

Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest

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Hiking: All trails



Biking: All trails



Equestrian:
Viles Branch



Trail Highlights: This trail offers the longest loop trail in Arkansas. A combination of the **Little Missouri**, the **Athens-Big Fork** and part of the **Viles Branch Horse Trail**, this trail travels through the southwestern portion of the Ouachita National Forest. Trail difficulty ranges from easy to most difficult. The trail has numerous river, stream and creek crossings and travels over nine mountains.

Surrounding Areas:

- **Albert Pike Recreation Area**, a developed area, offers swimming, and fishing opportunities. No camping. No horses.
- **Little Missouri Falls**, a forested picnic area, offers fishing and a trail to a waterfall overlook.
- **Bard Springs**, a 17-unit campground (no utilities) on a scenic stream. No horses.
- **Shady Lake Recreation Area**, a well-developed recreation area on a small scenic lake that offers swimming, camping and fishing opportunities. No horses.
- For more hiking experiences in the area try the **Caney Creek Trails**. Horses allowed.

For More Information:

Womble Ranger Station
91523 Hwy 270 E.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
(870) 867-2101

Length: 26.8 miles - 2 to 3 days travel time one way.

History: This trail was developed along a 100 year-old postal route and old wagon roads in partnership with the Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society and the Little Missouri Trails Council.

Surface type: Unsurfaced.

Trail Markings: White rectangles.

Drinking Water: Albert Pike Recreation Area.

Treat all river and stream water before drinking.

Safety: Be careful when crossing rivers and creeks during periods of high water.

Difficulty:

- **Little Missouri:** Hiking and biking-more difficult.
- **Viles Branch:** Equestrian-difficult;
Biking and hiking-easy to most difficult.
- **Athens-Big Fork:** Hiking and biking-most difficult.

See note on Page 3 for additional information on trail difficulty.

Trail Map: The trail map is divided into 6 sections as shown in the snapshot on page 2 and on pages 3 through 8.

This map is only available in this on-line version.

SOUTHERN REGION NATIONAL FORESTS

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EAGLE ROCK LOOP

Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Albert Pike Recreation Area ① from Texarkana:

- US-71 north for about 45 miles to US-70,
- US-70 east for about 28 miles to AR-369,
- AR-369 north for about 12 miles to Albert Pike.

Albert Pike Recreation Area ① from Hot Springs:

- US-70 west for about 34 miles to AR-84,
- Right (west) on AR-84 for about 13 miles to AR-369 at Langley,
- Right (north) on AR-369 for about 6 miles to Albert Pike.

Little Missouri/Athens-Big Fork Junction Trailhead ② from Mena:

- AR-8 southeast for about 1.5 miles to AR-375,
- Right (south) on AR-375 for about 12 miles to Polk County Road 25 (at community of Shady),
- Left (east) on Polk-25 (Polk-25 becomes FSR-25) for about 6 miles to the trailhead at FSR-912.

Little Missouri Falls Trailhead ③ from Mt. Ida:

- AR-27 south for about 8.4 miles to AR-8,
- Right (west) on AR-8 for about 12 miles to FSR-43 (watch for sign),
- Left (south) on FSR-43 for about 4 miles to FSR-25,
- Right (west) on FSR-25 for about 1/2 mile to FSR-539 and Little Missouri Falls.

Albert Pike Recreation Area ① to Little Missouri Falls: ③

- North on FSR-73 for about 3 miles to FSR-43,
- Left (northwest) on FSR-43 for about 4 miles to FSR-25,
- Left (west) on FSR-25 for about 1/2 mile to FSR-539 and Little Missouri Falls.

