

The breathtaking beauty of the great outdoors is evident throughout the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

The Texas Pineywoods stretch from the urban landscape of Houston to the Louisiana border and are home to the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston national forests.

These four national forests have an amazing diversity of plant and animal life scattered across gently rolling hills, hardwood bottomlands and world-class fishing lakes.

North of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex are the Lyndon B. Johnson and Caddo National Grasslands. Purchased by the government in the 1930s, these lands are made up of abandoned farms and ranches that suffered severe soil erosion, but are now a thriving testament to proper land management.

Whether it's boating, fishing and swimming in the numerous lakes and reservoirs, or camping off the beaten path, the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas offer an experience like no other.

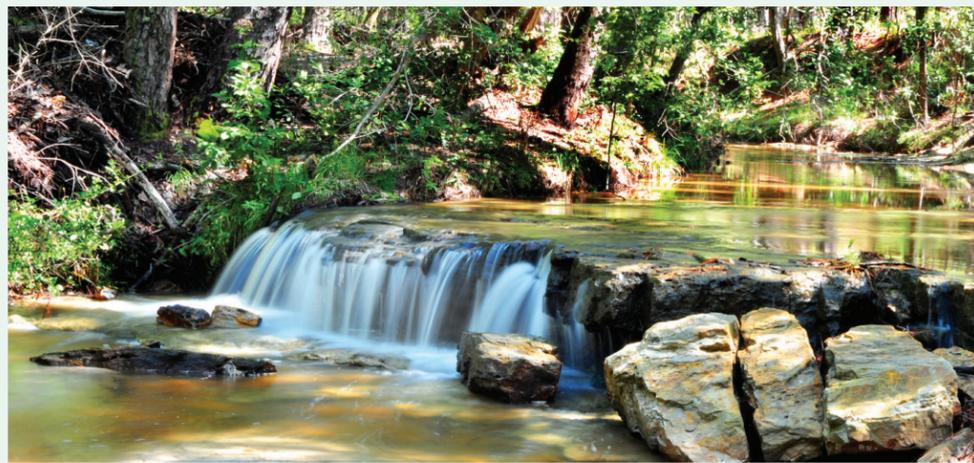
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Coral bean adds a splash of red to the forest.

Outdoor Adventures



Explore the Great Outdoors of Texas

With a wealth of recreation activities within easy driving distance, more and more vacationers are discovering the beauty and affordability of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages more than 675,000 acres of public land in Texas consisting of four national forests and two national grasslands.

The four national forests in Texas are the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston.

The national grasslands are north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and include the Caddo and the Lyndon B. Johnson.

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities with 25 developed recreation areas, nearly 200 miles of hiking trails, scenic areas, wilderness areas, an off-road vehicle trail and more than 100 miles of horse trails.

Camping reservations for the four national forests may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777, or on the web at www.recreation.gov. A daily use fee is charged at most areas.

Campgrounds generally include tent pads, picnic tables, parking spurs for trailers, lantern posts, campfire rings, potable water and toilets. Some areas also have showers, electricity, swimming

beaches and boat ramps.

The Davy Crockett and Sam Houston national forests are located where the pine forests of the Deep South join the blackland prairies. The result is a mix of eastern and western species of birds and other wildlife found nowhere else in the state.

The Sabine and Angelina national forests are on the shores of Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn Reservoirs, two large lakes featuring fishing and other water sports. Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston offer water-related outdoor recreation opportunities on and near the Sam Houston National Forest.

Primitive camping is allowed anywhere in the general forest area, except during hunting season or unless posted otherwise. All campers are encouraged to practice "leave no trace" camping, leaving an area in the same natural condition in which it was found.

During Spring, Caddo National Grasslands visitors can enjoy the spectacular experience of viewing migratory neo-tropical birds from Central and South America. The display of these winged visitors to the Caddo compete with the springtime show of wildflowers.

Photographers and nature lovers agree, spring in Caddo is magnificent.

