



Feral Swine

at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area



An Invasive Threat

Feral swine are an exotic, invasive species that pose serious economic, ecological, and disease-related threats. They are highly destructive and can cause irreparable damage to our wildlife communities and natural resources. Feral swine eat almost anything, outcompeting native wildlife for food. They spread disease, and their rooting behavior threatens native plants, agricultural areas, and heritage sites. Feral swine populations did not naturally expand into Land Between the Lakes and were originally introduced through illegal release.



Feral Swine Sign



Rooting: Rooting damage often resembles a garden tiller and covers a large area. The rooting behavior of feral swine causes soil erosion, leading to stream sedimentation, and disrupts native plant communities and wildlife habitat.



Scat: Droppings are often round or tubular and contain grasses and other plant material. *Nickel in photo is for scale.*

Wallows: Feral swine roll or “wallow” in mud and water, allowing them to stay cool while ridding themselves of biting insects. Trees near these wallows become coated with mud as swine rub off the mud and parasites.



Given the opportunity, most feral swine will flee rather than confront a nearby human.

Interactions with Humans

Feral swine are secretive, elusive creatures. The vast majority of feral swine avoid and run away from humans.

- Be alert for signs of feral swine, know where they are and what they are doing, and always keep your distance.
- Visitors who come into contact with feral swine should treat them as wild animals. Remain calm and slowly back away from the animal.
- Do not approach, corner, or provoke feral swine.
- Feral hogs have excellent senses of smell and hearing and normally avoid contact with humans. Yelling or making noise will usually scare them off. Visitors are also permitted to carry bear spray.
- Keep your pets leashed and under your control at all times.
- Hunting feral swine is illegal and strictly prohibited.

Report - Don't Shoot!

Feral swine are social animals that travel in groups called sounders. Shooting one or two hogs scatters the sounder and makes trapping efforts aimed at catching the entire group at once more difficult. With their high reproductive rate, removing one or two hogs does not help to reduce populations. Hunting also causes hogs to go nocturnal and promotes their spread as they seek areas with less human activity.

At Land Between the Lakes, we are pursuing a cooperative strategy for intensive trapping and removal efforts to effectively control the feral swine population. **Hunting feral swine is strictly prohibited.**

Report feral swine sightings, damage, or criminal release:



Call: 270-924-2065

Email: lblquotahunt@usda.gov

Or submit a report online:

www.landbetweenthelakes.us