

## Rim Trail Attractions

The 25-mile Rim Trail follows the ridge around Fires Creek Wildlife Management Area—a mecca for backpackers and those who like primitive camping.

The trail, marked with blue blazes, has several access roads and trails. Camping is offered at Huskins Branch Hunter and Bristol Horse Camps. Dispersed camping sites are along Forest Service Road 340.

Two picnic areas are near the Rim Trail. Fires Creek Picnic Area offers 10 tables and a restroom. Other trails in the Fires Creek area are Chunky Gal and Bald Springs.

Along Rim Trail are rhododendron and spring wildflowers, such as trillium, lady slipper, and Solomon's seal. Grouse, warblers, deer, bear, Russian boar, and hawks roam the area. Camping is not allowed in the marked wildlife openings, and off-road-vehicle use is prohibited.

## Bristol Horse Camp

The Bristol Horse Camp is located on Fires Creek. Open all year, the camp offers seven horse camping sites. The four single sites are \$5 each per nite, and the three double sites are \$10 each per night.

Eighteen horse trails totaling 59 miles are available near the camp. The camp's amenities are drinking water and vault toilets.

## Rim Trail Sections

### Huskins Branch Hunter Camp (1,800 feet) to Big Stamp (4,437 feet)

**Distance:** 7.6 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Average hiking time:** 6 1/2 hours

**Features:** Good views of Andrews, Hayesville, and Lake Chatuge

### Big Stamp (4,437 feet) to Weatherman Bald (4,960 feet)

**Distance:** 5.4 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Average hiking time:** 4 hours

**Features:** Overlooks Andrews and river

### Weatherman Bald (4,960 feet) to Tusquitee Bald (5,240 feet)

**Distance:** 1.9 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Average hiking time:** 2 1/4 hours

**Features:** Great views of Lake Chatuge

### Tusquitee Bald (5,240 feet) to Chestnut Stump Knob (4,400 feet)

**Distance:** 2.6 miles

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Average hiking time:** 3 hours

**Features:** Recommended to hike trail downhill from knob to Carver Gap

### Carver Gap (2,996 feet) to Fires Creek Picnic Area (1,800 feet)

**Distance:** 3.5 miles

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Average hiking time:** 2 hours

**Features:** Good views of Lake Chatuge

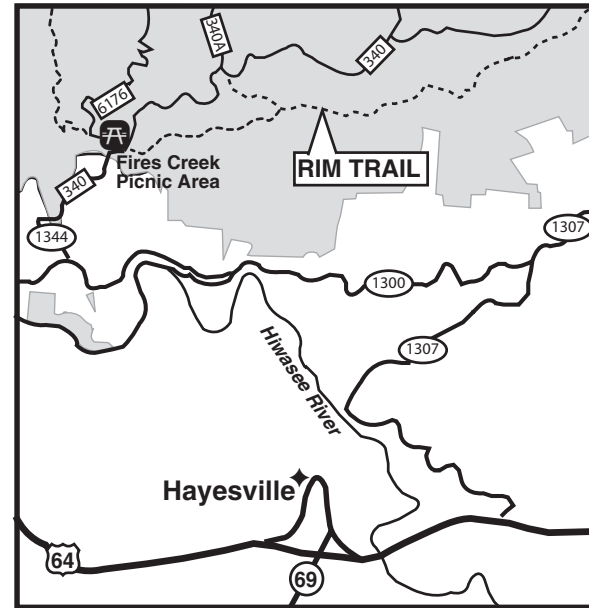
## Leatherwood Loop Trail

**Distance:** 3.5 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Average hiking time:** 3 hours

**Features:** A trail begins at Fires Creek Picnic Area and follows Leatherwood Branch up to the ridge top. At this point, trail connects with the original Rim Trail. The trail also loops back into Fires Creek Picnic Area.



## Directions to Rim Trail

**From Hayesville:** From Main Street, take Tusquitee Street (SR 1300), go about 4.4 miles. Turn right on SR 1344 and go about 0.7 mile. The road turns into FR 340 (gravel). Drive 0.1 mile to Fires Creek Hunt Camp and 0.3 mile to Rim Trail Trailhead.

**From Asheville:** Take I-40W to Canton. Follow U.S. 74W/U.S. 23S to Exit 81. Follow U.S. 23S/US 441S to Atlanta/Franklin. Take U.S. 64W, follow to Main Street in Hayesville, then follow above directions.

### For more information and maps:

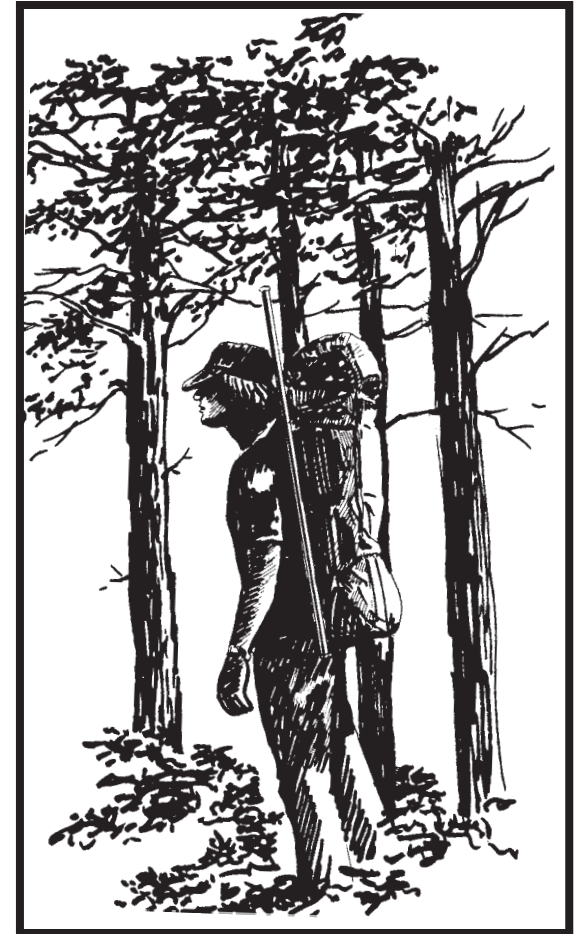
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# FIRES CREEK RIM TRAIL



**F**ires Creek is a mecca for backpackers. They can view vistas of Chatuge Lake and discover unique wildflowers.

Tusquitee Ranger District  
Nantahala National Forest  
NORTH CAROLINA



# TRAIL LEGEND

- 72 Rim Trail
- 77 Chunky Gal Trail
- 78 Bald Springs Trail
- 427 Forest Service Road
- Trail
- 1307 State Road
- National Forest Land

# FIRES CREEK AREA