In the Lyndon B. Johnson National

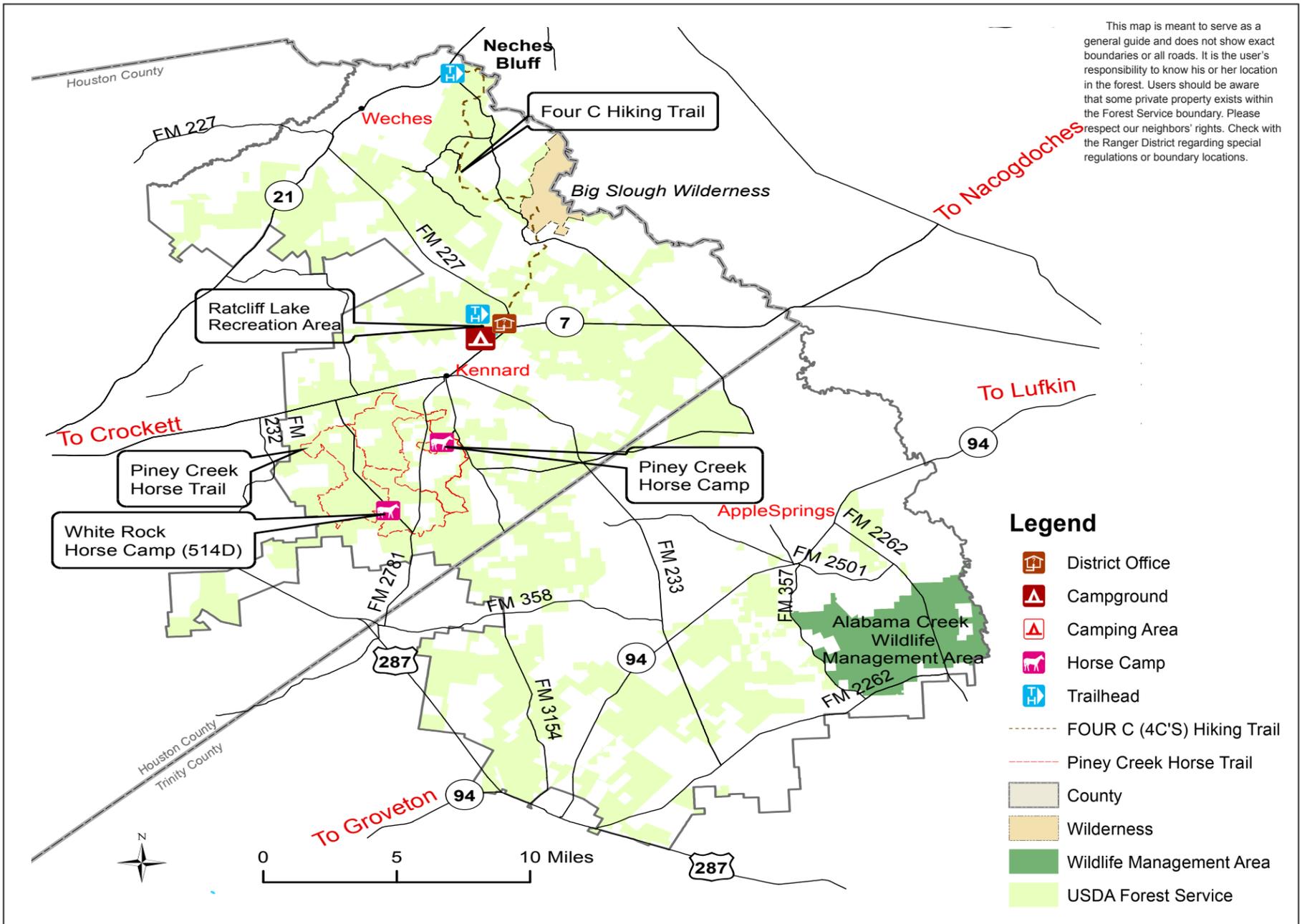
Grasslands, recreation is a big draw to the 6.3 million people who live just minutes away in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

The TADRA Point campground is the trailhead to a 75-mile network which includes five different loop trails and attracts equestrian enthusiasts from across the state. These trails cover land where once the Chisholm trail was used to move huge herds of cattle northward and the Comanche people roamed.

Black Creek Lake, with its adjacent campground and huge oaks, is popular for fishing, as well as tent camping and boating.



Davy Crockett National Forest



Named for the legendary pioneer, Davy Crockett National Forest contains more than 160,600 acres of woodland streams, recreation areas and wildlife habitat.

Located in Houston and Trinity counties, the forest is centrally located within the Neches River and Trinity River basins.

Ratcliff Lake

Built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area surrounds a 45-acre lake that was a log pond for the Central Coal and Coke Company Sawmill that logged the area from 1902 to 1920.

The area offers visitors camping, picnicking, a swimming beach and bathhouse in a beautiful forest setting often featured in travel magazines.

The picnic shelters and camping sites may be reserved from the National Reservation System online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

Four C Hiking Trail

The Four C Hiking Trail begins at Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area and ends at the Neches Bluff Overlook. It was named one of the top 10 trails in Texas by Texas Monthly magazine.

Named for the Central Coal and Coke Company, it follows abandoned tramways through the national forest. Except for a one-mile segment through



privately owned land, the Four C Trail stays on national forest land.

Walnut Creek Campsite is located on a small ridge about midway on the trail, and the Pond Campsite is near mile 13.

Spring and fall are the best times of year to experience the trail, but the trail can be hiked year round. Wearing bright orange is a must when hiking during hunting season (October through January). Horses, bikes and off-road vehicles are not allowed on



the trail.

Piney Creek Horse Trail

The Piney Creek Horse Trail meanders 54 miles along Forest Service roads, tram roads, pipeline rights-of-way, game trails and highways. It is mostly on national forest land, but there are crossings on private property and public roads.

A \$10 per day fee covers camping at either of the two horse camps and use of the horse trail system. A self-service pay station is available at the site. An annual permit can be purchased for \$50 per vehicle at the ranger's office.

Trail riding groups of more than 75 persons (including spectators) need a special-use permit and should contact the ranger's office three months prior to the event.

During rainy weather, parts of the trail may flood.

The best seasons for using the trail are during the mild weather of the fall and spring. Vault toilets are at both horse camps, but potable water and designated campsites are at the Piney Creek camp.

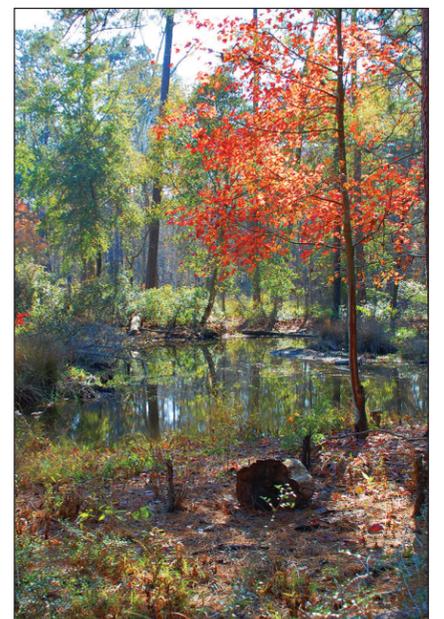
Big Slough Wilderness Area

The 3,639-acre Big Slough Wilderness was set aside under the Texas Wilderness Act of 1984 to provide opportunities for solitude and challenge and remains natural and pristine.

During wet periods, it is sometimes possible to canoe along a four-mile loop from the Neches to Big Slough and back.

Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area

The Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area provides for intensive wildlife management.



Principal game includes white-tailed deer, turkey, feral hog, waterfowl, dove, squirrel, quail and frogs.

In addition, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker thrives within a carefully managed old-growth habitat in the forest.