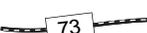
Athens-Big Fork South Trailhead ④ from Texarkana

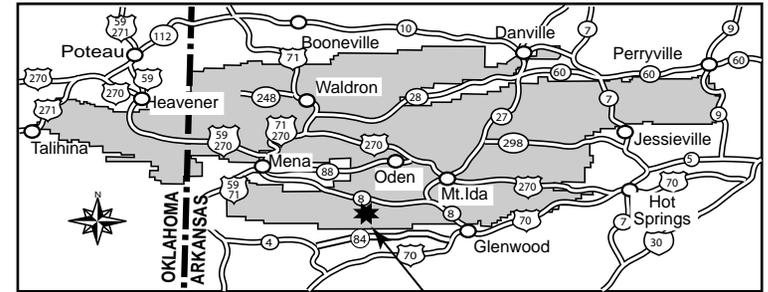
- US-71 north for about 45 miles to US-70,
- US-70 east for about 15 miles to AR-4 (US-278),
- Left (north) on AR-4 for about 11 miles to AR-84 (at Umpire)
- Right (north) on AR-84 for about 6 miles to AR-246 (at Athens)
- Left on AR-246 to FSR-38
- Right on FSR-38 for about 2 miles to FSR-53800, FSR-B23F and the Trailhead.

*See Trail Snapshot

Starting trailhead: Start at the trailhead that works best for you. Section numbers are not intended to suggest starting points or direction of travel.

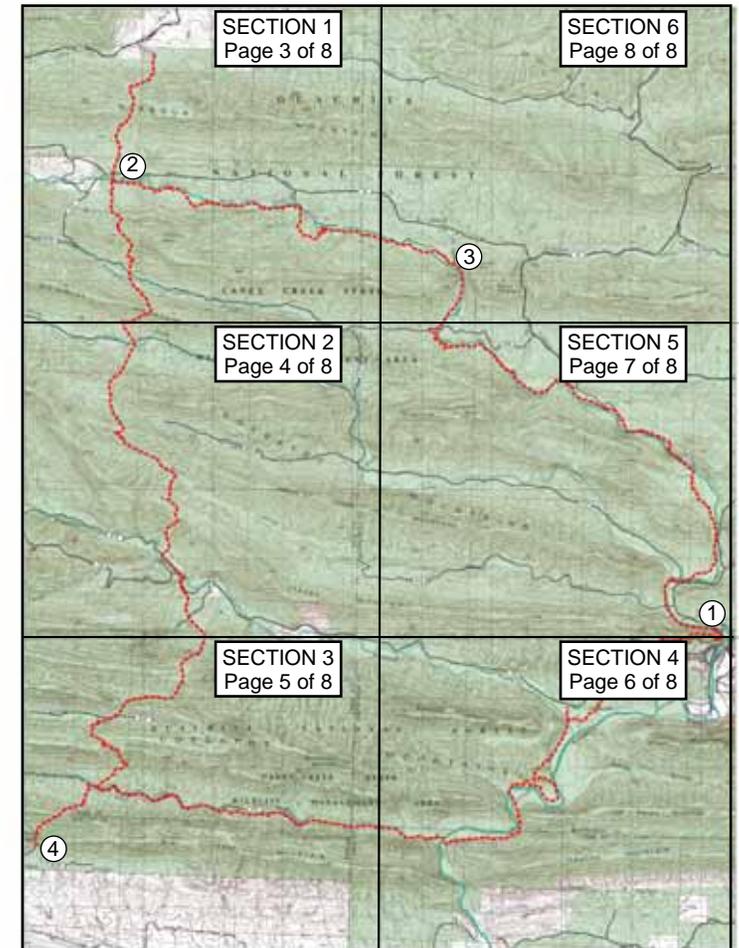
Trail	Sections
Eagle Rock Loop	All
Little Missouri	4, 5, 6 and 1
Athens-Big Fork	1, 2 and 3
Viles Branch (partial)	3 and 4

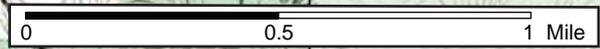
	Parking
	Picnicking
	Point of Interest
	Campground
	Swimming
	Fishing
	Trailer/RV pad with Utilities
	Dump Station
	Water
	Unpaved Forest Service Road (FSR)
	Trail segment with approximate mileage
	Ouachita National Forest



