



Hemlock Cliffs

Hoosier National Forest



FS-R9-046 - 7/2016

A Special Place

Hemlock Cliffs is a valley of special beauty in southern Indiana. A cool climate, created by the box canyon shape, sandstone rock formations, and seasonal waterfalls is responsible for the unique trees and plants that grow here.

Hemlock Cliffs has long been a popular destination for people seeking tranquility, and a chance for reflection from within a cool rock shelter or along the shady stream.

Geology, Plants, and Wildflowers

The area features sandstone rock outcrops, overhangs, cliffs, rock shelters, and ravines. The rock you see is sandstone of the Tar Springs Formation. Much of the sandstone is "Honeycombed" by weathering of iron ores. Springs, small caves, and subterranean drainage conduits are in the underlying limestone.

Lush vegetation is found along the cliffs, waterfalls and canyon floor. Hemlock, a tall evergreen with short needles and small cones, thrives in the canyon's cool climate. Wintergreen, a rare plant, is also found here. Plants such as wild geranium, French's shooting star, mountain laurel, and liverwort are also found here.

Early Inhabitants

Archaeological excavations indicate Native American occupation as early as 10,000 years ago. Throughout the canyon are rock shelters, which undoubtedly provided cover and defense to the early occupants of this area.

Hiking Trail

A 1-mile hiking trail leads you down into the canyon under a lush canopy of large trees, through rock shelters, and past high seasonal waterfalls. Parts of the trail are steep and slippery when wet, so use caution. It could take two leisurely hours to complete the loop.

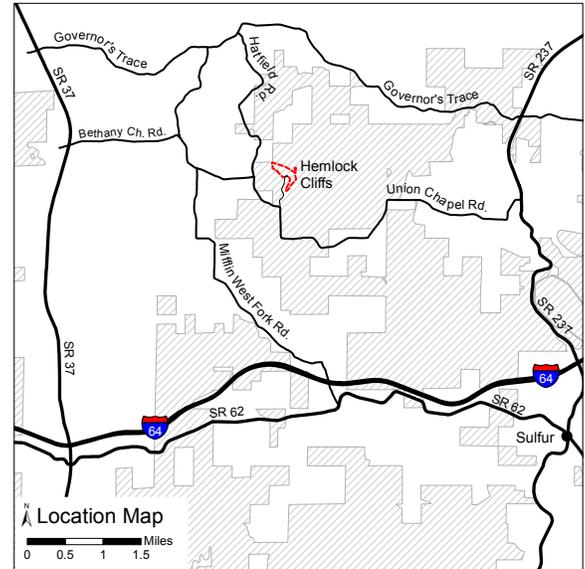
Safety

Use caution during hunting seasons. Blaze orange clothing is recommended (do not wear white) during deer season.

Ticks and chiggers are common in southern Indiana. Take precautions by avoiding tall grass and thick brushy areas.

Loose limbs and hazard trees can fall at anytime, especially on windy days.

Map may contain errors, no guarantee is made to its accuracy.



Emergencies

- Nearest public phone is in Paoli, IN
- The nearest hospital is located in Paoli, IN
- Crawford Co. Sheriff: 812-338-2802 or 911.
- IN Conservation Officers: 812-837-9536.

Restrictions

Motorized vehicles are prohibited, except on designated roadways.

Foot traffic is restricted from some areas to protect the resources.

No camping is allowed in the Hemlock Cliffs area.

Rappelling is prohibited within the area for resource protection

Do not disturb archaeological sites and artifacts.

Directions

From SR 237, take Union Chapel Road west 2.6 miles to the intersection with Eckert-Hatfield Roads. Continue on Hatfield Road 2.1 miles to parking area. GPS Coordinates for the Trailhead: 38°16'38.777"N, 86°32'20.317"W.

