

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES HAMPTON (Sponsor), BURLISON, REDMON, RICHARDSON, CRAWFORD, WALLINGFORD, HOUGHTON, WRIGHT, FRAKER, COOKSON, WYATT, LASATER, ASBURY, HIGDON, FITZWATER, CROSS AND WETER (Co-sponsors).

1392L.021

2       **WHEREAS**, the Mark Twain National Forest, the only national forest in Missouri, is 1.5  
3 million acres spread across 29 counties, with 1.4 million acres open to public hunting, 14  
4 floatable streams, and 16 lakes ranging from 3 to 44 acres; and

5       **WHEREAS**, the Mark Twain National Forest is located in southern and central Missouri,  
6 and extends from the St. Francois Mountains in the southeast to dry rocky glades in the  
7 southwest, from the prairies lands along the Missouri River to the nation's most ancient  
8 mountains in the south; and

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10       **WHEREAS**, the Mark Twain National Forest is popular with hunters, trappers, anglers,  
11 and persons who enjoy observing, studying, and photographing wildflowers and wildlife; and

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13       **WHEREAS**, the Mark Twain National Forest has approximately 320 species of birds,  
14 75 species of mammals, and 125 species of amphibians and reptiles; and

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16       **WHEREAS**, named after Missouri native, Mark Twain, the National Forest gets a  
17 variety of visitors through the year, including spring and fall, when color changes the forest; and

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19       **WHEREAS**, on January 8, 2009, the United States Forest Service Travel Management  
20 Rule, 36 CFR 212, Subpart B, became effective. This Rule requires each national forest or  
21 ranger district to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicles; and

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23       **WHEREAS**, the designations under the Rule include class of vehicle and, where  
24 appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use; and

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26       **WHEREAS**, once these designations are completed, the Rule will prohibit motor vehicle  
27 use off the designated system or inconsistent with the designations; and

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29       **WHEREAS**, these designations will be made locally, with public input and in  
30 coordination with state, local, and tribal governments; and

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32       **WHEREAS**, these designations will be shown on a motor vehicle map, with any use  
33 inconsistent with those designations prohibited; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, the Travel Management Rule limits access to areas of the forest, especially  
36 for the disabled and elderly. Many disabled and elderly persons enjoy hunting, fishing, and  
37 observing nature and wildlife; and

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39           **WHEREAS**, many areas of the forest are only accessible by hiking, so further  
40 restrictions on motor vehicle usage in the National Forest will significantly reduce access to the  
41 wide range of learning and recreational opportunities available in the Mark Twain National  
42 Forest:

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44           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
45 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
46 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Forest Service to amend or rescind the Travel  
47 Management Rule, 36 CFR 212, Subpart B, and allow an increase in motor vehicle access to  
48 areas of the Mark Twain National Forest; and

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50           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Tom  
52 Tidwell, Chief of the United States Forest Service, and each member of the Missouri  
53 Congressional Delegation.

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