This area was established to provide improved hunting and to demonstrate how wildlife habitat and ecosystem management are coordinated to the benefit of all resources.



Sabine National Forest

Sabine National Forest is the easternmost of the four national forests in Texas and forms part of the boundary between Texas and Louisiana. The 160,806-acre forest is situated on the western slopes of the Sabine River watershed within Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Jasper and Newton counties.



Recreation

The eastern part of the Sabine National Forest outlines Toledo Bend Reservoir, the fifth largest man-made reservoir in the U.S. and a nationally known recreation attraction. Recreation developments adjacent to Toledo Bend Reservoir are extensive. Private facilities range from fish camps with marinas and primitive camping, to highly developed lodge and motel-type facilities.

Boating

Toledo Bend Reservoir offers the best in fishing and scenic shorelines. The Forest Service and private businesses provide boat ramps at all major recreation areas and other selected spots on the reservoir, giving boaters a wide choice of access points to the lake.

Hunting and Fishing

The Forest Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department work together to offer prime habitat for game and fish populations in national forests. Moore Plantation is a 26,500-acre wildlife management area in Sabine County cooperatively managed by these two agencies. It is known for excellent deer hunting. Toledo Bend Reservoir is a nationally known bass fishing lake, and numerous tournaments are held here each year.



Wilderness

Indian Mounds is a 12,369-acre congressionally designated wilderness area set aside to allow the earth's natural processes to shape and influence the land. Hunting, horseback riding and hiking are allowed. Bicycles, other wheeled vehicles and mechanized and motorized equipment are not allowed.

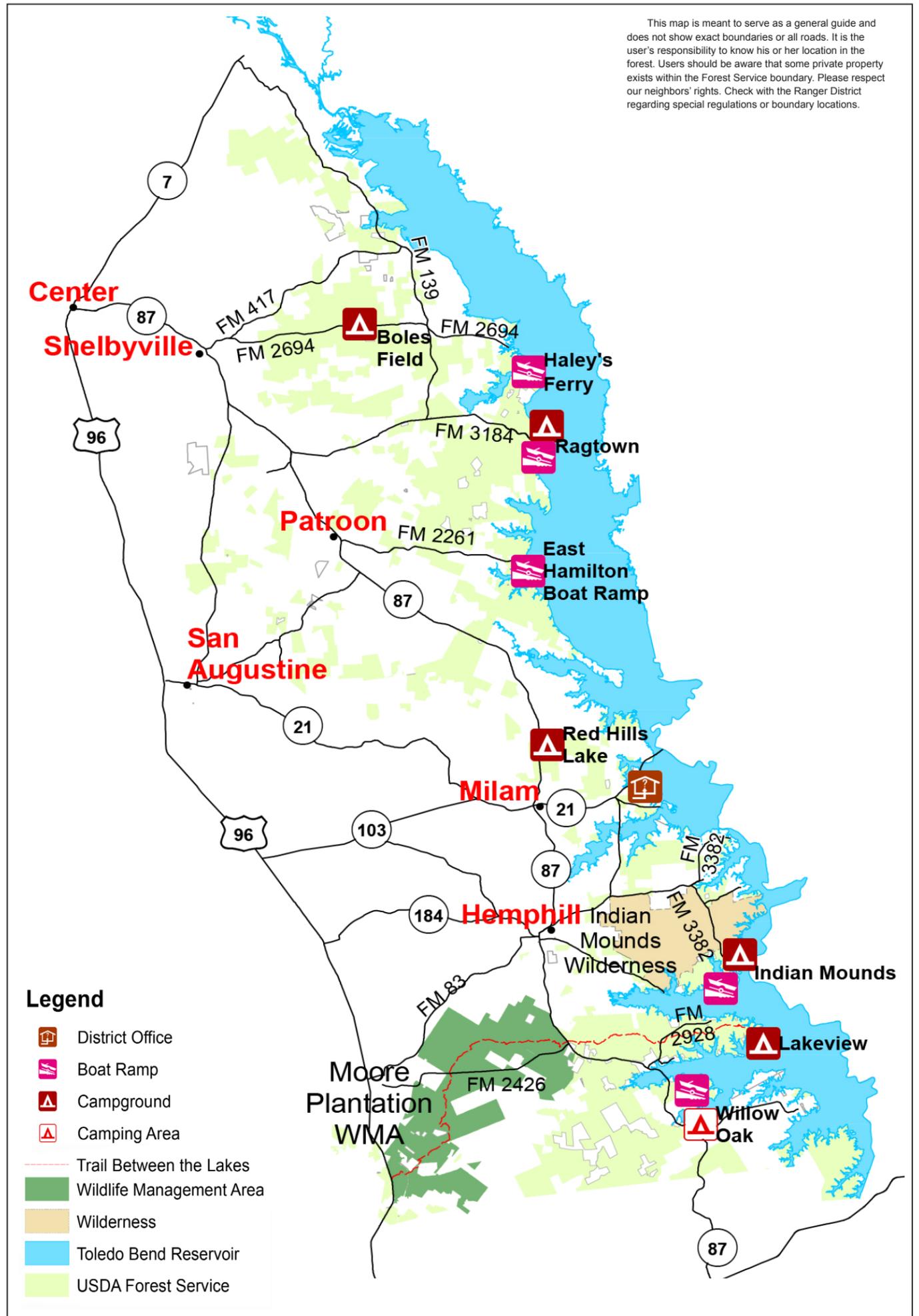
Camping and Picnicking

Family camping areas in the Sabine National Forest are designed for those wanting "elbow room" in a natural forest setting. Several units share a water tap, trash receptacle and toilet facilities.

Most parking spaces are suitable for camping trailers.

Red Hills Lake has picnic facilities, a swimming beach and dump station along with electrical hookups at several sites.