Trail Location

Trail Snapshot





Athens-Big Fork
North Trailhead
GPS: N34.449757
W093.967144
UTM 83

Little Missouri/ Athens-Big
Fork Junction Trailhead
GPS: N34.433377
W093.973624
UTM 83
About 20 miles to Mena

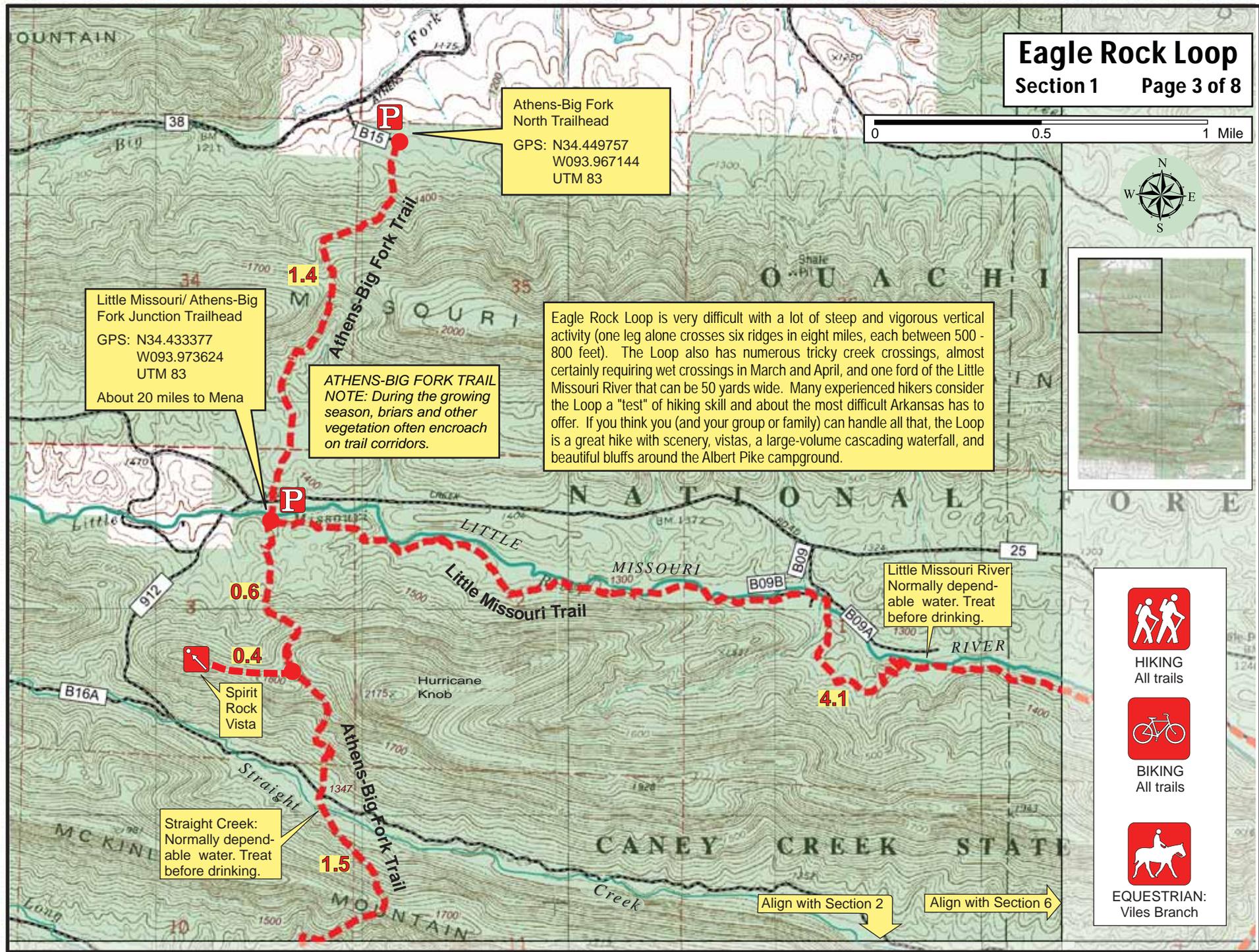
ATHENS-BIG FORK TRAIL
*NOTE: During the growing
season, briars and other
vegetation often encroach
on trail corridors.*

Eagle Rock Loop is very difficult with a lot of steep and vigorous vertical activity (one leg alone crosses six ridges in eight miles, each between 500 - 800 feet). The Loop also has numerous tricky creek crossings, almost certainly requiring wet crossings in March and April, and one ford of the Little Missouri River that can be 50 yards wide. Many experienced hikers consider the Loop a "test" of hiking skill and about the most difficult Arkansas has to offer. If you think you (and your group or family) can handle all that, the Loop is a great hike with scenery, vistas, a large-volume cascading waterfall, and beautiful bluffs around the Albert Pike campground.

Little Missouri River
Normally dependable
water. Treat
before drinking.

Straight Creek:
Normally dependable
water. Treat
before drinking.

-  **HIKING**
All trails
-  **BIKING**
All trails
-  **EQUESTRIAN:**
Viles Branch

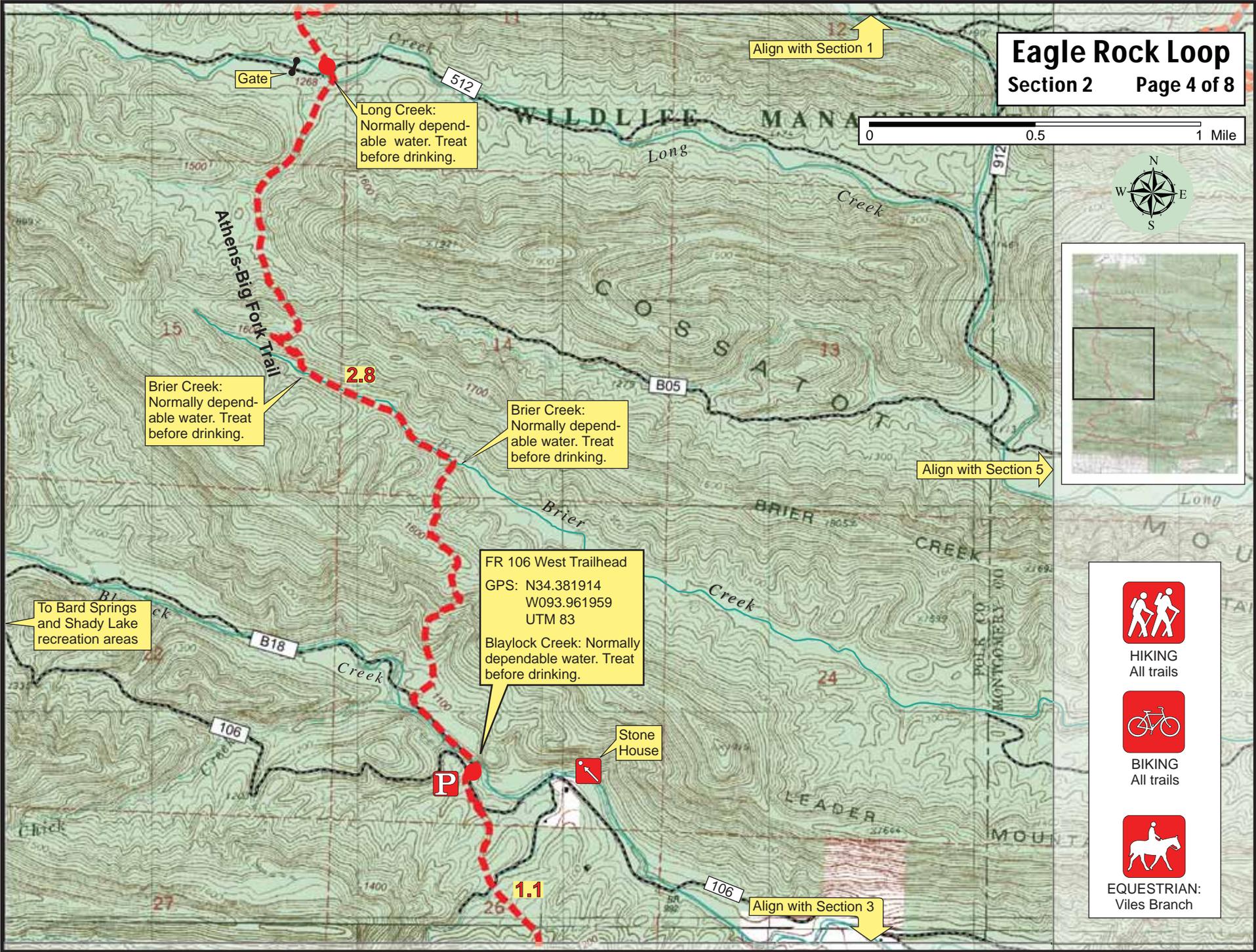
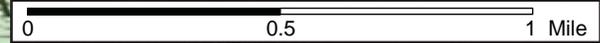


