

Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest



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:

- **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.
- **Shady Lake Recreation Area**, a well-developed recreation area on a small scenic lake that offers swimming, camping and fishing opportunities.
- For more hiking experiences in the area, try the **Caney Creek Trails**.

For More Information:

Womble Ranger District
1523 Hwy 270 East
Mount 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.

Water: Treat all lake and stream water before drinking.

Access: There are 4 trailheads:

- Winding Stairs 2.1 miles west of Albert Pike on Forest Road 106
- Little Missouri Falls on Forest Road 25
- Upper Little Missouri Falls 4 miles west of Little Missouri Falls on Forest Road 25
- Middle Athens-Big Fork east of Bard Springs Recreation Area on Forest Road 106

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

SOUTHERN REGION NATIONAL FORESTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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

EAGLE ROCK LOOP

QR code for
map on
Avenza app



Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest



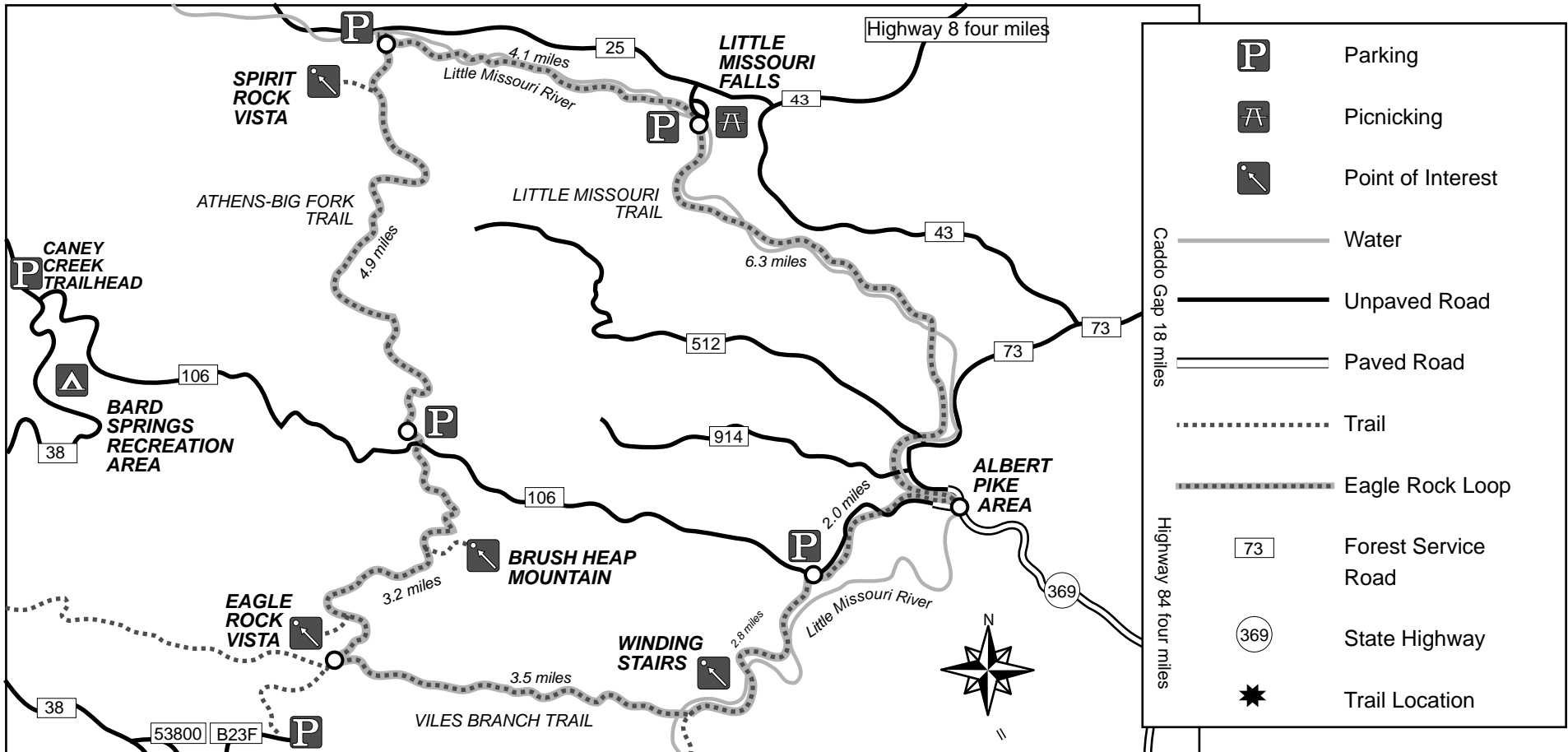
Hiking: All trails



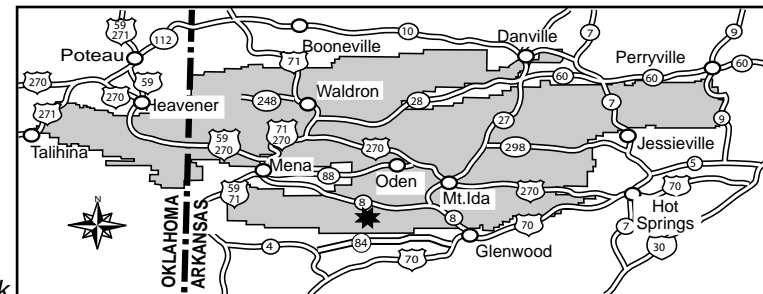
Biking: All trails



Equestrian:
Viles Branch



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 area.



USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangles: Athens, Big Fork