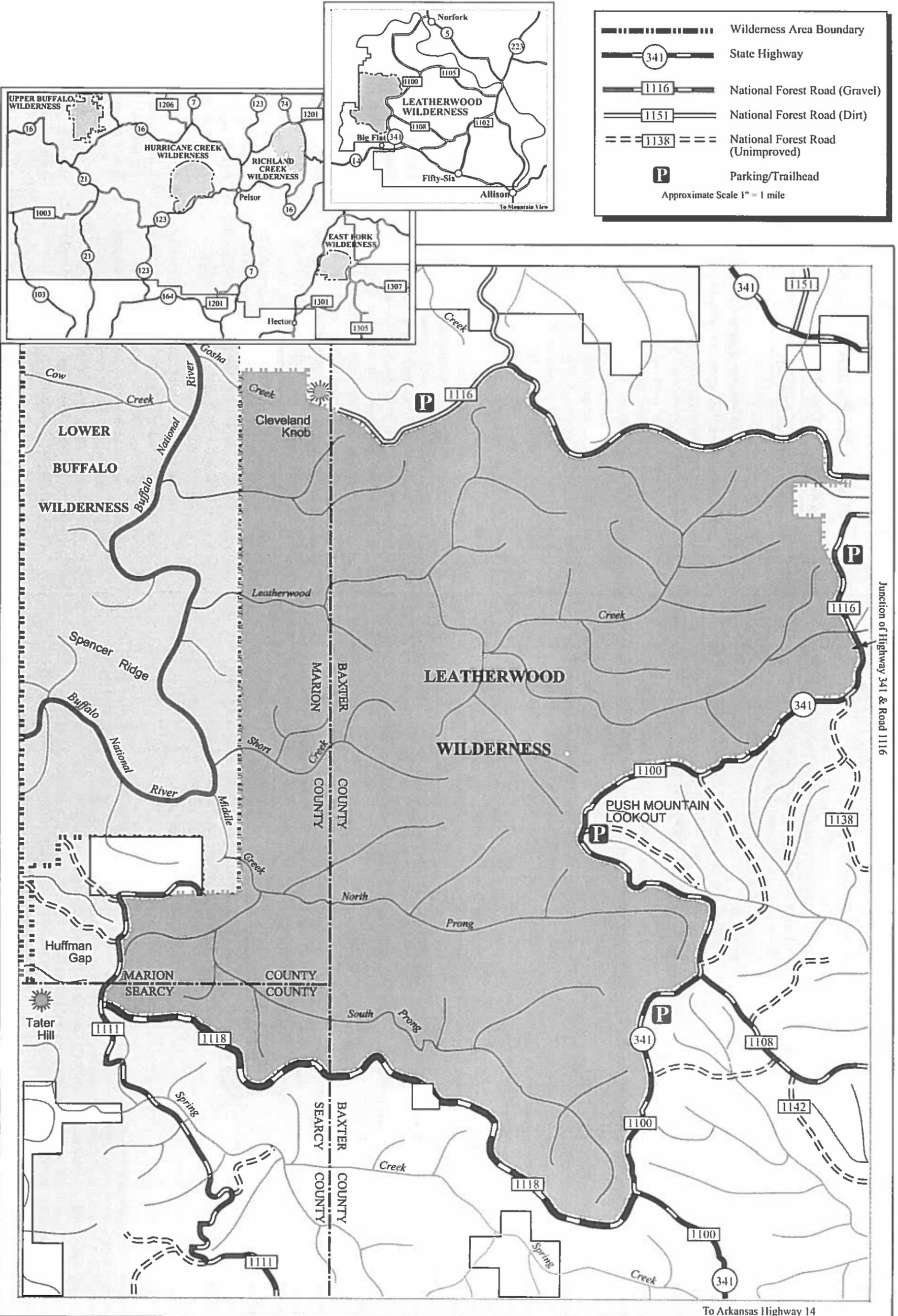


# Leatherwood Wilderness Area

Ozark - St. Francis National Forests • Sylamore 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

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).*

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

Sylamore Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1279  
Highway 14 North  
Mountain View, AR 72560  
870-269-3228



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

# Leatherwood Wilderness

## Ozark - St. Francis National Forests

### Sylamore Ranger District



Southern National Forests

Arkansas

Revised: July 2003

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

The Leatherwood Wilderness was created by the 1984 Arkansas Wilderness Act and contains 16,838 acres located on the Sylamore Ranger District in the Ozark National Forest. It lies approximately 15 miles south of Mountain Home and 20 miles northwest of Mountain View, Arkansas.

Leatherwood is bordered on the north, east, south, and southwest by four high ridge top roads. The western boundary is shared with the Lower Buffalo Wilderness, which is administered by the National Park Service and is part of the Buffalo National River. These two combined wilderness areas offer the visitor the largest, most remote wilderness systems in Arkansas.

This wilderness took its name from Leatherwood Creek, the major drainage. Leatherwood Creek in turn, was named after the shrub, Leatherwood. It is a native plant through most of the Ozark region. Seldom growing over 10 feet in height, this slow-growing shrub blooms a pale yellow flower in the spring.

There are six creeks within the Leatherwood Wilderness, which are separated by some of the most rugged, high ridgetop terrain in the Ozarks. They are characterized by steep-sided ridges over 1,200 feet high. Many are with long exposed sides of sheer vertical rock face and benches giving the appearance of large stairsteps dropping into the drainages below. Elevation varies from 1,300 feet above sea level on the highest ridgetops to 420 feet where Leatherwood Creek exits the Wilderness.

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 forest is spotted with stands of native shortleaf pine as well as the unique cedar glades nestled within the primarily oak, gum, and hickory forest.

### **Directions to Access Points**

The most popular access points to the wilderness are on Arkansas Highway 341. From US Highway 65 at Marshall, take Arkansas Highway 27 north to Harriet, then take Arkansas Highway 14 east through Big Flat to the intersection of Arkansas 341, for a total of 23.9 miles. Take Arkansas Highway 341 north for 2.4 miles to the junction of Forest Service Road 1118, which is the southeast corner of the wilderness.

Please register at one of the trail entrances located at Barkshed Extension Road, Smith Road, Leatherwood Road, and Brush Creek Road. These registration cards help us determine the amount of use the area receives, and also may help us find you should an emergency arise. Please identify the route you plan to take and when you plan to return.

### **Points of Interest**

#### **Buffalo National River**

North Arkansas's Buffalo River was the country's first national river, and gets its start in the Ozark National Forest. It is roughly 150 miles long with nearly 95,000 acres of public land along its corridor. The Buffalo originates in the rugged Boston Mountains of the Ozark and heads east to join the White River. Along the way it descends nearly 2,000 feet through layers of sandstone, limestone, and chert.

#### **Lower Buffalo Wilderness**

Another real treat is the Lower Buffalo Wilderness, a 22,500-acre tract managed by the National Park Service, is contiguous with the Leatherwood. Visitors to the area can expect to see caves, bluffs, waterfalls, and old cabin sites.

#### **White River**

The White River forms the north and east boundary of the Sylamore Ranger District and is known for its abundance of trout and its scenery, featuring some of the best bluffs in all the Ozarks.

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

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