For Information:

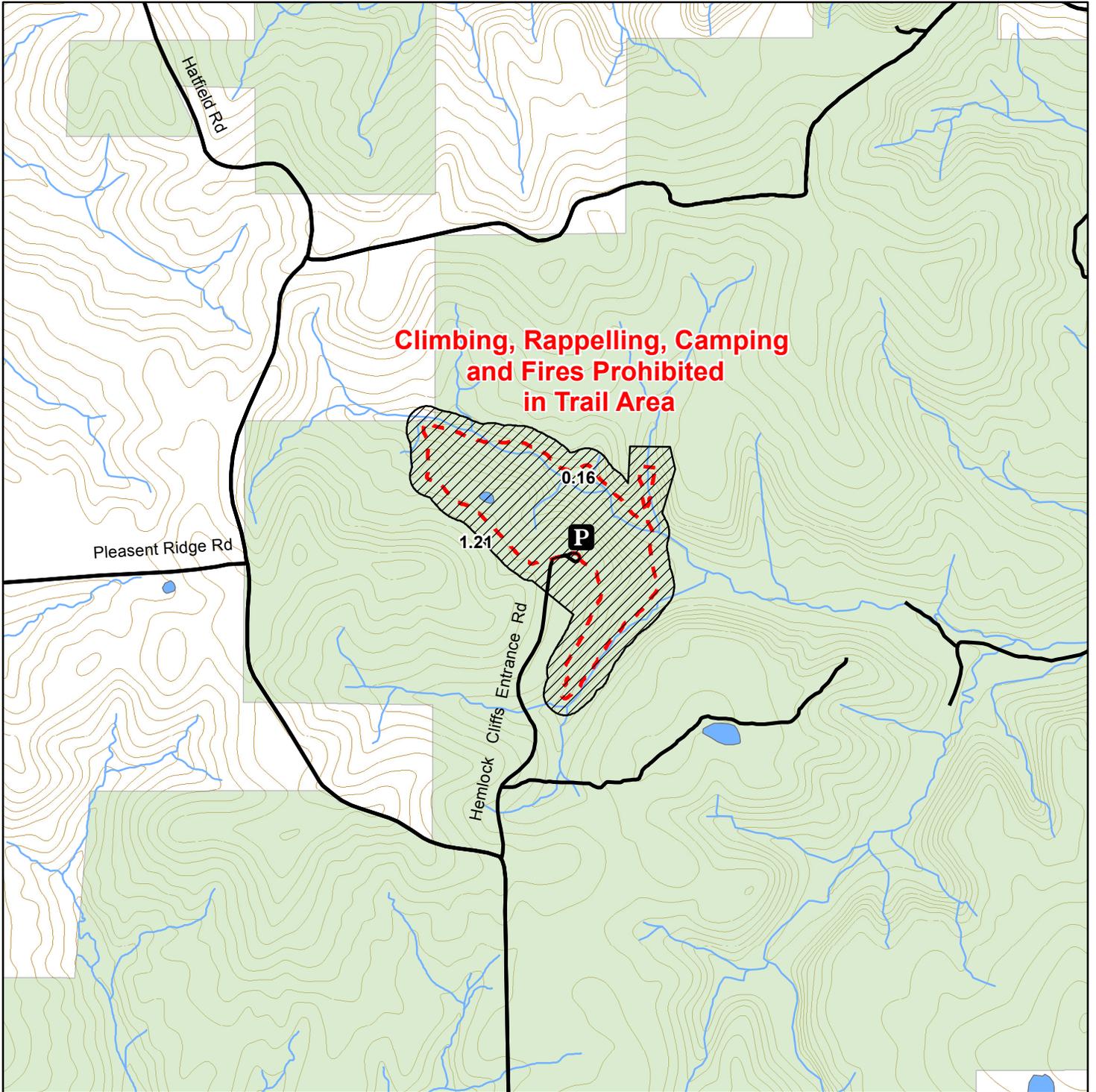
Hoosier National Forest	Tell City Ranger District
811 Constitution Ave.	248 15th Street
Bedford, IN 47421	Tell City, IN 47586
812-275-5987	812-547-7051

www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier
Federal Relay: 1-800-877-8339



Forest Service

Hemlock Cliffs



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