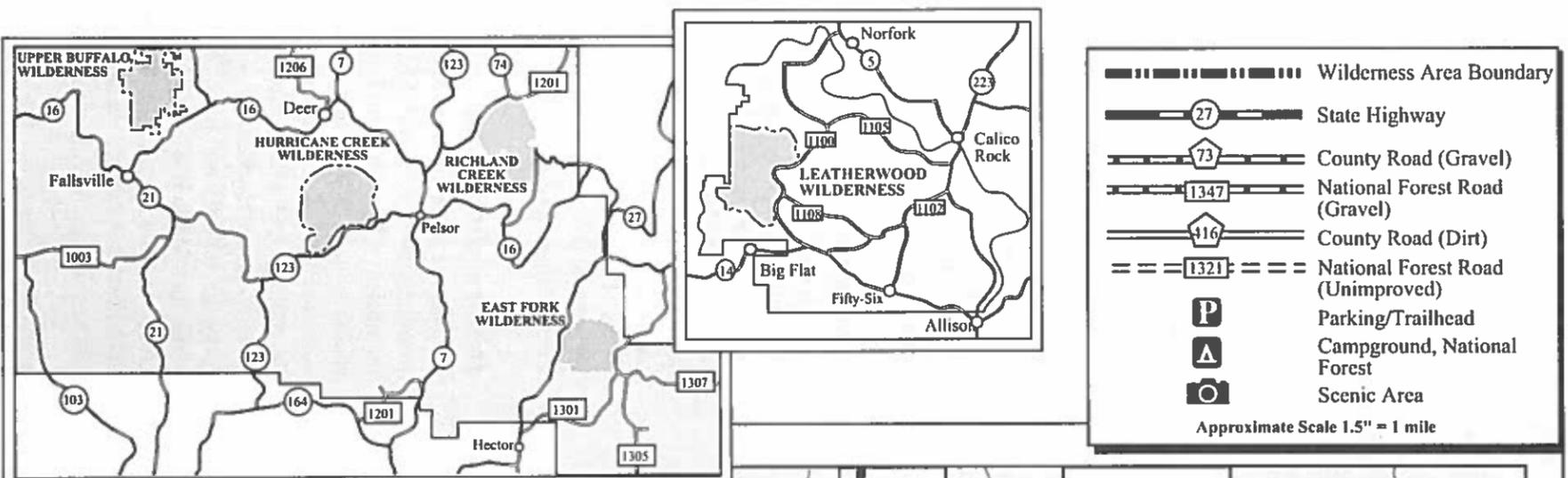
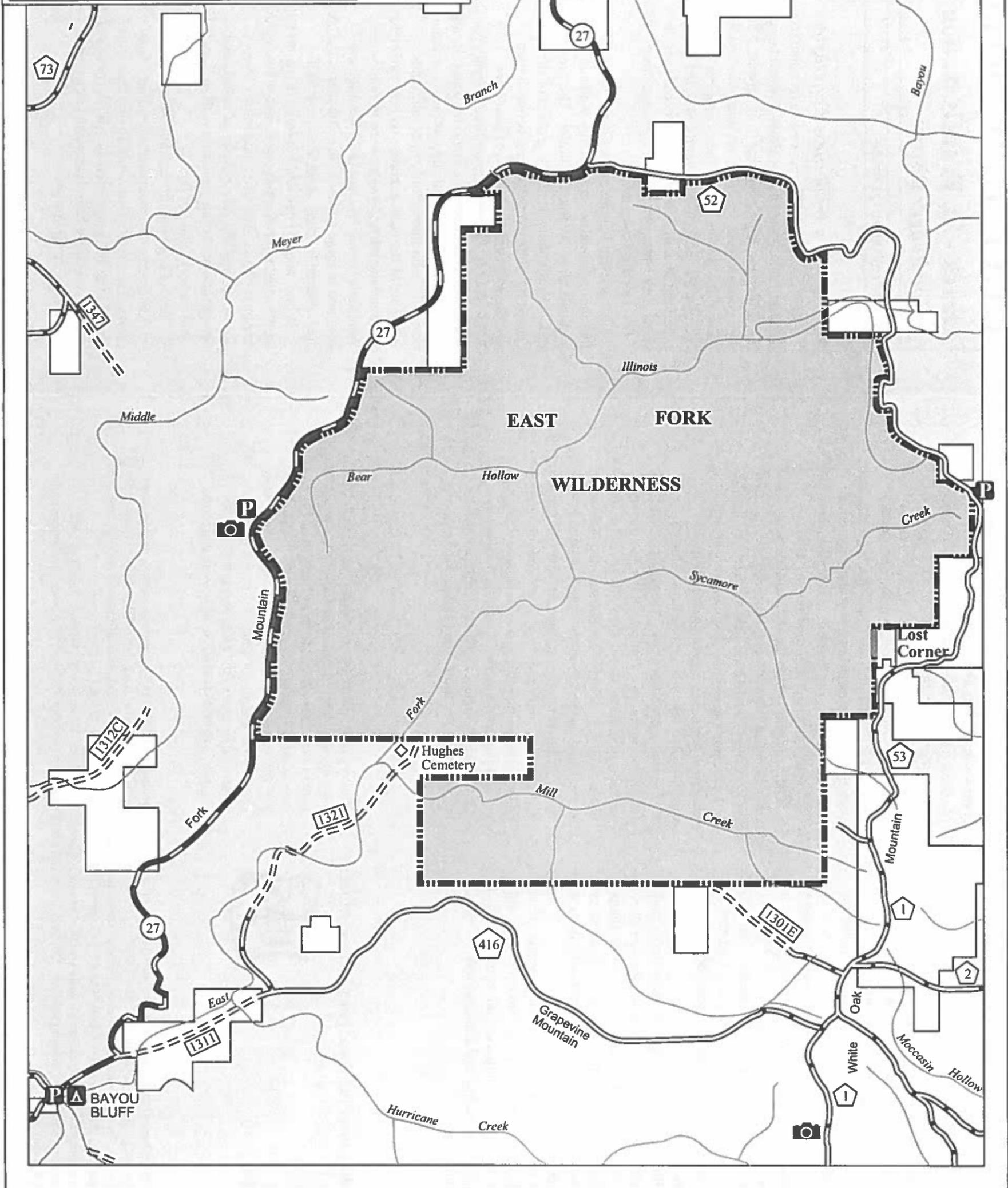


