

PADDY CREEK WILDERNESS

Including: Paddy Creek Campground and Picnic Area
and Big Piney Trailhead



USDA Forest Service
Mark Twain National Forest



Welcome to: PADDY CREEK WILDERNESS

The Paddy Creek Wilderness (boundary shown on map) became a federally designated Wilderness January 3, 1983.

This 7035 acre wilderness is located in northwestern Texas County 35 miles southwest of Rolla, Missouri, and 16 miles west of Licking, Missouri.

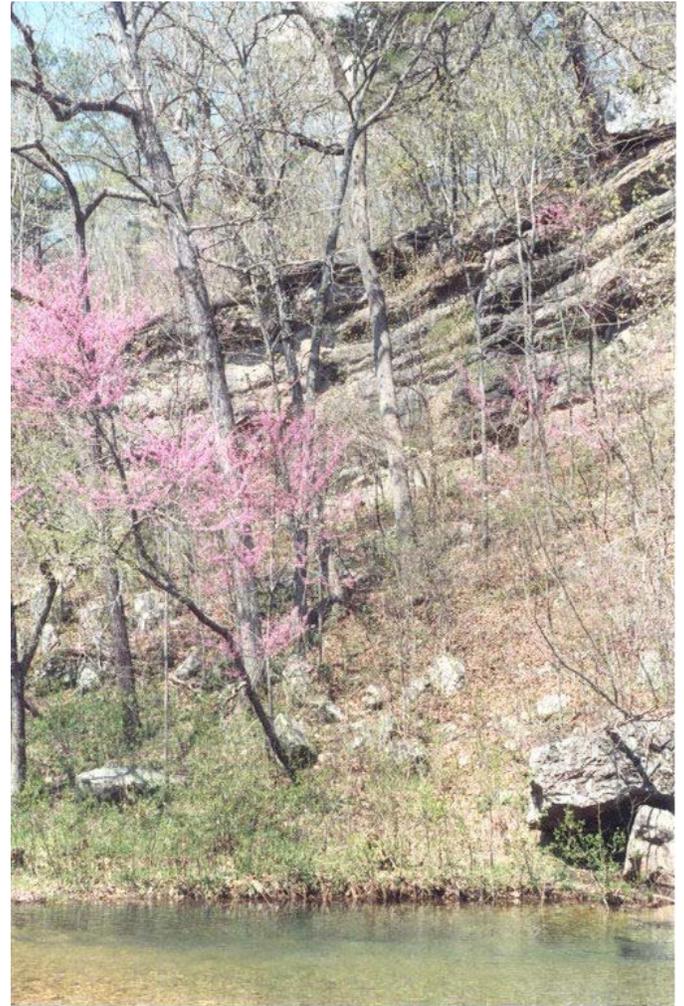
In the early 1800's, Sylvester Paddy began the first logging of the area. Timber from this area was transported by river to St. Louis to supply lumber needed for construction. From the mid and late 1800's until the 1930's, the area was homesteaded and grazed as open range.

The area is characterized by Big Paddy and Little Paddy Creeks with steep cliffs and rock outcrops along these drainages. Both creeks have water in them throughout most of the year. Elevation changes 500 feet between a point near Roby Tower on the Western edge of the area and Paddy Creek, where it meets the eastern boundary of the Wilderness.

The Wilderness is mostly forested with a few old fields in the drainages. Black, white and post oaks, as well as hickories and shortleaf pines are the main tree species. Mixed hardwood forests can be found along the drainages.

Wildlife typical of the Missouri Ozarks is present throughout the area. Whitetail deer, wild turkey, squirrel, rabbit, fox, coyote and bobcat are common.

We ask your assistance to improve and maintain the area's wilderness character through compliance with the regulations and practices detailed in this brochure. Utilize "no-trace" and minimum impact camping. Reducing impacts to the Wilderness will improve the area's value for your future visits as well as for future generations.



