

# Mark Twain National Forest

Missouri

## Rockpile Mountain Wilderness Area



Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

December 29, 2014

### Highlights

This 4,238 acre Wilderness takes its name from an ancient circle of granite rock, piled by some earlier man on top of the mountain. It is located in Madison County on the Fredericktown Ranger District, southeast of Bell Mountain and southwest of Fredericktown, Missouri. The area is primarily a broken ridge, having steep rocky slopes running from Little Grass Mountain on the north to the National Forest boundary four miles to the south.

Scenic attractions include Rockpile Mountain itself, the steep limestone bluffs, rock formations, and caves along the St. Francis River. The narrow gorges or "shut-ins" with rushing cascades during periods of runoff and the scattered granite glades add variety to the wilderness landscape, as well as unique plant and animal communities.

The area has no significant natural permanent water except for the St. Francis River, which touches the area along the southwest corner. Drainages within the area are intermittent, flowing in the times of surplus rainfall. Runoff becomes a torrent in some of the small streams following heavy rains because of the rapid runoff from the steep areas of exposed rock. A few springs exist in the area. Five wildlife ponds constructed prior to Wilderness designation provide a manmade source of year-round water for wildlife.

### TRAIL

From the trailhead there is a 2 mile section of maintained trail. The rest of the area is accessed by old woods roads or cross-country hiking.

### For More Information

Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District  
10019 Hwy 8 West, Potosi, MO 63664  
Phone: (573) 438-5427 Fax: (573) 438-2633  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm

**Directions:** From Fredericktown, MO, south on Hwy 67, to County Road C, then about 10 miles on C to County Road 406. Follow 406 to Forest Road 2124 to Little Grass Mountain Trailhead.

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Length:** 2 miles of hiking/equestrian trail

**Best Seasons:** Fall, winter, spring

**Restrictions:** No motorized/bike use. Maximum of 10 persons/group. No camping/fires within 100' of trail.

**Safety:** During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

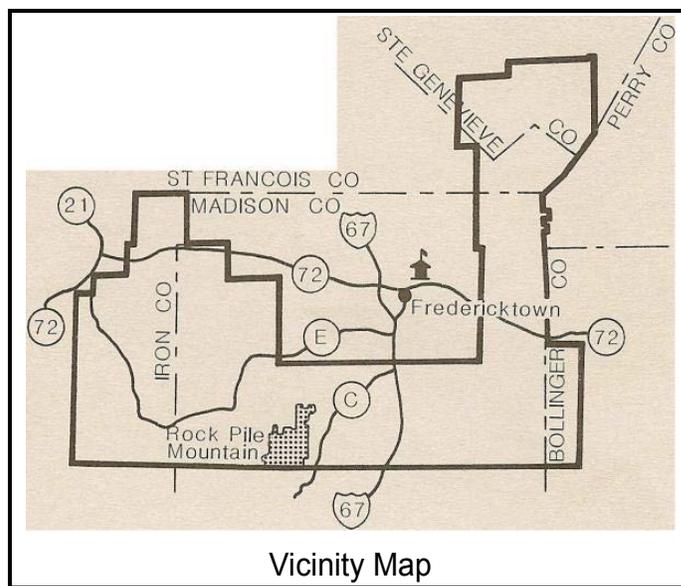
**Surface Type:** Unsurfaced, native material

**Emergency Contact: 911**

Madison County **Sheriff:** (573) 783-2234

Madison County **Ambulance:** (573) 783-7900

Madison County **Medical Center:** (573) 783-3341

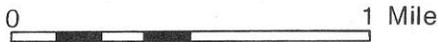


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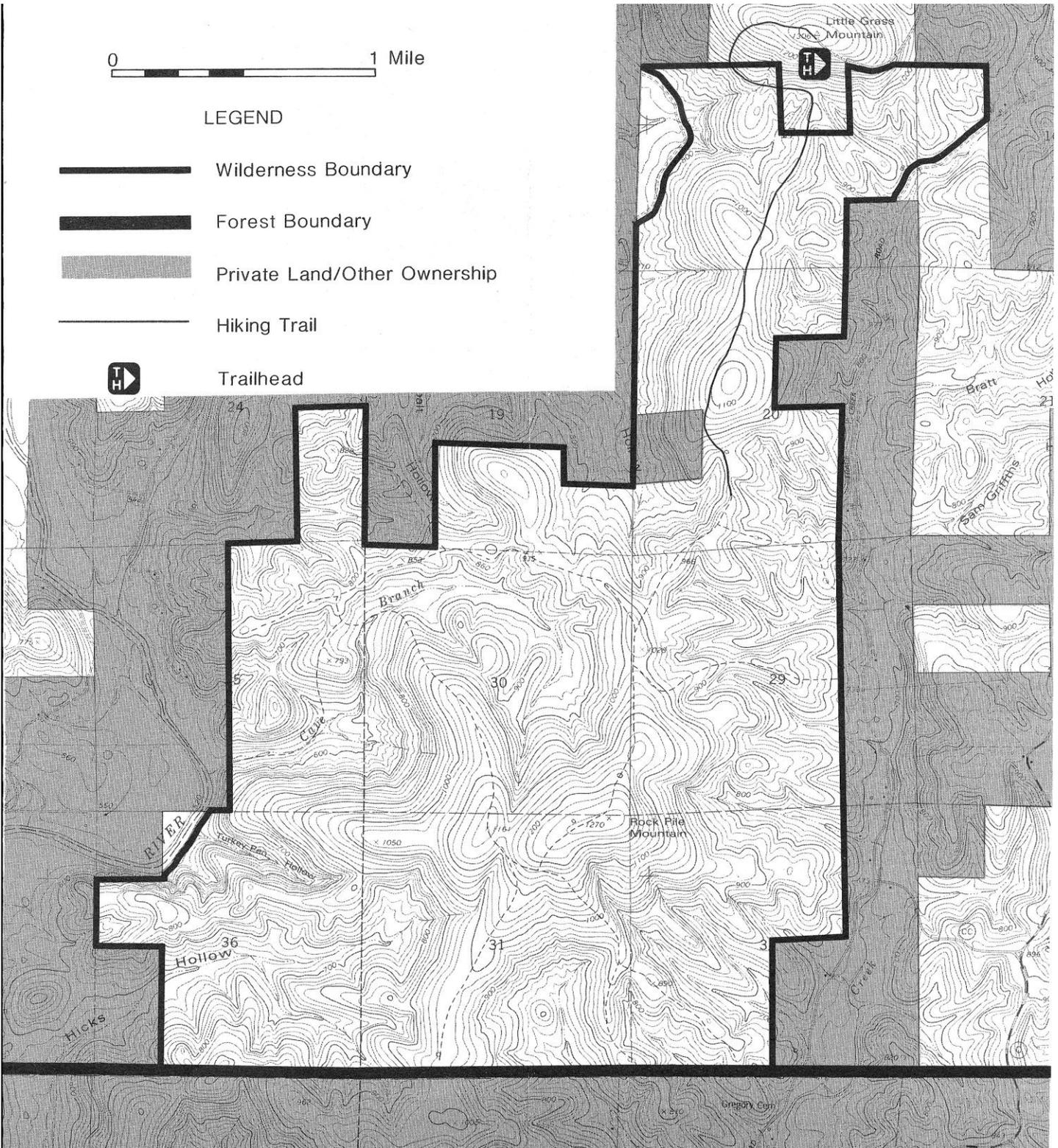
401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

[www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf)



LEGEND

-  Wilderness Boundary
-  Forest Boundary
-  Private Land/Other Ownership
-  Hiking Trail
-  Trailhead



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