Align with Section 2

Align with Section 6

Eagle Rock Loop

Section 2 Page 4 of 8



Gate

Long Creek:
Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Brier Creek:
Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Brier Creek:
Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

FR 106 West Trailhead
GPS: N34.381914
W093.961959
UTM 83
Blaylock Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

To Bard Springs and Shady Lake recreation areas

Stone House

Align with Section 3

Align with Section 1

Align with Section 5



HIKING
All trails



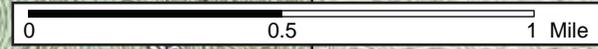
BIKING
All trails



EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch

Eagle Rock Loop

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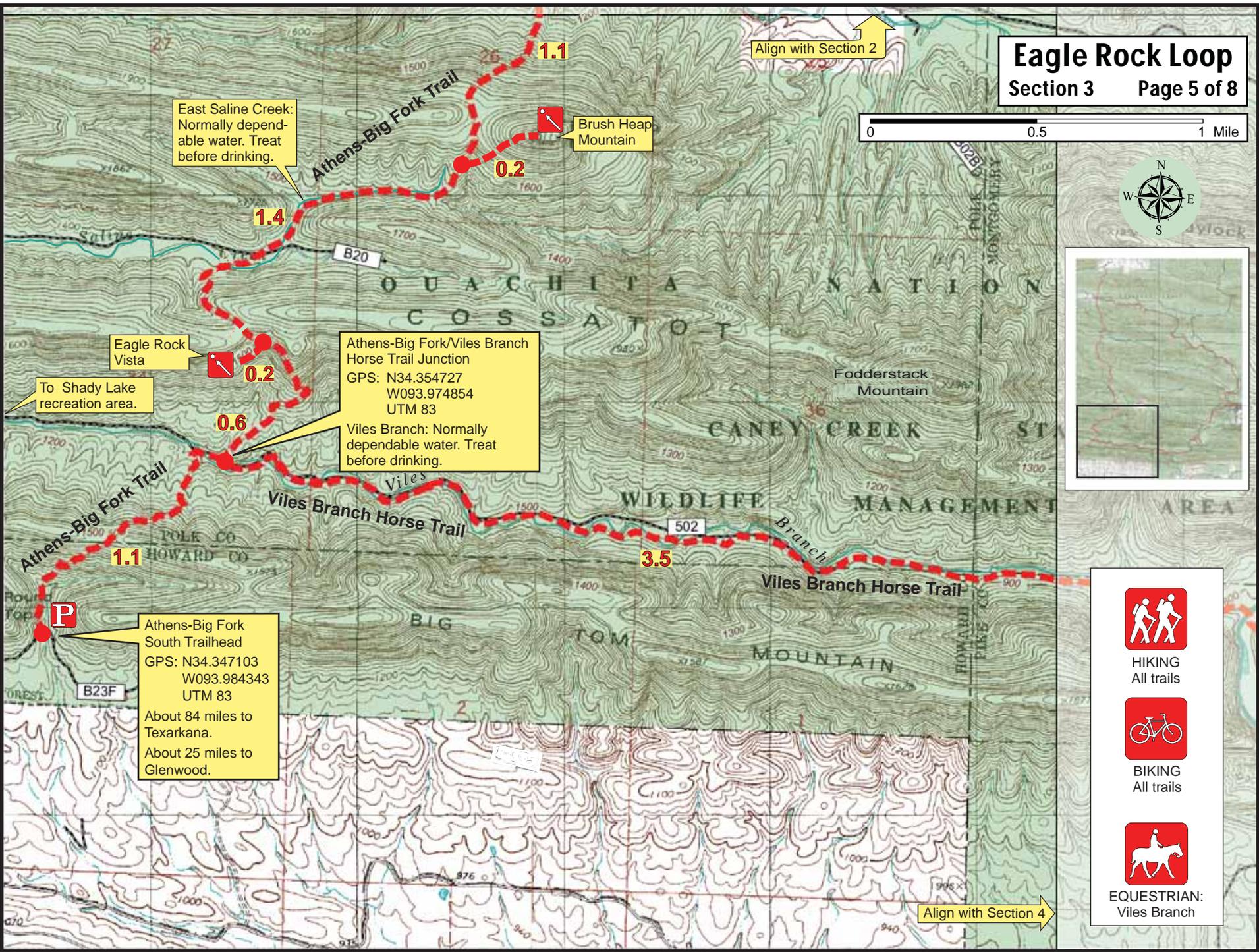


