

Unit Highlights

Visitors to this Ranger District can enjoy the recreation serenity of an upland pine ecosystem, the historic past of Gum Springs Recreation Complex, or float along the bottomland hardwood forest of scenic Saline Bayou National Wild and Scenic River.

Surrounding Areas

Located in an area of hilly terrain and natural springs, Gum Springs Recreation Complex exhibits recreation design and construction from the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930's. The Gum Springs Campground offers basic recreation opportunities of picnicking and camping, and is close to Gum Springs Horse Camp and Trail. Approximately 21 miles of Saline Bayou was designated a National Wild and Scenic River because of its unique qualities. It is a peaceful setting, where bald cypress and other hardwoods growing along the banks are often reflected in the bayou's quiet water. The bayou can flow over its banks during high water making the journey hazardous. Check with the Winn Ranger District about water conditions. Cloud Crossing Recreation Complex lies directly on the banks of Saline Bayou and is an ideal put-in / take-out point for boating or canoeing.

For More Information

Winn Ranger District

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Winn Ranger District

Kisatchie National Forest

Caring for the land and serving people



Recreation Opportunity Guide



Recreational Information

General

This District encompasses 164,000 acres of Winn, Natchitoches, and Grant Parishes. It is in close proximity to the Winnfield area.

Developed Recreation

The District administers two developed recreation complexes. Gum Springs Recreation Complex is a designated fee area: User fees are as follows:

Day-Use Fees: - Free

Camping Fees: - \$3.00 / night

Dispersed Recreation

The District offers over 20 miles of canoeing along Saline Bayou and over 29 miles of hiking, biking, and horseback trails.

Other Essentials

Because of its close proximity to Winnfield and the Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, the Winn Ranger District has become a popular area offering various hunting opportunities. State licenses and regulations apply, along with an additional management preserve permit issued by the forest. Seasonal designated camping areas, or "Hunter's Camps" with limited facilities, are established in and around the management preserve area during hunting season.

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Other Essentials

Saline Bayou National Scenic River Corridor
The Saline Bayou corridor is located west of Louisiana Hwy 1233. The northern boundary is just north of Louisiana Hwy 126 and the southern border is Saline Lake.

There are various woods roads and highway entry points to the bayou, where a visitor can launch a canoe or take a pleasant hike within this healthy southern ecosystem. A visitor should watch for wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, otters, and many other unusual wildlife species. This meandering bayou supports a wide variety of wildlife and plant species, and offers a rare opportunity to experience a range of ecosystems ranging from upland pine forest to cypress tupelo swamps.

Gum Springs Horse Trail

The Gum Springs Horse Trail is a tremendously popular destination not only for Louisianans, but for cowboys from Oklahoma, Nebraska, and other states. This is a great forest ride for cowboys and cowgirls and the trail is wide enough to accommodate wagons. Plan your next trail ride on the Gum Springs Horse Trail.

Recreational Opportunities and Facilities on the Winn Ranger District																										
Fees	Picnic	Camping			Water Sports				Trails	Facilities																
Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons	Icons														
Areas Daily Usage Fee	Group-Use Picnic Area	Recreational Vehicles	Trailers and Campers	Group Camping	Sanitary Dump Station	Electrical Hookups	Water Hookups	Fire Rings/Grills	Swimming	Bank Fishing	Pier Fishing	Water Skiing	Non-Motorized Boat Launch	Motorized Boat Launch	Non-Motorized Boat Ramp	Hiking	Biking	Interpretive	Off-Road Vehicles	Horse	Flush Toilets	Vault Toilets	Drinking Water	Trash Disposal		
Cloud Crossing Recreation Complex																										
Cloud Crossing Day-Use Site	free	✓								✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Cloud Crossing Group-Use Site	free		✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Cloud Crossing Campground	free			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Saline Bayou Recreation Trail	free																		✓	✓						
Gum Springs Recreation Complex																										
Gum Springs Day-Use Area	free	✓								✓															✓	✓
Gum Springs Campground	\$3			✓	✓	✓				✓															✓	✓
Gum Springs Horse Camp and Trail <i>Note: Fee is for overnight camping only - trail day-use is free</i>																										
Gum Springs Horse Camp	\$3	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓									✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Saline Bayou Wild and Scenic River																										
Saline Launch Area	free									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											
Cloud Crossing Launch Area	free									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
Pearfield Launch Area	free									✓		✓	✓													
Goldonna Launch Area	free									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
Sand Point Launch Area	free									✓		✓	✓													
Other Recreation Areas																										
Dogwood Hiking Trail	free																		✓						✓	
Highway 472 Camp	free			✓	✓	✓																			✓	

