

## TRACE CREEK SECTION OF THE OZARK TRAIL

The Trace Creek Section of the [Ozark Trail](#) is located in Iron and Washington counties in southeastern Missouri. The entire section is in the Mark Twain National Forest, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

The Trace Creek Section of the Ozark Trail is approximately 24 miles long and is open to **foot, mountain bicycle and equestrian traffic**. It includes a portion of the old Trace Creek Trail constructed in 1968 and a new five-mile segment constructed in 1983. Its inclusion in the Ozark Trail System adds a trail of beauty already known to many outdoor enthusiasts. Limited parking is available at Hazel Creek Recreation Area (which offers primitive, dispersed camping) and Highway A where the Trace Creek Section links with the Taum Sauk Section. The nearest improved campsites are located at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park.

The trail's northern entry point is located at Hazel Creek Recreational Area. From that point, it proceeds south following a continually changing landscape that leads users through dense oak, hickory, and pine forests, into shaded hollows, and across windswept ridgetops. It crosses several small tributaries and Hazel Creek, which is a major permanently flowing creek. It also crosses several state highways including C, DD, and 32 before ending at Highway A. Trail users should exercise caution at these streams and highway crossings.

The Ozark Trail provides a recreational opportunity that can be enjoyed by individuals, families, or other groups. It can be used for long-distance backpacking, half-hour strolls, day hikes, and weekend trips. It combines clear Ozark streams with dry granite barrens and panoramic mountaintop views with deep forests that filter the summer sun. The Ozark Trail represents the quest of those who backpack not to go the fastest or the furthest, but who go to share the experiences of the first who crossed the land.

There are steps you can take to ensure your safety and to preserve the Ozark Trail for those who follow:

- Camp at least 100 feet from the trail, water, and scenic areas. Leave your campsite so no one will know you were there.
- Treat all water used for drinking or cooking.
- Use a backpacking stove for cooking and build a fire only if necessary. Do not build fires on edges of bluffs, on glades, or in caves. If a fire is necessary, clear the area of combustible material and make sure you drown the fire before leaving. Do not encircle the fire with rocks.
- Bury all human waste at least 100 feet from the trail and water. Pack out everything else you packed in.
- Use caution when crossing streams. At times stream crossings are impossible to negotiate.
- Enjoy plants in their natural setting. Do not collect plants.
- Be considerate of others; respect the rights of private landowners and remember that solitude is also a resource to protect.
- Keep pets under control.
- Though black bears aren't common in this part of Missouri, encounters are possible. Be [bear aware](#) when backpacking.



The official [Ozark Trail](#) marker is a green  on a white rectangle. Two tilted markers placed one above the other warn of an abrupt turn in the trail in the direction of the tilt. A white 4" x 6" diamond-shaped plastic marker or painted blaze is also used to identify the route. In addition, supplemental markers may be used by each agency or landowner. Be alert, and always carry a map and compass.

The development of the Ozark Trail is an ambitious project that has been undertaken by members of the Ozark Trail Council, which includes state and federal land-managing agencies, trail user groups, and landowners. The trail is envisioned someday to extend from St. Louis through the scenic Ozarks to the Arkansas border, where it will connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail and proceed west to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. It is maintained mostly by volunteers, through the Ozark Trail Association. If you would like to learn more about the Ozark Trail or if you have comments concerning the trail, contact the Ozark Trail Association at <http://www.ozarktrail.com/>.

