

Area Highlights

Hughes Mountain Natural Area, in southern Washington County, is a combination of igneous glades and 3 types of forest. The area was designated a natural area in 1982 to protect its unique geology and natural communities.

The igneous knob is named for John Hughes, the first European settler in the area, who arrived in 1810. The land stayed in the Hughes family until purchased by the Conservation Department. The Precambrian rock outcrops on Hughes Mountain are among the oldest (approximately 1.5 billion years) exposed rocks in the United States. The rocks were once liquefied by ancient volcanoes associated with the St. Francois Mountains. Some of the molten rock contracted and cracked as it cooled to create multi-sided columns. A rhyolite formation, known locally as the Devil's Honeycomb, is one of Missouri's geologic wonders, and is the highest point on Hughes Mountain.

The area's glades are natural openings on western or southern slopes and are dominated by native grasses and a variety of wildflowers. Glades occur where the soils are extremely thin and usually include areas of exposed bedrock. The thin soils, combined with the south and west exposure create a uniquely harsh habitat. 2/3 of the area is wooded. The forest is dominated by post and white oaks with areas of stunted specimens of blackjack oak and black hickory. Glade plants include little bluestem, broomsedge, poverty grass, the small but colorful flame flower, prickly pear cactus, yellow star grass, spiderwort, and wild hyacinth. Animals often found on these glades include fence lizards, collared lizards, lichen grasshoppers, and prairie warblers. Exposed rocks within glades are often covered with a variety of lichens.

Hughes Mountain Natural Area is 11 miles south of Potosi on Highway 21 then 5 miles east on Route M. The parking lot is on the right, 200 yards east of Cedar Creek Road.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Hiking – Hunting
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized fishing and hunting activities.

- No open fires or fireworks.
- Camping is prohibited.
- Bicycling and horseback riding are prohibited.

- Motor vehicles are allowed in parking areas only.
- No target shooting is allowed.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Nuts, berries, fruits and mushrooms may be taken for personal use. Digging, cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited. Taking of wild greens from natural areas is prohibited.
- No capture or removal of any wildlife.
- No picking, collection, destruction or defacing of any natural objects.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- **Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey Booklets for current regulations.**
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit.

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
St. Louis Regional Office
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

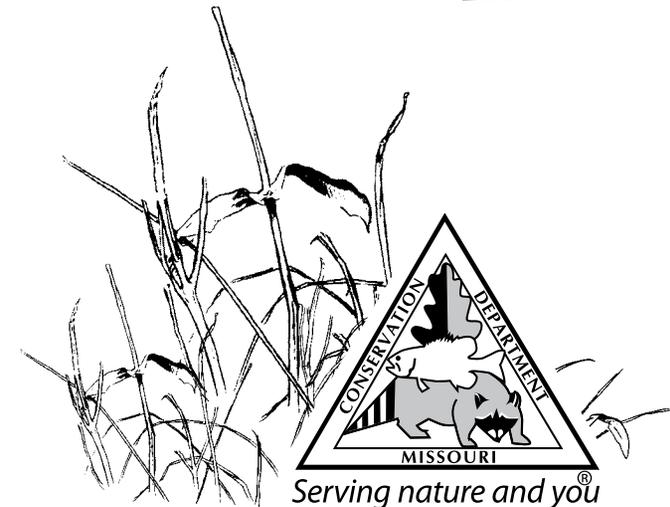
Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.

12/2020

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/ad/rules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Hughes Mountain

NATURAL AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION