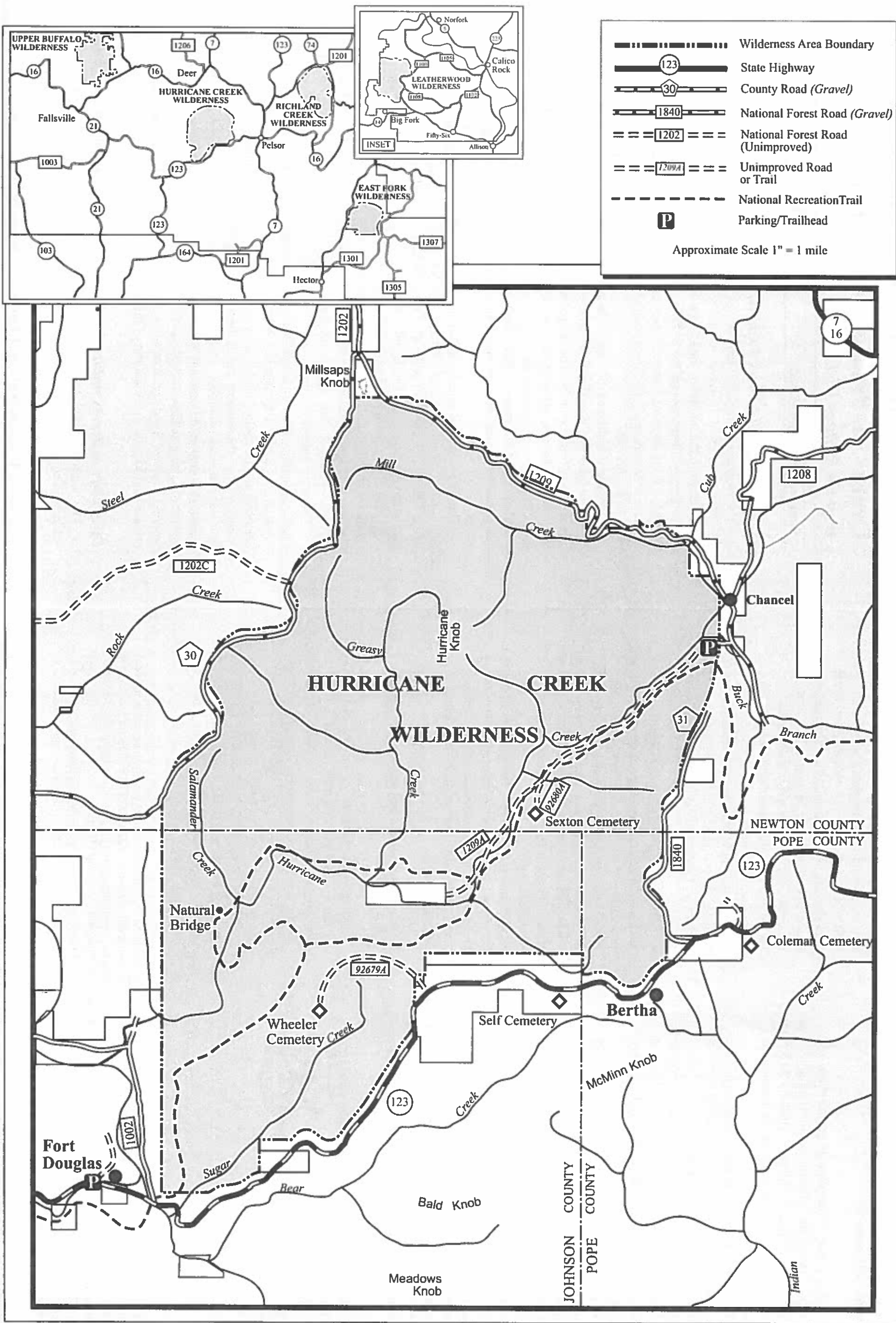


# Hurricane Creek Wilderness Area

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



*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

#### **For additional information please contact:**

Buffalo Ranger District  
P.O. Box 427  
Jasper, AR 72641  
870-446-5122



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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. Highlines should be used whenever possible to avoid damage to trees.
- Help preserve America's cultural heritage by leaving archeological and historical remains undisturbed.

*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 Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. Phone: 1-800-364-4263 or visit [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).*

## **Hurricane Creek Wilderness**

### **Ozark - St. Francis National Forests**

#### **Buffalo Ranger District**



Southern National Forests

Arkansas

Revised: July 2003

#### **Welcome to a Wilderness Experience**

The Hurricane Creek Wilderness was created by the 1984 Arkansas Wilderness Act and contains 15,177 acres in the middle of the Boston Mountains. One of three wildernesses on the Buffalo Ranger District, it takes its name from early settlers that called tornadoes "hurricanes." The most recent tornado in the area was in 1986.

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 topography on either side of Hurricane Creek, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, is quite rugged and scenic.

The forest cover is mostly second and third growth oak-hickory. Some scattered stands of shortleaf pine in old fields still exist from when the Forest Service purchased the land in the 1930s and 1940s.

There is one maintained trail within the area - the Ozark Highlands Trail. A system of old logging roads that runs throughout the area provides an informal network of trails for hiking and horseback riding.

There are three maintained roads, two of them lead to cemeteries (Sexton and Wheeler). The Sexton Cemetery is on the eastern portion of the area (near Chancel) and is reached via a county road. The county road on the western end of the area leading to Wheeler cemetery is locked. Only families with ancestors buried at the cemetery can access it. The third road, also gated and locked, takes off from the Sexton Cemetery Road and accesses a parcel of private land located in the middle of the area.

#### **Directions to access points**

The two most popular access points to the wilderness coincide with the entrance and exit of the

Ozark Highlands Trail at Fort Douglas and Chancel. To reach the Fort Douglas access point, head west on Highway 123 at Pelsor (located 30 miles south of Jasper on Highway 7) for about 11 miles. The trailhead is approximately ¼ mile west of the Big Piney Creek bridge on the south side of the highway. To reach Chancel, go about 5 miles south of Cowell on Highway 7 to the junction at Forest Road 1208 where a general store is located immediately to the north. From the junction, travel 3 ½ miles to Forest Road 1209, turn south and cross a small creek. Travel ½ mile to a road that heads to the right (behind a house) and cross Buck Branch. There is a small parking area about 1/10 mile past the creek just before a gate. *Caution: this access point should not be attempted in a passenger car and can become inaccessible during periods of high water. Check with the District Office to see if this access point is available for use.*

#### **Points of Interest**

##### **Ozark Highlands National Recreation Trail**

Hiking is the main recreational activity within this wilderness. There is a high water spur that can be used during the times of high flowing water in Hurricane Creek. The trail is a mixture of old roads and constructed routes that traverse a wide range of elevation and offers numerous scenic views. Please remember that horses or pack animals are not allowed on any portion of the trail.

##### **Hurricane Natural Bridge**

This geologic feature is an arch formation that is a natural bridge. It is located near the Ozark Highlands Trail in the western portion of the wilderness, below where the high water trail splits off.

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

**Ozark-St. Francis National Forests • [www.fs.fed.us/oanf](http://www.fs.fed.us/oanf)**

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