East Fork Wilderness Area

Ozark - St. Francis National Forests • Bayou Ranger District • Arkansas



- Wilderness Area Boundary
 - State Highway
 - County Road (Gravel)
 - National Forest Road (Gravel)
 - County Road (Dirt)
 - National Forest Road (Unimproved)
 - Parking/Trailhead
 - Campground, National Forest
 - Scenic Area
- Approximate Scale 1.5" = 1 mile



Wilderness Regulations prohibit the use of any mechanized or motorized equipment including motorcycles, bicycles, or portable motors such as generators and chainsaws.

Leave No Trace Principles of outdoor ethics:

As a visitor to the wilderness, you should be aware that you are entering a primitive environment. Visitors should accept the responsibility of minimizing the impact of their visit.

Remember to recognize and respect all private landowner's rights, particularly regarding access to wilderness. Please do not trespass.

The concept of "taking only pictures and leaving only footprints" is the first and foremost ethic of the wilderness experience. Please observe the "leave no trace" ethics.

- Plan ahead and carry these essentials on all wilderness trips: map, compass, whistle (three blasts signify help is needed), flashlight, sharp knife, fire starter, candles, waterproof matches, first-aid kit, warm clothing, extra food, drinking water and a filtration device.
- Camp at least 100 feet from previous campsites and 200 feet from lakes and streams. This will help to reduce the impacts from compacted soils, crushed vegetation, and campfire ash accumulation.