WILDERNESS MANNERS AND REGULATIONS

Wilderness is a special area designated and set aside by Congress as an area affected primarily by the forces of Nature with little evidence of man's works," where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Many individuals seek out its peace and solitude, yet it has different meanings and values to different people depending on their background and whether they are backpackers, hunters, photographers, or hikers.

Wilderness is primitive; trails are not well marked and there are no bridges at creek crossings. Meeting nature on its own terms involves inherent risks.

Increasing numbers of Wilderness users may seriously impact the very values they seek. To ensure that these values remain intact, please practice good wilderness manners and comply with the following regulations. Continue the legacy: make sure that others will not see evidence of your visit.

WILDERNESS REGULATIONS

There are certain human impacts that could damage or destroy the wilderness resource. These practices are not allowed within the Paddy Creek Wilderness:

- Groups of more than 10 individuals camping or traveling together. (This will reduce impacts to solitude, ground cover, and other resources);
- Camping within 100' of trails, streams, or other occupied campsites;
- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition;
- Placing in or near a stream or other water substance that may pollute the water;
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it;
- Cutting or defacing live or dead standing trees or other vegetation;
- Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat, motorized equipment or mechanical transport, including bicycles;
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up anything by means of aircraft, including helicopters;
- building of "structures" such as rock fire rings, tables, lean-tos, etc;
- Discharging a firearm within 150 yards of an occupied area, or in any manner or place endangering any person or property;
- Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition;
- Tying stock directly to trees.

Missouri Department of Conservation hunting and fishing regulations and license requirements apply.

WILDERNESS MANNERS

Protect the solitude; seek campsites that are out of sight and sound of trails and other camps. When sharing an area, keep a low profile and maintain the solitude.

Avoid overuse of popular areas, and search out the lesser-known attractions.

Be prepared - have the right equipment and clothing for primitive travel and season of the year. Technology doesn't always work in the Wilderness. Even if you have a GPS be sure to carry a good map and compass; practice safety and carry and know how to use a first aid kit. The universal distress signal is three of anything: shots, shouts, smokes, or whistles. Make sure someone knows where you are going, and how long you will be gone. Be aware that cell phone may not work in the wilderness.

When traveling on a trail, stay on the trail. When traveling cross-country use your map and compass. Avoid the use of blazes, ribbons or other trail markers; let the next fellow find his own way as you did.

Pack your own shelter, including poles and stakes.

Saddle and pack stock have the right-of-way on trails

Don't tie saddle and pack stock to small trees. It's better to hobble or tie a rope between two large trees and use it as a hitch rail. When breaking camp, scatter manure and smooth the area.

Avoid prolonged stock grazing in one area. Bring concentrated supplemental stock feed to help reduce the impact on vegetation.

Picket your stock at least 200 feet away from waterways, trails, or camps.

Reduce the spread of Non-native, invasive plants by removing weed seeds from your animals and gear before arriving on the forest and assuring that stock aren't eating these weeds within 48 hours of their arrival on the forest.

Paddy Creek Wilderness is surrounded by private property. Please respect the rights and property of private landowners.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Ozark climate is mild enough to make Wilderness visits feasible throughout the year, as long as visitors bring proper gear. When possible take advantage of this opportunity and plan your visit outside the peak spring and fall use seasons.

Drinking water is not available at Roby Lake or Paddy Creek Campground, open water sources within the wilderness are not recommended for drinking. Bring your own drinking water or be prepared to boil or treat water chemically.