Boles Field has a picnic shelter



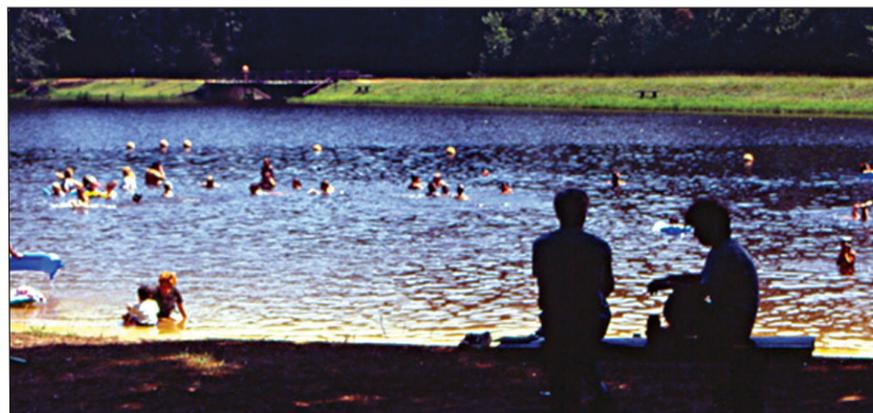
available for family reunions and other day-use activities; reservations need to be made in advance for shelters and the amphitheater.

Boles Field is also home to the National Cemetery Hall of Fame for Foxhounds. Prized hunting dogs from across the country are buried in this picturesque setting. The area is a

tradition with local fox hunters who organize hunting events in the area, and it offers excellent opportunities for hunting in the nearby forest.

Willow Oak boat ramp is open and provides several walk-in campsites.

Developed campgrounds require a fee, but there are many opportunities for dispersed camping throughout the forest.

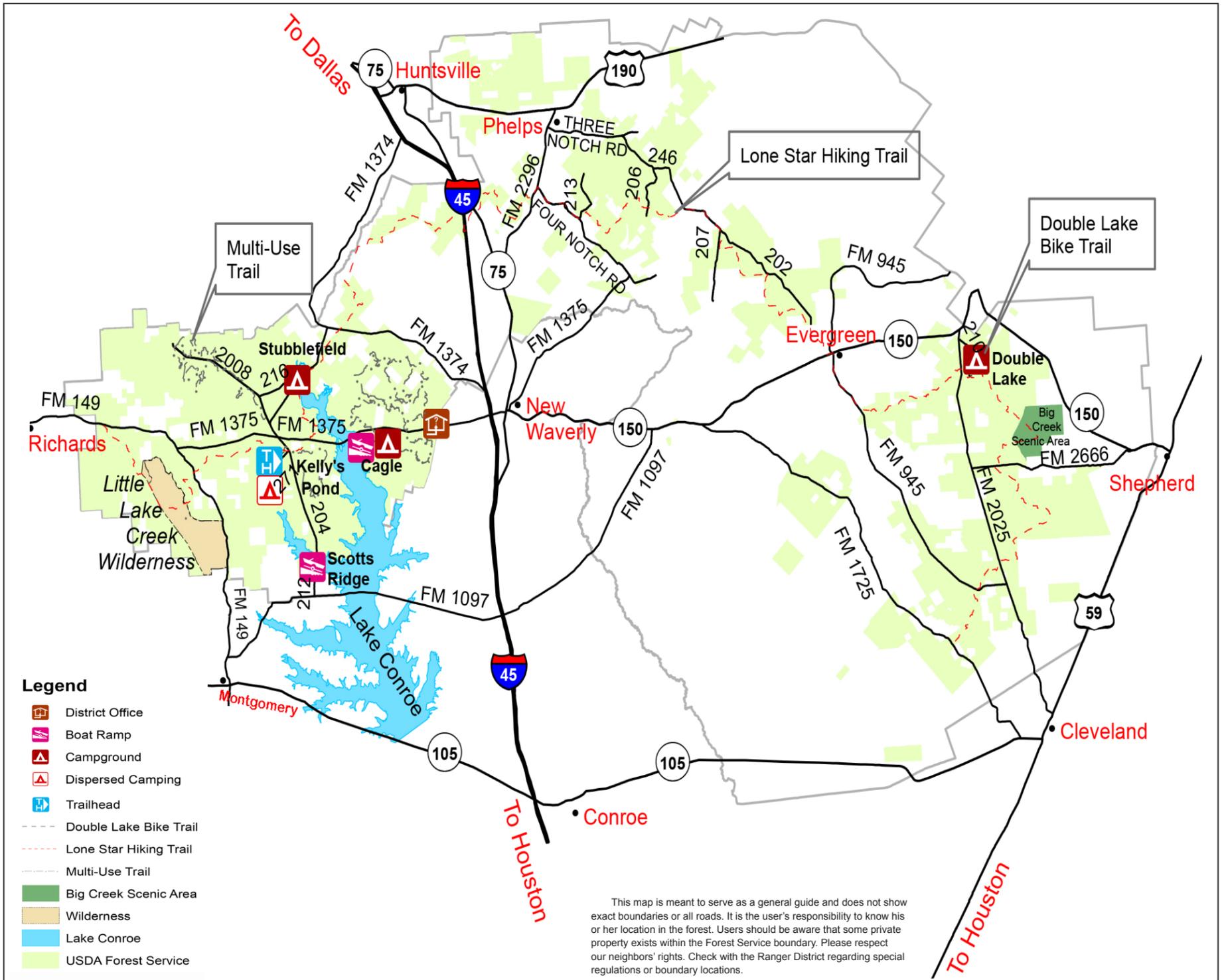


Hiking

The forest is the perfect place for hiking, horseback riding and bicycling (no bicycles are allowed in the wilderness), and the many miles of roads through the woods are perfect for a scenic drive especially in the spring and fall.

Hiking is best in the early spring when the forest is filled with native wildflowers, or in fall when the hardwood leaves change color. Be sure to wear hunter orange during hunting season.