- 

HIKING
All trails
- 

BIKING
All trails
- 

EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch



East Saline Creek:
Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Brush Heap Mountain

Eagle Rock Vista

To Shady Lake recreation area.

Athens-Big Fork/Viles Branch Horse Trail Junction
GPS: N34.354727
W093.974854
UTM 83
Viles Branch: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Athens-Big Fork South Trailhead
GPS: N34.347103
W093.984343
UTM 83
About 84 miles to Texarkana.
About 25 miles to Glenwood.

Align with Section 2

Align with Section 4

Eagle Rock Loop

Section 4 Page 6 of 8

0 0.5 1 Mile



HIKING
All trails



BIKING
All trails



EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch

Align with Section 3

Align with Section 5

FR 106 East Trailhead
GPS: N34.365845
W093.901805
UTM 83

Camp
Albert Pike
Commercial
Campground



2.0

2.8

River crossing:
May be hazardous
during high water.

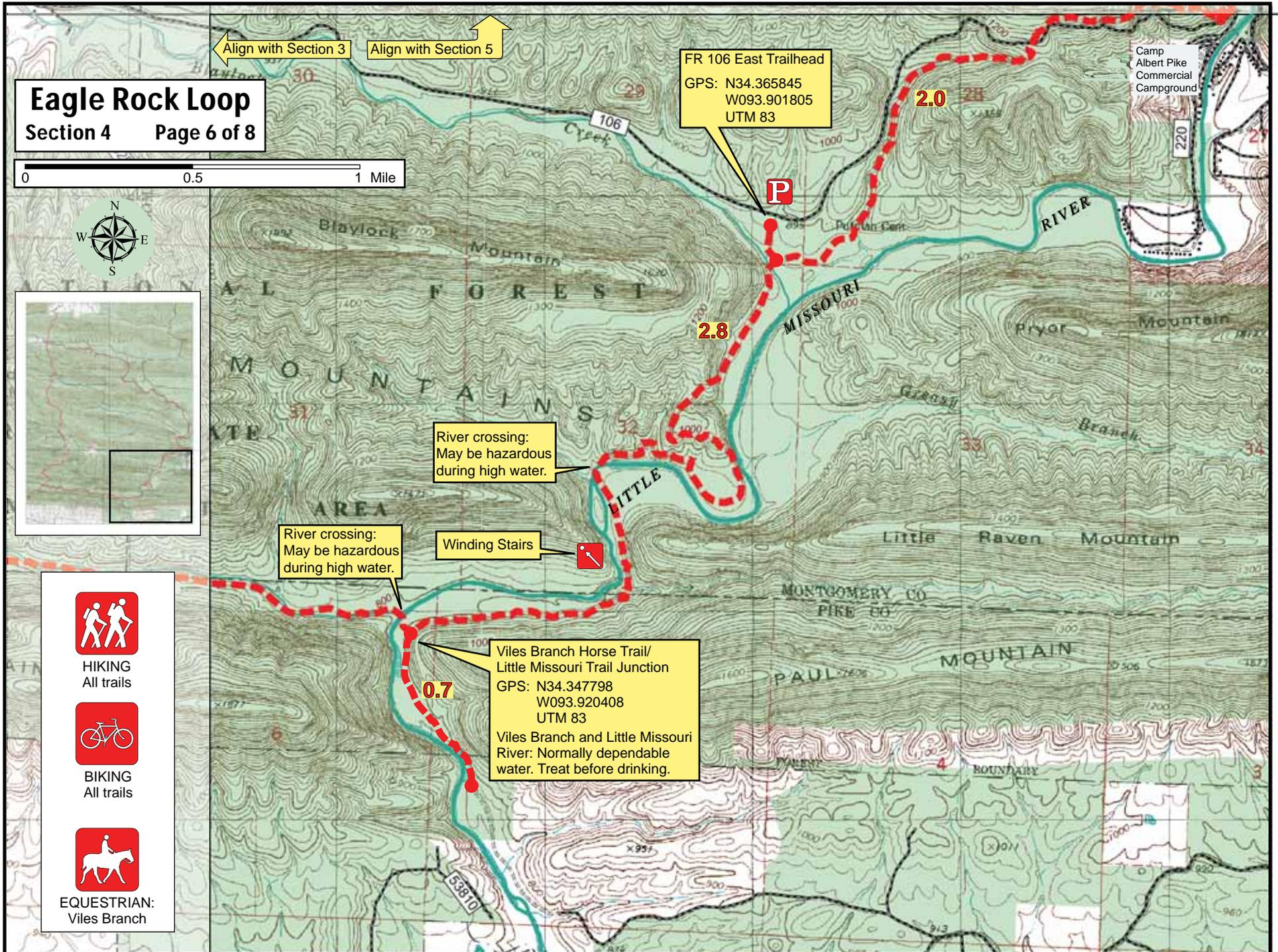
River crossing:
May be hazardous
during high water.

