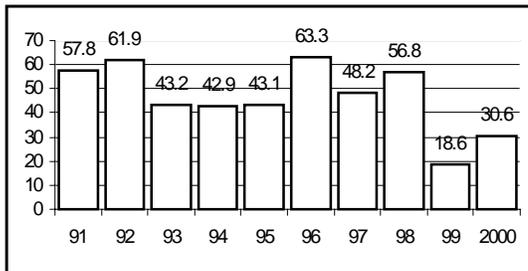
MILES



The national forest boundary includes three million acres, of which only about half is in federal ownership. With the mix of Federal, State, corporate, and private ownership within the Forest boundary, there is estimated to be over 7,200 miles of national forest boundary. In FY 2000, thirty miles of national forest boundary was surveyed, bringing the total miles of boundary surveyed to 1,934. The Forest occasionally shares the cost of boundary surveys with adjacent landowners when funds are available. Besides establishing national forest ownership, surveys define the boundaries of Wilderness, recreation and natural areas, and road and utility right-of-ways.

ROADS DEVELOPMENT

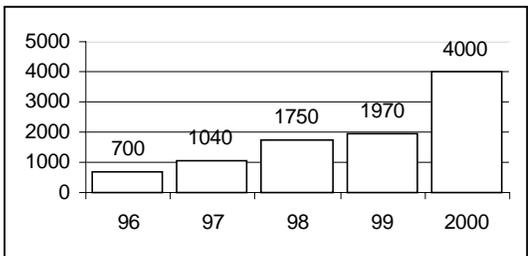
MILES



In FY 2000, the Forest Service completed 30.6 miles of road reconstruction to bring roads back to their original standard. The transportation network of the national forest is important, allowing users access to the natural resources of the forest, campgrounds, river accesses, and hiking trails. Roads also provide access to the forest for fire protection. The Forest Service has more miles of roads than it can maintain. In FY 2000, a national review of its transportation network was started. In the future, the Forest Service will look at all the roads in its transportation network to see what roads are needed and to what standard they need to be maintained. The goal is to provide better service to forest users and protect environmental quality.

FUEL REDUCTION

ACRES



Years of fire suppression on federal lands has resulted in a build up of burnable materials (fuels) and certain types of vegetation entering areas where it was once suppressed by fire. The President's "National Fire Plan" has a goal to reduce the amount of fuels on federal lands in order to protect those nearby communities that may be at risk. This has increased the acres of fuels treated on the Forest. Fuels are treated with prescribed fire, and mechanical methods.

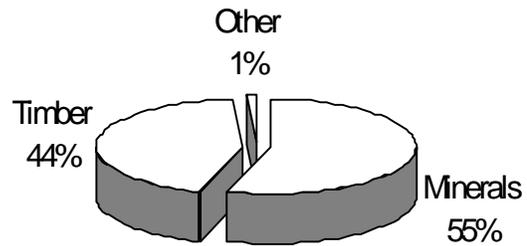
Wildland Fire Management - In FY2000, there were 182 wildfires on Mark Twain National Forest, which burned 8,740 acres. This was an increase over the previous year. Ninety-nine percent of the wildfires were human-caused, 72% classified as arson. Arson continues to be the main cause of fires, with landowner burning "escapes" coming in second. This year, Mark Twain National Forest fire crews, support personnel and equipment were dispatched to Michigan, Florida, Texas, Idaho, Montana and California to assist on wildfire and other incidents.

Forest Finances

EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM	DOLLARS
Minerals	245,000
Range	300,000
Land/Use	119,000
Wildlife/Fish	642,000
Timber	1,576,000
Soil/Water	176,000
Property Survey	460,000
Fire	1,637,000
Recreation Operation and Maintenance	624,000
Road Construction and Reconstruction	840,000
Road/Trail Maintenance	517,000
Law Enforcement	120,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	1,256,000
Ecosystem Management	1,011,000
Administration	1,279,000
Additional Miscellaneous Programs	3,228,000
TOTAL	\$14,030,000

INCOME



PROGRAM	DOLLARS
Minerals	3,631,000
Range	12,000
Land/Uses	48,000
Timber	2,870,000
Recreation	21,000
TOTAL	\$6,582,000

Each year, the National Forest return 25% of all revenues to the states where national forest lands are located. This money is distributed to the counties prorated on the number of national forest acres in the county, and is to be used for the benefit of public schools and county roads. Counties with national forest, park service, and corps of engineer lands also receive Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). PILT funds are not limited to schools and roads. In FY 2000, counties in Missouri with national forest lands received an average of \$1.99 per acre.

COUNTY	NET NF ACRES	FY 2000 25% PAYMENTS	FY 2000 PILT PAYMENTS	FY2000 MINERALS PAYMENTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES
Barry	54,852	42,905	42,956	31,845	117,706
Bollinger	1,646	1,288	1,053	956	3,297
Boone	4,142	3,240	2,395	2,183	7,817
Butler	48,375	37,839	28,548	27,990	94,377
Callaway	12,168	9,518	7,855	7,061	24,433
Carter	90,646	70,903	65,299	52,792	188,994
Christian	52,077	40,735	33,208	30,227	104,169
Crawford	50,134	39,215	31,933	29,074	100,222
Dent	72,492	56,703	47,493	42,024	146,220
Douglas	40,910	32,000	26,029	23,787	81,816
Howell	49,274	38,542	31,297	28,595	98,434
Iron	95,314	74,554	60,544	54,806	189,904
Laclede	29,392	22,990	18,302	17,056	58,348
Madison	51,208	40,055	32,648	29,632	102,335
Oregon	105,612	82,610	67,218	61,286	211,113
Ozark	38,512	30,124	39,739	22,347	92,210
Phelps	65,352	51,118	39,932	37,749	128,799
Pulaski	48,189	37,693	29,659	27,971	95,324
Reynolds	89,888	70,310	71,340	52,128	193,779
Ripley	97,124	75,970	61,788	56,197	193,955
St. Francois	673	526	407	472	1,405
Ste. Genevieve	10,254	8,021	6,527	5,950	20,498
Shannon	83,126	65,021	80,174	48,117	193,312
Stone	10,167	7,953	36,018	8,490	52,461
Taney	65,300	51,078	59,312	37,436	147,825
Texas	48,890	38,242	30,249	28,323	96,814
Washington	82,327	64,369	52,382	47,762	164,513
Wayne	88,332	69,093	90,156	51,114	210,363
Wright	7,159	5,600	4,557	4,154	14,311
Total	1,493,535	\$1,168,214	\$1,099,018	\$867,521	\$3,134,753