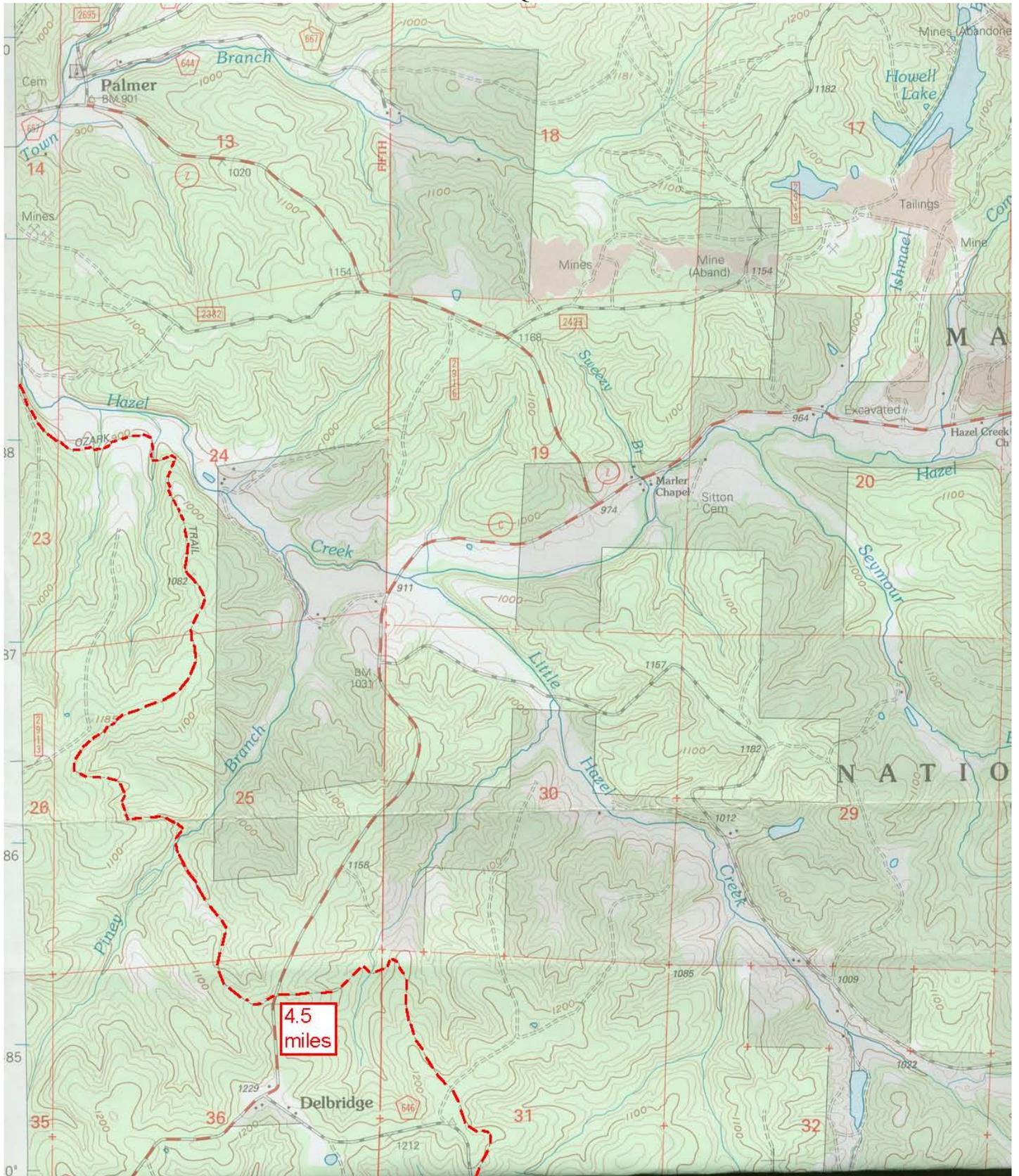
The Ozark Trail is a National Recreation Trail, part of the national trail system.

The following vicinity map is a scan section from the Salem, Potosi and Fredericktown Ranger Districts, the detailed map sections are scans from USGS Topographic Maps with comments added (red lines and symbols). You may purchase the original Mark Twain National Forest Salem, Potosi and Fredericktown Ranger District Map an/or the USGS Quad maps (Courtois, Palmer, and Johnson Mountain, MO) from the Mark Twain National Forest Supervisors Office or any District Office.