Winn District Prairie

On the Winn District, remnants of prairie remain in the Keiffer and Tancock prairie areas. In the early 1800's, surveyors mapped the Tancock Prairie at about 750 acres. Today, due to changes in the landscape, fewer than 100 acres of this prairie remains. Another nearby historic prairie of 1,200 acres, the Bartram Prairie, can no longer be found, having grown up into woodlands



Gum Springs Campground Site



Gum Springs Horse Camp

Recreation Opportunities Map

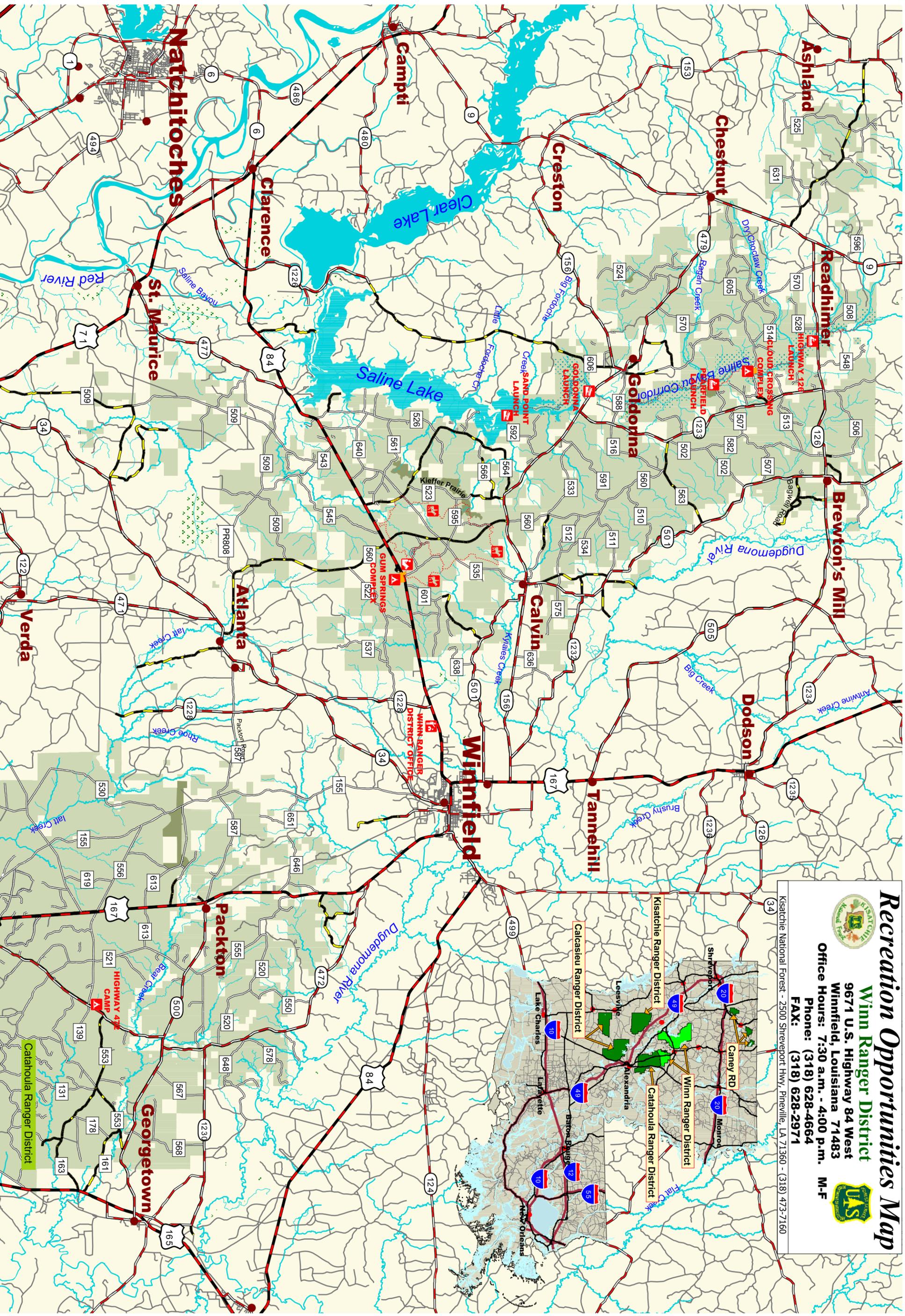


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Catahoula Ranger District