Sam Houston National Forest



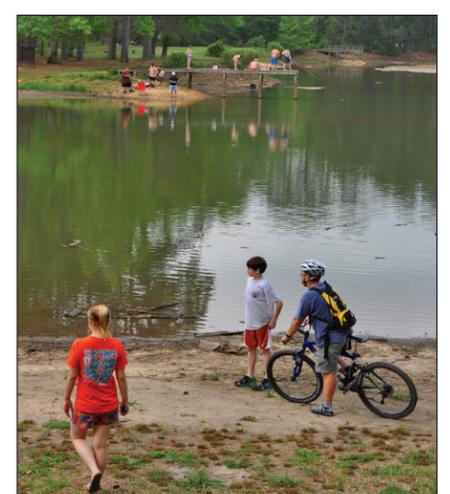
shortleaf pines dominate ridgetops that are separated by a wide variety of hardwoods along creek channels.

Big Creek Scenic Area
The 1,920-acre Big Creek Scenic Area is noted for its unique plants and scenic qualities. No camping is allowed in Big Creek Scenic Area.
The Lone Star Hiking Trail winds through the area and features four trail loops of various lengths.



and the day-use area is open during the spring and summer.

On the east side of the forest is Double Lake Recreation Area, built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This historic campground includes family and group camping, picnicking, a picnic shelter, swimming area, a concession stand and bathhouse. It is also home to a popular mountain bike trail.



of-way are closed to off-road-vehicle use except at designated crossings.

During wet, rainy days the trails are closed, so check with the ranger's office before planning a trip.

Wildlife

The Sam Houston National Forest is the largest Wildlife Management Area in Texas. The Forest Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department cooperatively manage the forest for game as well as non-game use.

Deer is the most popular game animal in the forest followed closely by squirrels, ducks and hogs.

Lake Conroe and the surrounding forest provide habitat for the bald eagle and during winter months, they have been seen soaring over the lake, perched on a flooded snag or in a tall pine along the shoreline.

The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker also makes its home in the forest and is best seen early morning and late evening.

The Sam Houston National Forest is located 50 miles north of Houston and contains 163,037 acres of land in Montgomery, Walker and San Jacinto counties. The forest is intermingled with private timber lands, small farms and a growing number of subdivisions.

Lone Star Hiking Trail

The 129-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail, a portion of which has gained National Recreation Trail status, winds through Double Lake, Stubblefield and Kelly's Pond campgrounds.

Except during deer hunting season, when camping is restricted to designated camps, primitive camping is allowed off the trail. Hikers should wear bright orange clothing during hunting season from October through January. Drinking water is available at Double Lake and Stubblefield recreation areas.

The trail, which is open to foot traffic only, is open year round, but winter and spring are the most popular seasons for hiking due to the mild climate.

Little Lake Creek Wilderness

The 3,855-acre Little Lake Creek Wilderness, five miles north of Montgomery, is home to a rich ecological mosaic. Loblolly and



Camping/Swimming/Fishing

There are three developed campgrounds in the Sam Houston National Forest: Cagle, Double Lake and Stubblefield, and a primitive camping area at Kelly's Pond.

Cagle Recreation Area has 48 family campsites with grills, tent pads, electric hookups and connections for water and wastewater for recreational vehicles.

There are restrooms, showers and a boat dock. Paved and natural surface trails wind through the popular campground.

Scotts Ridge Recreation Area, on the west side of Lake Conroe, has a boat launch, swimming beach, picnic sites and three picnic shelters.

The boat launch is open year-round,

Lake Livingston and Lake Conroe are both popular weekend destinations noted for black bass and year-round fishing.

Multi-use Trails

Riding off-road vehicles (dirt bikes and four-wheelers), mountain bikes and horses are some of the most popular recreational uses of the Sam Houston National Forest. Special areas and trails are designated and developed for these uses.

Four trailheads along the multi-use trails provide starting points and parking areas. Please stay on the marked trails. Pipelines, powerlines and other rights-

Caddo and Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands



The 17,873-acre Caddo and 20,313-acre Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) National Grasslands are located in north-central Texas, northeast and northwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in Fannin, Wise and Montague counties.

Before the federal government purchased them in the late 1930s, the grasslands were mostly abandoned farms and ranches suffering severe soil erosion from poor agricultural practices. Since 1955, the national grasslands in Texas, along with the national forests, have been managed by the Forest Service.

The national grasslands in Texas are part of the western and eastern cross-timbers vegetation type, with both hardwood forests and open grasslands. The national grasslands provide recreation areas and lakes for camping, swimming, hunting, fishing and habitat for wildlife.

Grasslands management restores native prairies and improves wildlife habitat. The Forest Service reseeds rangeland, provides water, builds and maintains fences and conducts prescribed burning.

Windmills and ponds provide water for livestock.

Oil and gas wells are a common sight on the Caddo and LBJ National Grasslands. The United States does not own all the mineral rights for these lands because a few of the sellers retained permanent mineral ownership.

The counties in which national grasslands lie receive 25 percent of the income from mineral leasing and royalties as well as from grazing permits, special land use fees and recreation fees. These funds are returned to the counties to be used for schools and roads.

Wildlife

White-tailed deer, small mammals, coyotes, bobcats, red fox, waterfowl, bobwhite quail, turkey and songbirds thrive in the diverse habitats provided by the grasslands.

Largemouth bass, blue catfish, channel catfish and perch are common catches in the many lakes.

In spring, migratory neotropical birds from Central and South America make their way across the grasslands, and wildflowers blanket the gently rolling hills in color.

Recreation

The national grasslands offer various facilities for camping, picnicking and other outdoor activities. Popular areas are East and West Lake Crockett Recreation Areas, Coffee Mill Recreation Area, Black Creek Recreation Area, TADRA Point trailhead, Bois D'Arc Trailhead and Cottonwood Lake.