Winding Stairs



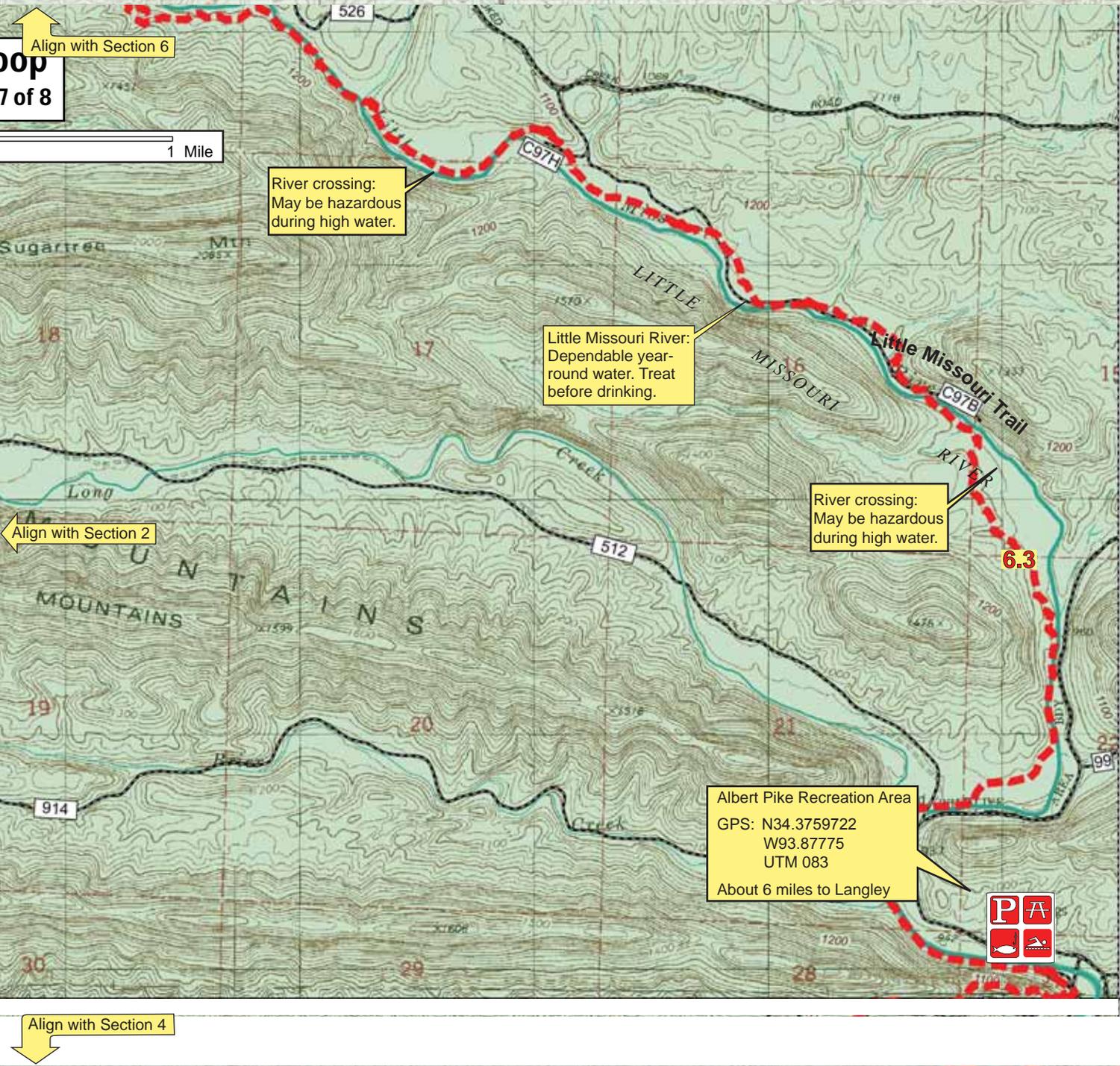
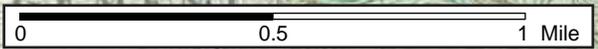
0.7

Viles Branch Horse Trail/
Little Missouri Trail Junction
GPS: N34.347798
W093.920408
UTM 83
Viles Branch and Little Missouri
River: Normally dependable
water. Treat before drinking.



Eagle Rock Loop

Section 5 Page 7 of 8



Align with Section 6

Align with Section 2

Align with Section 4

River crossing:
May be hazardous
during high water.

Little Missouri River:
Dependable year-
round water. Treat
before drinking.

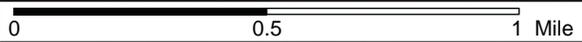
River crossing:
May be hazardous
during high water.

Albert Pike Recreation Area
GPS: N34.3759722
W93.87775
UTM 083
About 6 miles to Langley



-  **HIKING**
All trails
-  **BIKING**
All trails
-  **EQUESTRIAN:**
Viles Branch

Eagle Rock Loop



HIKING
All trails



BIKING
All trails



EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch

4.1

River crossing
(bridge)

River crossing
(bridge)

6.3

Align with Section 1

Align with Section 5

Little Missouri Falls Trailhead
GPS: N34.422745
W093.919383
UTM 83
Picnic facilities. No camping.
About 24 miles to Mt. Ida.