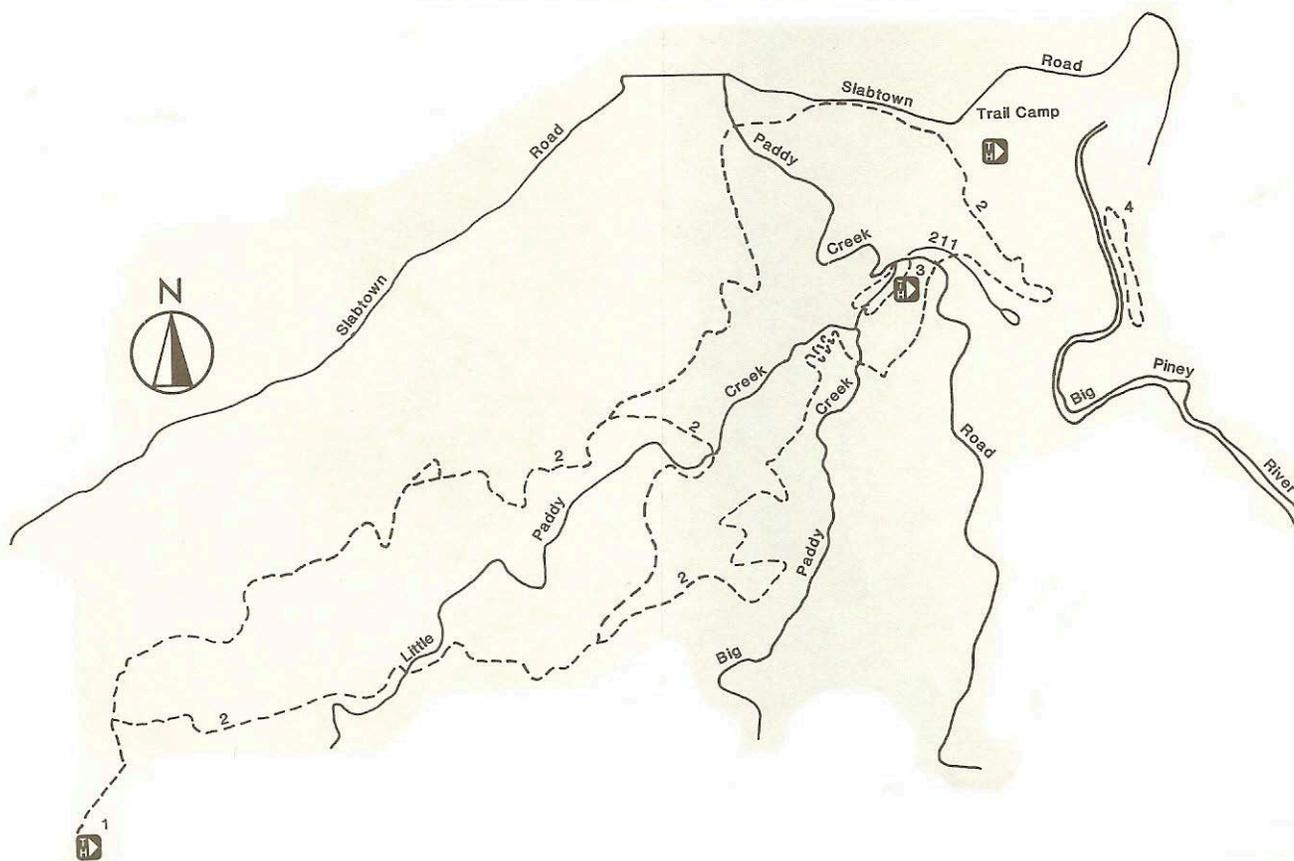
USGS Quadrangle maps can be purchased from the Forest Service or the U.S. Geological Survey. Most of the wilderness is located on the Slabtown Quadrangle map with the western edge located on the Roby Quadrangle. A map of the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Districts may be purchased at Mark Twain National Forest offices.

Wilderness Rangers frequently visit trailheads and patrol the interior of the area. They are there to assist you and answer your questions. Have a pleasant wilderness experience and remember, leave only footprints and take only photographs and memories.

Be aware of natural hazards that may occur within the Wilderness, and take precautions to maintain your safety. Flash flooding may occur during and after rainstorms; limbs and trees may fall with even moderate winds.