Visitors to the national grasslands should be extremely careful with fire because the prairie grasses can be highly flammable.

TADRA Multi-Use Trail - LBJ

The 75-mile TADRA Multi-Use Trail is open to horseback riding, mountain biking and hiking. Access to the trail is provided at the TADRA Point Trailhead.

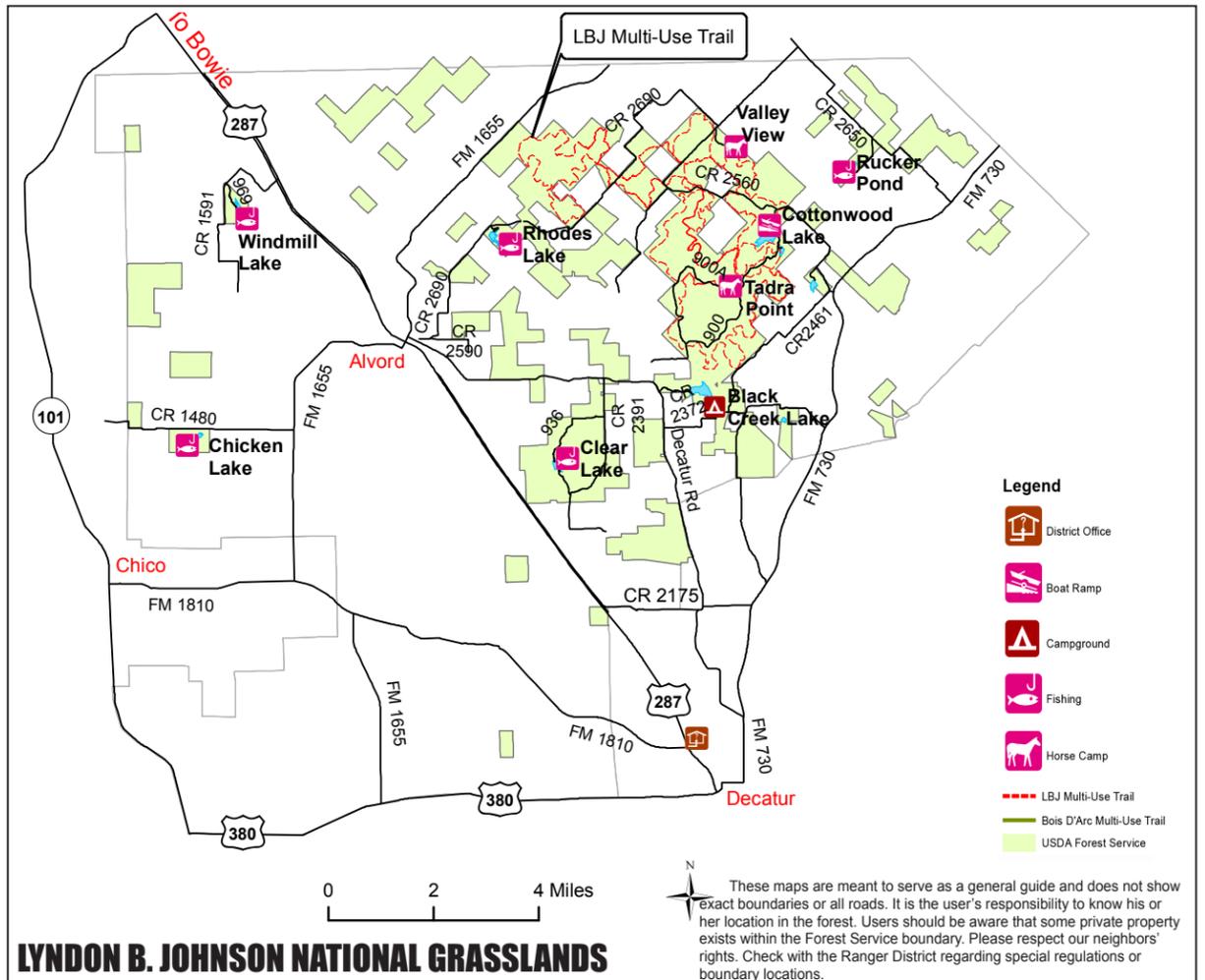
The trail system consists of five loops that begin and end at TADRA Point. Additionally, open areas of the grasslands are popular for cross-country horseback riding. Because soils on the LBJ and Caddo Grasslands are susceptible to erosion, vehicle travel is only allowed on designated roads.

Bois D'Arc Multi-Use Trail - Caddo

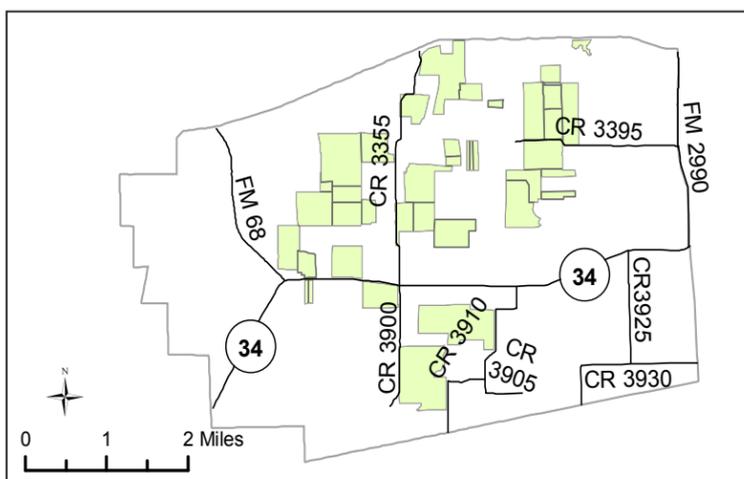
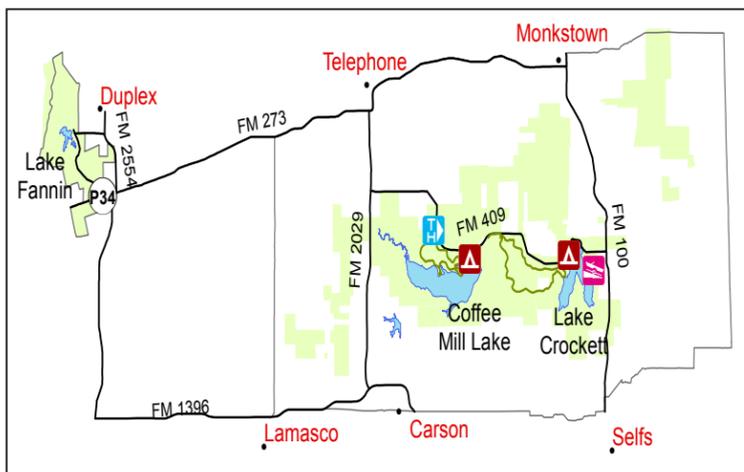
The trail system consists of three loops that begin and end at the Bois D'Arc trailhead. The trail is 28 miles and offers views of Coffee Mill Lake and Lake Crockett.