Palmer Quad

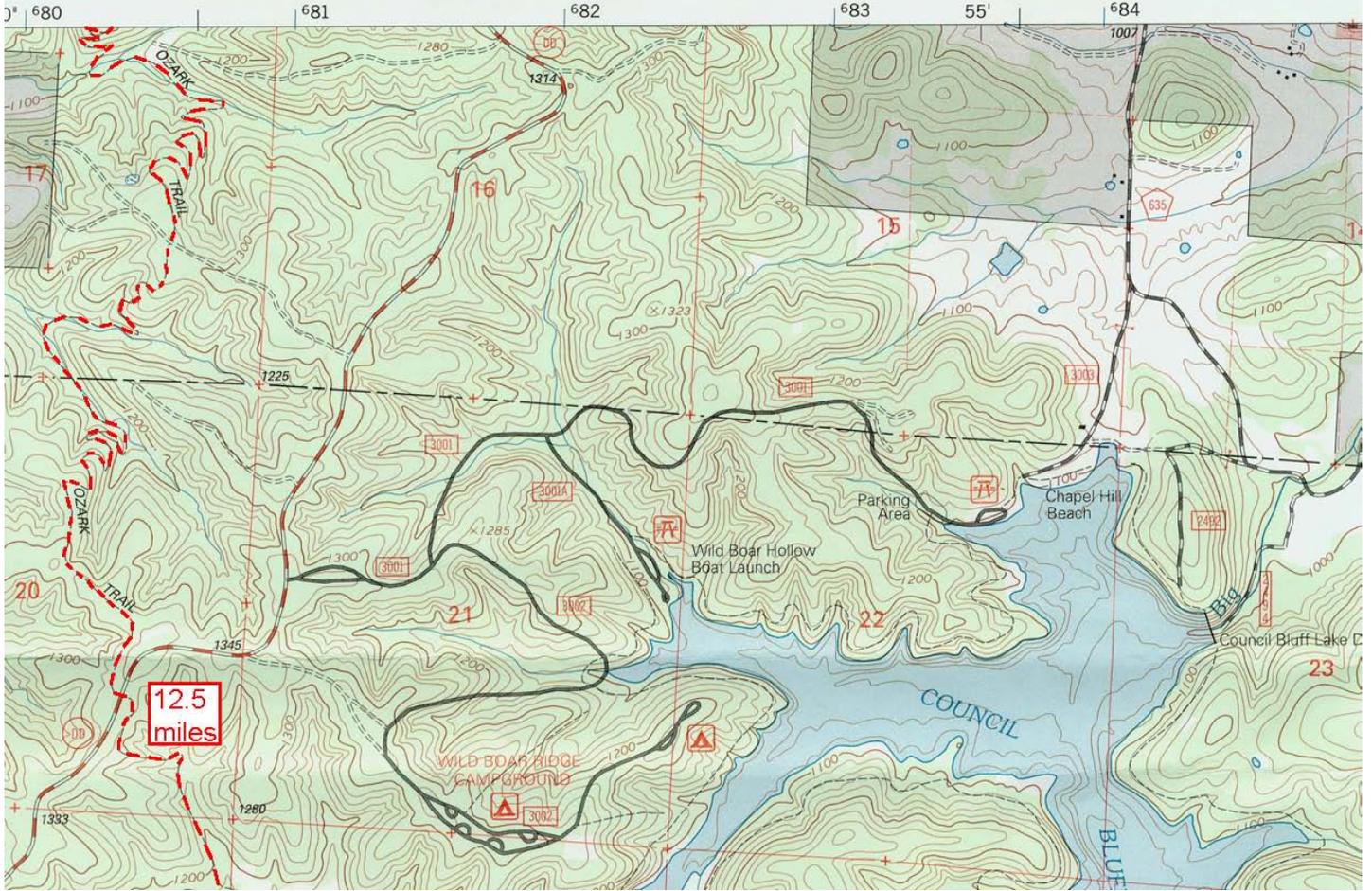




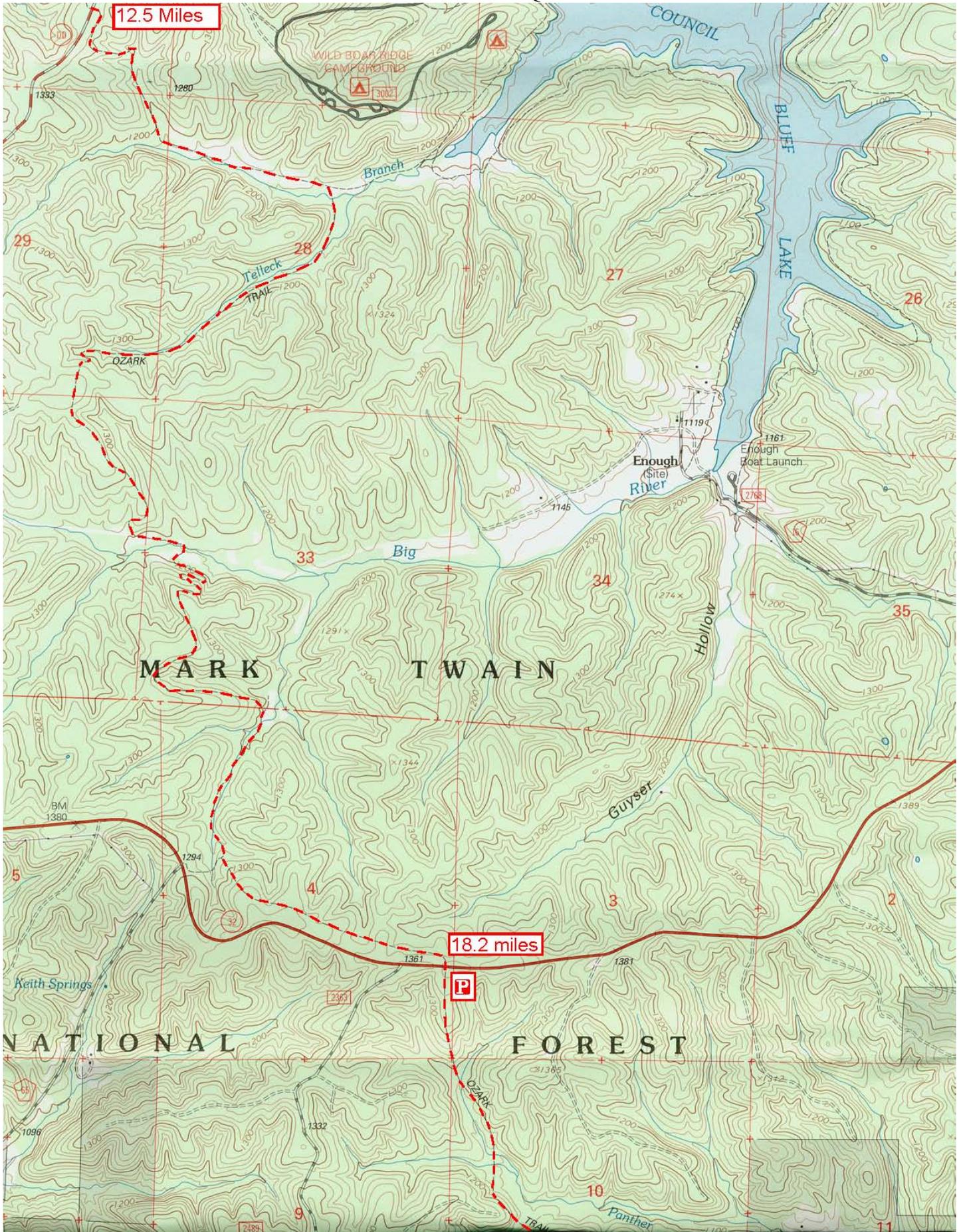
Johnson Mountain Quad