1. ROBY LAKE RECREATION AREA AND BIG PINEY TRAILHEAD

Roby Lake is one of 3 trailheads for the Big Piney Trail. Roby Lake facilities include a vault toilet. The road to Roby Lake is 1 mile north of Roby, Missouri, on Hwy. 17, then .6 mile southeast on Forest Road 274. There is a large parking lot for cars and trailer parking for boat and horse trailers. Roby Lake, 5 acres (at full pool) in size, has a carry down launch. Only electric trolling motors are allowed.



2. BIG PINEY TRAIL AND TRAIL CAMP

The 18-mile long Big Piney Trail traverses a variety of Ozark terrain, scenery and vegetation types. Several scenic overlooks display rock outcroppings and hollow bottoms along the trail. Paddy Creek Campground, Big Piney Trail Camp and Roby Lake Recreation Area are conveniently located on or near the trail. The Big Piney Trail Camp is a primitive, free campground that serves equestrians.

3. PADDY CREEK CAMPGROUND, PICNIC AREA AND PADDY CREEK TRAIL AND BIG PINEY TRAILHEADS

Paddy Creek Campground facilities include 23 camping units with tables and fire rings. Paddy Creek Picnic Area facilities include picnic tables, grills and a toilet. Paddy Creek Campground and Picnic Area are located on the northeast portion of the trail and can be accessed by Forest Road 220. There is no fee for camping in the campground.

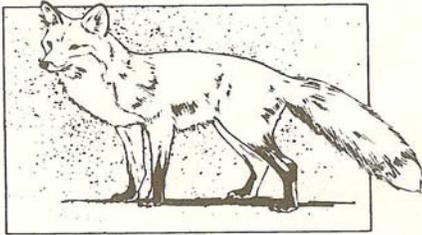
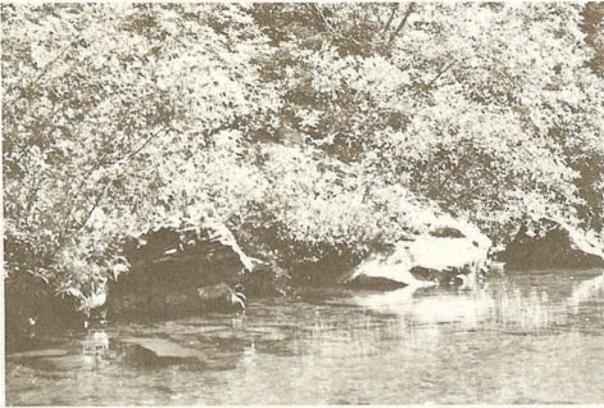
The campground is closed December 1- March 31. Camping is permitted in the picnic area during that time.

Paddy Creek Trail is a short day-use trail that begins and ends at the Paddy Creek Picnic Area. It runs southwest along Paddy Creek, then up the steep bluffs on the south side of the creek. The bluffs provide a scenic panoramic view of Paddy Creek. The trail dips down, crosses the creek, and returns northeast through the woods back to the picnic area.

4. SLABTOWN RIVER ACCESS AND BLUFF TRAIL

Separate from the Paddy Creek Wilderness, Slabtown River Access provides access to the Big Piney River, and is enjoyed by campers and picnickers seeking a primitive experience, with very few facilities. It has a gravel boat ramp and small parking lot. It is located on Highway AF approximately 12 miles northwest of Licking, Missouri.