Caddo Wildlife Management Area

A diverse habitat among the grasses and trees of the area attracts small mammals, red and gray fox, waterfowl, gulls, quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and a variety of other birds. Visitors have excellent opportunities for



CADDO NATIONAL GRASSLANDS



Windmills are a common sight in the grasslands.

wildlife viewing and photography.

The 16,240-acre area attracts many hunters, recreational visitors and wildlife. Deer hunters are required to have the necessary permits issued by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Fishing

There are approximately 400 lakes and ponds, ranging from less than an acre to more than 40 acres on the LBJ National Grasslands.

Lakes with boat launches include Black Creek, Cottonwood, Clear and Rhodes lakes, but caution is advised as some ramps are primitive.

Catfish, largemouth bass and perch are common catches at most of the lakes and ponds. Crappie have been caught in Cottonwood and Clear lakes. In addition, there are numerous small ponds not accessible by road that offer great fishing opportunities.

In Wise County, the 30-acre Black Creek Lake is a developed recreational site with picnic spots, walk-in

campsites, a concrete boat ramp and a four-mile hiking trail. It is located off CR 2360 and CR 2461 with access from FS 902. Primitive camping is allowed off FS 922.

Cottonwood Lake is approximately 40 acres with a concrete boat ramp. Little Cottonwood Lake, located 300 yards to the southeast, is 10 acres. Both lakes can be reached from FS 900, which runs between CR 2560 and CR 2474.

The 18-acre Windmill Lake is for fly fishing only, and is located off CR 1591.

The 650-acre Coffee Mill Lake, off FM 409 in Fannin County, has a paved boat ramp, tent camping and limited RV space.

Lake Crockett, at 450 acres, is noted for crappie fishing and is routinely stocked. The east side offers a paved boat ramp, fishing pier and a picnic area. The west side can accommodate RVs and has 12 campsites and hiking trails. Entrances to both the east and west sides are off FM 409.

Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest

Offering a quiet refuge to all who seek the natural enchantment of a forest experience is the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (SFAEF), located eight miles southwest of Nacogdoches. Tucked away in the heart of the Pineywoods, the forest is bordered on its southern and eastern boundaries by the Angelina River and the Alazan Wildlife Management Area.

The SFAEF is a 2,560-acre tract consisting of approximately 1,800 acres of mature bottomland hardwood with the remainder being southern pine and mixed pine and hardwood.

Part of the Angelina National Forest, SFAEF is administered by the Southern Research Station through its Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory in Nacogdoches.

Since its adoption into the national forest system in 1945, the primary objective of the experimental forest has been wildlife and timber management research.

The site is also used as an outdoor classroom in the study of forest ecosystems for students majoring in forestry, wildlife management, forest recreation and environmental science. In 1990, management objectives for the SFAEF were expanded to include educational and recreational opportunities for the general public.

The Interpretive Trail System

Completed in the summer of 1997, the forest's innovative interpretive trail system represents the commitment of the Forest Service to meet the changing needs and perspectives of society.

Unique in its concept and design, it features the first major trail in this region designed and constructed for universal accessibility. Two separate loops, spanning a distance of 2.9 miles, take visitors into some of the most dynamic and scenic areas of the forest.

Jack Creek Loop

Jack Creek is a cool, clear, spring-fed perennial stream which serves as the centerpiece for this loop. Traversing gentle slopes along the banks of the creek, this barrier-free, 0.8-mile surfaced trail provides universal access to a mature mixed forest where 100-year-old pines and hardwoods still stand stalwart against the rush of modern time.

The rich, moist soils along the creek support diverse vegetation dominated by large, old hardwoods that offer a soothing environment for exercise as well as opportunities for quiet reflection and relaxation.

Since these trees also provide cover and food, which support many species of birds and mammals, wildlife viewing (especially birding) is an inherent part of the unobtrusive visitor's experience.