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE



Johnson Mountain Quad



12.5 Miles

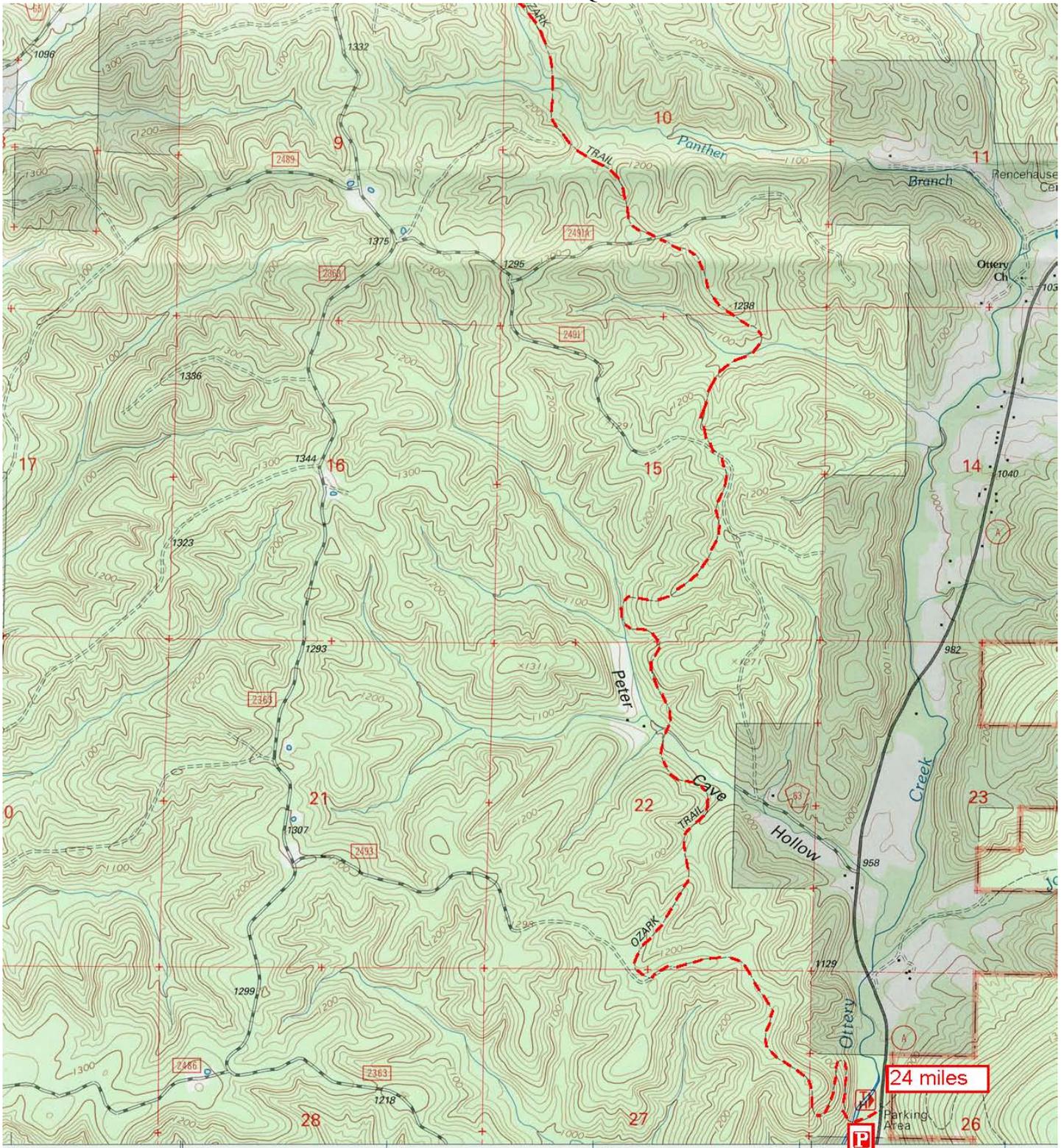
18.2 miles

P

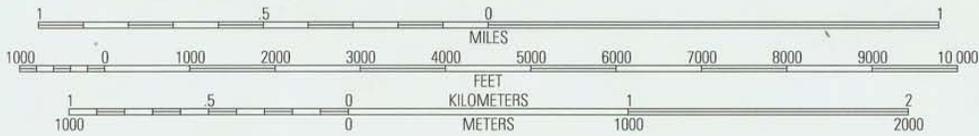
MARK TWAIN

NATIONAL FOREST

Johnson Mountain Quad



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