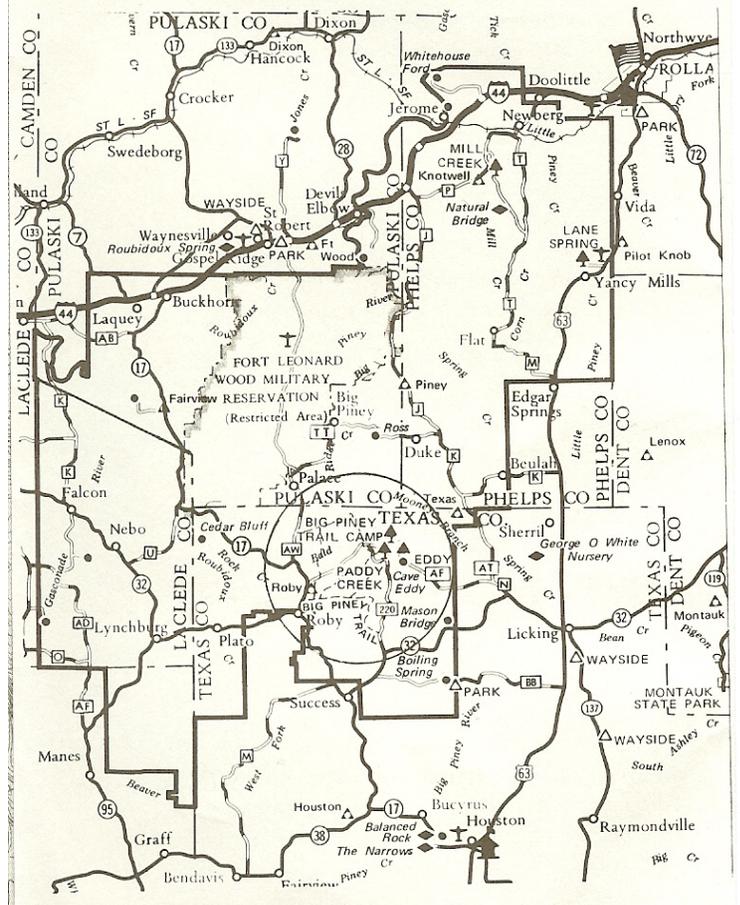
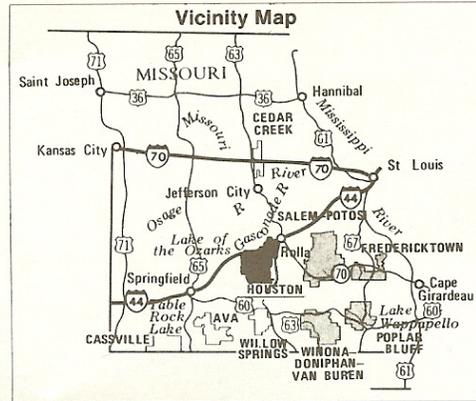
The Slabtown Bluff Trail is approximately 2 miles in length and begins on the east bank of the Big Piney River at the Slabtown River Access. The trail runs south along the river, winding below some picturesque bluffs; then climbs to the top of the bluffs and returns to Slabtown River Access.



For Further Information Contact:
U.S. Forest Service
Houtson/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District
108 S. Sam Houston Blvd.
Houston, MO 65483
(417) 967-4194

Or
Supervisor's Office
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 364-4621

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is a diverse organization committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The USDA prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political affiliation, and familial status. Persons believing they have been discriminated against should contact: Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 202720-7327 (voice), or 202720-1127 (TTY).



Big Piney Trail Guide

The total distance to hike the entire trail leaving and returning to Big Piney trailhead near Roby is 17 miles. Hiking distances for portions of the trail can be calculated from the guide below.

North Loop		South Loop	
Location	Miles	Location	Miles
Big Piney Trailhead	0.0	Big Piney Trailhead	0.0
Fork in trail	0.9	Fork in trail	0.9
Spring	1.4	Trail to Roby Lake	1.1
Pond by Military Road	3.6	Scenic Overlook	2.4
Spring	5.4	Military Road Crossing	3.3
Forest Road 220	6.6	Big Paddy Creek	6.6
Big Piney Trail Camp	7.7	Forest Road 220	7.2
Scenic Overlook	8.2	Paddy Creek Campground	7.3
Paddy Creek	9.6		0.0
Paddy Creek Campground	9.7		