Management Loop

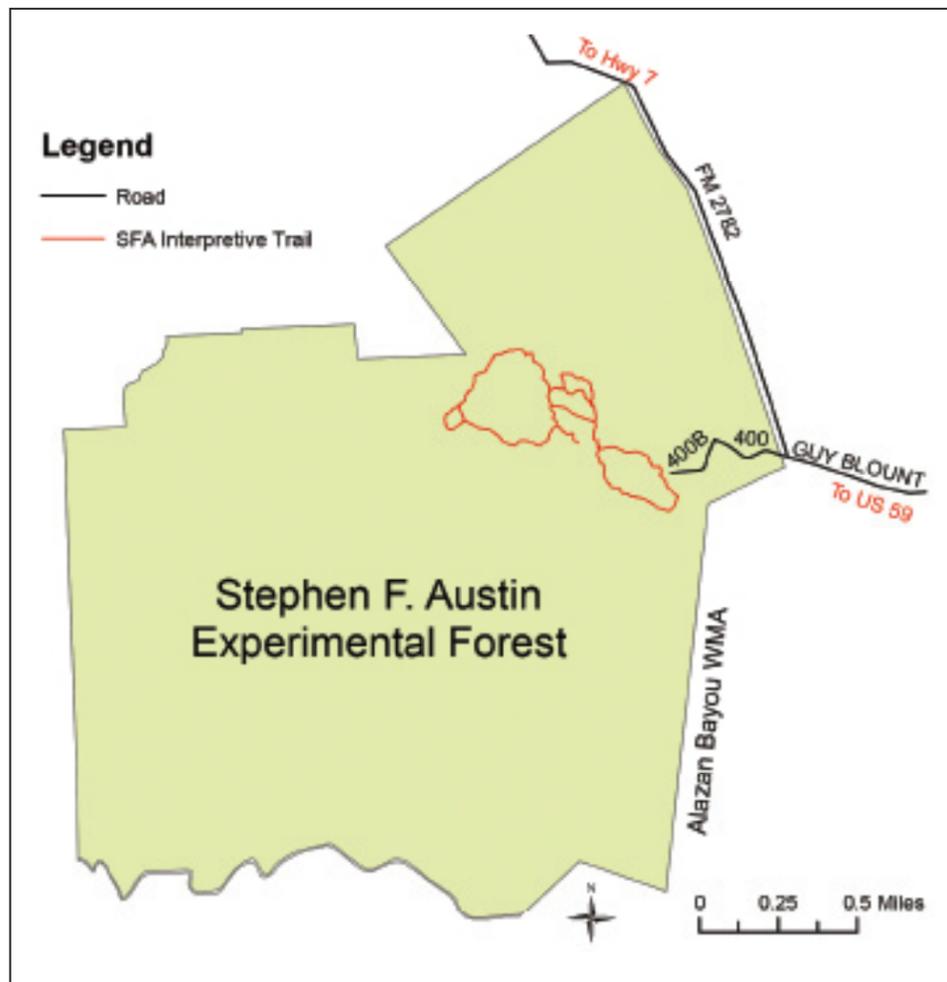
As environmental issues become increasingly a part of public awareness and concern, the Forest Service is taking the initiative to provide and promote conservation education.

Experiential learning opportunities offered in a living outdoor classroom are geared toward fostering respect for forest resources and appreciation of sound management principles.

Winding two miles through five different units on the forest, this loop provides visitors a chance to view an array of forest management practices at various stages of process.



The Stephen F. Austin Interpretive Trail offers universal accessibility.



But this is not just a path through the forest, the trail is like a corridor through time. Integrated into the management objectives for each different area, it permits visitors to witness firsthand the forest's response to various treatments across the years.

General Information

Approximately half of the more than 300 species of birds which are common to this area of Texas are found in the forest.

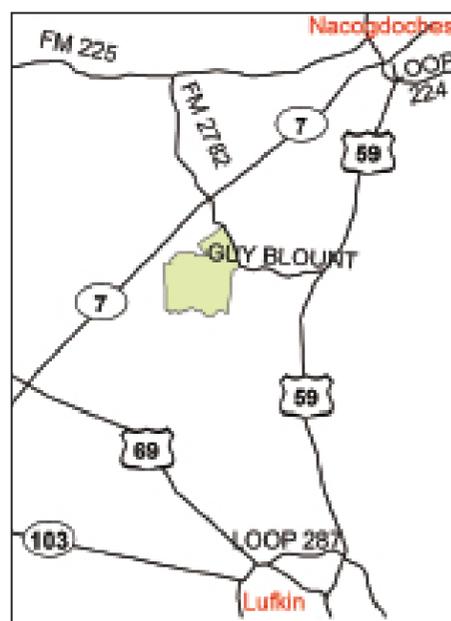
More than 80 species of butterflies add color and quiet beauty, while the anticipation of catching a glimpse of one of the more than 30 indigenous woodland creatures makes each visit exciting for wildlife lovers.

The temperate climate permits year-round use of the trail and allows visitors to appreciate the beauty each season brings.

Binoculars and cameras can enhance lasting memories.

Visitors may wish to bring their own water, as fountains are available only near the parking area. Insect repellent is advised from May through September.

The parking lot provides both



accessible and bus spaces, and shaded picnic tables are adjacent to the parking area.

Restrooms are located near the parking area and visitors are asked to keep their pets on a leash and their firearms at home.

How to Recognize National Forest Land

Maps commonly show proclaimed national forest boundaries. However, all land within this boundary is not national forest land; some is privately owned. The land shown in green on the maps indicates national forest land.

Red paint and signs mark the boundaries between national forest land and private property. Recognition of these markings and boundary signs helps the visitor to be certain to stay on national forest land.

Visitors should comply with state law and the owner's rules when entering private land.

Entrance (portal) signs. These signs can be seen along major roads entering the national forests, usually on the first tract of government land encountered. Generally, portal signs are not used on low traffic volume roads.

Welcome signs. These signs are located on or just inside the boundaries or individual tracts of national forest land where the road enters. The sign will be oriented so that the land behind the sign is public land. Generally, they are not used on dead-end or woods roads or on small blocks of public land.

Upon entering woods on public land, welcome signs will not be present and the visitor should rely on property line markings and boundary signs.

Property line marking and boundary signs. The boundaries of individual national forest tracts adjacent to other ownerships are marked with brown and yellow property boundary signs.

The small metal boundary signs are fastened either to trees or posts located on the boundary line and at road crossings, and the signs are placed so that public land is behind the sign. Red paint spots on trees define the boundary line through woods.

While the majority of boundaries are identified and posted, occasionally visitors may encounter an area where signs have been vandalized or lines are not yet marked. In these cases, visitors should be alert to avoid accidentally trespassing on private land.

