

Ouachita National Forest

Arkansas - Oklahoma • Caddo Ranger District

Leader Mountain Walk-In Turkey Hunting Area



Hunting Information

Hunters will find several quality walk-in turkey hunting areas within the 1.8 million acres on the Ouachita National Forest. These areas are the result of hunters requesting opportunities to hunt on public lands managed by the USDA Forest Service in a place free of disturbance from motor vehicles.

The Ouachita (pronounced Wash-I-tah) Mountains, with the highest turkey population in the state of Arkansas, have seen the number of hunters increase dramatically during the last 20 years, making it challenging for serious turkey hunters to find an area to hunt away from traffic and noise.

All maintained roads leading into each area are closed to motor vehicle traffic from early spring to late summer. In some areas, road segments and primitive forest roads are permanently closed and re-vegetated to improve turkey habitat and to control erosion. Signs are posted along the boundaries of each area to inform the public about motor vehicle restrictions. Restricting vehicle traffic protects turkeys during the critical nesting and brood rearing seasons. Other habitat improvements include prescribed burning and establishing water holes and food plots for the turkeys. These same projects will improve the habitat for more than 100 other species of wildlife.

The Ouachita National Forest Walk-In Turkey Hunting Areas are a joint partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Wild Turkey Federation as a part of the Making Tracks program. It began in 1989 as a way to improve wild turkey habitat on national forest lands. It is also designed to provide a surplus of wild turkeys for stocking and introducing into suitable areas throughout the nation.

State Regulations

Hunting is permitted anywhere on the Ouachita National Forest except within developed recreation sites or otherwise posted areas. All state hunting and fishing regulations, fees, and seasons apply on national forest land. For more information, contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, No. 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205, 1-800-364-4263 or at www.afgc.com.

LEADER MOUNTAIN WALK-IN TURKEY HUNTING AREA is 9,925 acres in size and located between Shady Lake Recreation Area and the Albert Pike Recreation Area on the Caddo Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(a) and (b), forest road B18 is closed year-round and roads B30A, B29, 914, B05 and B05A are closed to motor vehicle traffic from February 1 to September 1 of each year.

For your safety, the Ouachita National Forest prohibits off-road vehicle use in the area and also has implemented penalties for violations of the regulations. Violation of the prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(e), persons with a permit from the U.S. Forest Service specifically authorizing an otherwise prohibited act are exempt from the order, along with federal, state or local law enforcement, firefighting or rescue officers acting in an official capacity.

For a more detailed topographic map of this area, please send \$6.00 per each USGS Quad map (Numbers - F8, F9 & G9) plus a \$3.50 handling charge to: USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902, (501) 321-5202 or TDD (501) 321-5307. For additional information, contact the Caddo Ranger District, 912 Smokey Bear Lane, Glenwood, AR 71943, telephone (870) 356-4186.

SOUTHERN REGION NATIONAL FORESTS

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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