Missouri Natural Areas Program

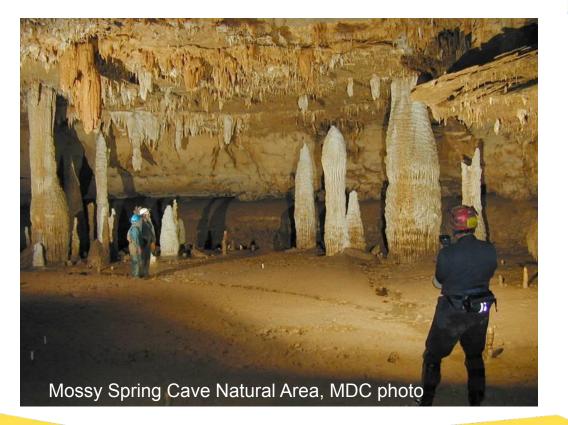
Mike Leahy, Natural Community Ecologist, Missouri Dept. of Conservation

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Photo by Ken McCarty

State Program Scope and Structure

• How is this program structured?





Missouri Department of Natural Resources











SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

State Program Scope and Structure

• Number of acres protected?

103,282 acres, 195 sites

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Little Niangua River Natural Area

State Program Scope and Structure

• Number of staff/volunteers?





Auxvasse Natural Area





Program "wins"

Diplazium pycnocarpon and over 6 foot tall biologist standing next to *Carya cordiformis* at Weldon Spring Hollow Natural Area

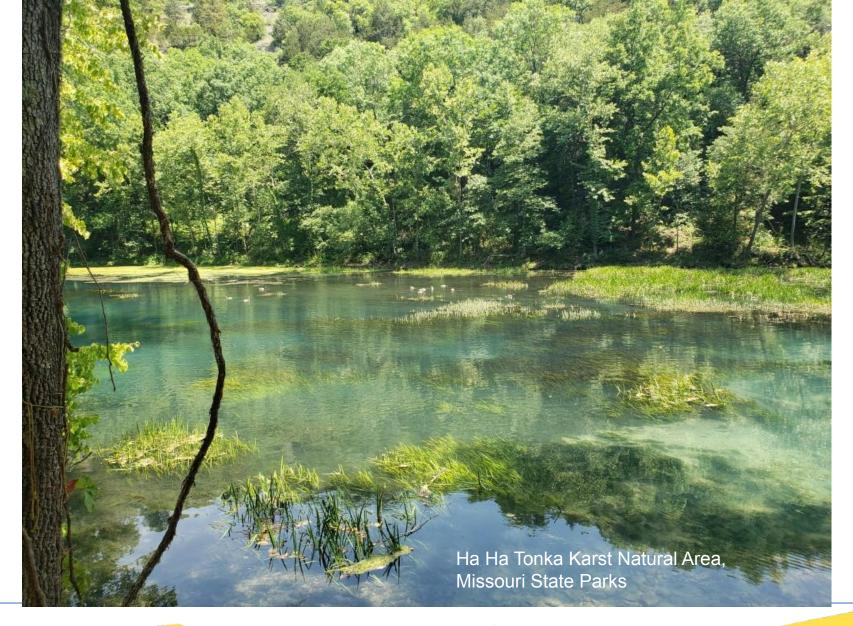
Pedicularis canadensis and Calopogon oklahomensis at Paintbrush Prairie Natural Area

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Program "wins"



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Program Challenges

How has your project been challenged?

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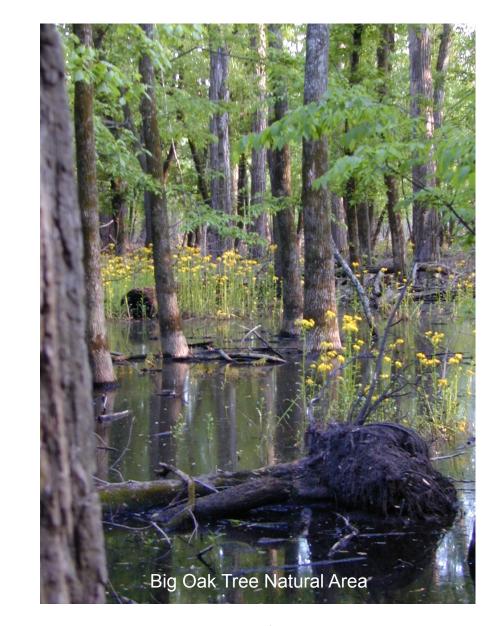
Portion of an MDC prairie natural area overtaken by Rhus copallinum

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- See: <u>https://mdc.mo.gov/</u>
- discover-nature/places/

natural-areas

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Thank you!

St Francois Mountains Natural Area



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