- Select your camp site carefully to minimize impact. Avoid trenching around tents or cutting live branches and plants to make a parklike campsite. If you clear away pinecones and twigs in your sleeping area, scatter these items back over the ground when breaking camp.
- It's best to go without a campfire and use a backpacking stove instead. Build fire rings at a site with little or no vegetation or burnable materials. Never leave a fire unattended. Extinguish campfires completely and scatter burned-out materials.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Leave nothing behind. Even organic scraps such as orange peels, and egg or peanut shells are unsightly and take a long time to decompose.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from water, camp, or trails and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Wash and rinse with water from jugs or pots. Scatter strained dishwater.
- Pack and saddle horses can be allowed to graze freely, or be tied to picket lines, at least 100 feet from water sources and campsites. High lines should be used whenever possible to avoid damage to trees.
- Help preserve America's cultural heritage by leaving archeological and historical remains undisturbed. For more information: www.lnt.org.

Hunting and fishing are permitted. A valid Arkansas hunting or fishing license is required for anyone 16 years of age or older. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations apply in wilderness areas. For information about licenses, seasons and limits, contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, #2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205. Phone: 1-800-364-4263 or visit www.agfc.com.

For additional information please contact:

Bayou Ranger District
12000 SR 27
Hector, AR 72843
479-284-3150



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East Fork Wilderness

Ozark - St. Francis National Forests

Bayou Ranger District



Southern National Forests

Arkansas

Revised: July 2003

Welcome to a Wilderness Experience.

The East Fork Wilderness takes its name from the East Fork of the Illinois Bayou, which bisects the wilderness from northeast to southwest. The area encompasses 10,777 acres along the southern edge of the Boston Mountains. East Fork's terrain is characterized by flat or gently rounded ridges separated by hollows with very steep slopes or sheer rock walls. The elevation ranges from 800 to 1,600 feet above sea level.

An unusual feature of the Ozark Mountains is that the "mountains" are actually plateaus, uplifted as a unit with few folds or faults. The ruggedness of these mountains is due to erosion of the plateaus caused by swift rivers flowing between them.

The most unique feature of East Fork Wilderness is the presence of three upland ponds. These areas have exposed standing water during wet weather months and support plant communities normally encountered only in bottomlands.

Some of the most beautiful scenery can be found by following the hollows upward from the creek. Waterfalls from a few feet to 20 feet high are common in these hollows. In some places the creeks are bordered by high, sheer sandstone bluffs.

White oak, red oak and hickory are the principal hardwoods, with overcup oak found in two natural seasonal ponds. The usual understory trees, dogwood, redbud, serviceberry, sassafras and persimmon are common, along with sumac, red and Ohio buckeye and red maple.

Hiking is a popular recreational activity in this wilderness, as well as horseback riding. Many miles of old forest roads found within this area were closed after its designation as a Wilderness in 1984. A few roads have been maintained as a part of the wilderness travel system.

The Ozark National Forest offers five wilderness areas of undisturbed beauty for your enjoyment. Totalling 65,826 acres, these wilderness areas are open for primitive camping, hunting (in season) and fishing, hiking, swimming, nature study and to those seeking solitude with nature.

As the number of visitors to the wilderness increase each year, certain common sense approaches must be observed by all to maintain the wilderness characteristic. We ask that you also be aware of your responsibilities. Please follow the regulations and always leave the forest cleaner than you found it.

Directions

East Fork Wilderness is approximately 10 miles north of Hector, Arkansas and near the communities of Tilly and Witts Springs. To reach the wilderness, take Arkansas Highway 124 from Russellville, turn north (left) on Arkansas Highway 105 to Hector; continue north on Arkansas Highway 27 and go 12 miles. The wilderness area is on the east side of the highway and a parking area is available on the west side of Highway 27.

History of the Area

Despite the hard times of the early years, those who grew up in the Ozark Mountains have fond memories of life along the East Fork Creek. The area remains beautiful and forever changing with the old homesteads, still discernible along the creek bank and the old roads. Old home sites, which nature is rapidly reclaiming, are marked by rock fences and plantings of forsythia, daffodil and iris. The dwarf iris is common along the old roads which serve as trails, and spring rains bring out a profusion of colorful fungi, such as the Caesar's Amanita. At least one pioneer cemetery still lies within the wilderness boundaries.

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests • www.fs.fed.us/oonf

605 W. Main St., Russellville, AR 72801 479-968-2354 or TDD 479-964-7201

Motorcycles, bicycles, and portable motors such as generators and chain saws are not allowed.

