



# Missouri Wilderness Coalition

Smith Creek Comments Needed

October 2, 2008

## **SMITH CREEK DECISION AT HAND - COMMENTS NEEDED BY OCTOBER 18!**

### **Dear Friends:**

Many of you helped defend the Smith Creek Wilderness by writing letters earlier this year in regard to the proposed [Southwest Project](#) on the Mark Twain's Cedar Creek District. This project covers much of the Cedar Creek District including a crucial portion of Smith Creek. The Forest Service planning process has advanced another step, a critical one, the consideration of comments on the [Proposed Action and Preliminary Alternatives for 30-day Comment Period - Southwest Project](#). Full details on this process can be found at the Mark Twain National Forest's [Southwest Project website](#). You can review and/or print the planning document as well as the maps.

The 30-day comment period, ending on October 18, will be a very crucial time for those of us who care about Smith Creek. We must make it clear that the public will not allow the Forest Service to degrade the integrity of this small wildland with roads, parking areas, fences, and timber sales. That was their proposal during an earlier round of comments on the 'Scoping Document'; and, unfortunately, despite strong public comment in favor of the wilderness values, it remains their "Preferred Alternative #2" in this final document. Our earlier efforts bore at least some fruit: Alternative #4 does protect the Epple Tract, which is the portion of Smith Creek included in this Project.

So, for those of you who have written on Smith Creek already this year, we thank you, and also plead with you to write one more letter on behalf of this precious wildland, and in time to arrive before the October 18 deadline. We regret asking you to comment once again, but that is how the agency process works. Written comments can be mailed to District Ranger Elrand D. Denson, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 Sam Houston Boulevard, Houston, MO 65483. You can also submit comments by e-mail to [comments-eastern-mark-twain-cedar-ck@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-mark-twain-cedar-ck@fs.fed.us) and include the project name (Southwest Project #21888) in the subject line.

For those who have not written before, this is your opportunity to weigh in for a very special place, our only possible Forest Service wilderness in north Missouri.

For all, we also encourage that you make the most of your efforts by copying your letter to your Congressional representatives, your local elected officials, the media, and your friends. This is especially urged for those who live in or know people in the central Missouri area. That is where the political forces to protect Smith Creek will need to be strongest.

We hope that it will be helpful for you to refer to the [attached Missouri Wilderness Coalition comment letter](#) for format and content.

As many of you know, Smith Creek is worth every effort we can muster. Thanks for helping make a difference!

John Karel

Scott Merritt

Greg Iffrig

## **Missouri Wilderness Coalition**

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