Stearns Office
3320 US 27 North
Whitley City, KY  42653
606-376-5323

Location
From Somerset, go south on US 27 for 25 miles or from Whitley City go north on US 27 for 1.5 miles to the Stearns office. Turn east onto Barren Fork Road 684 beside the Stearns Office for .25 miles.

Open Dates
Open all year.

Fees
No fees for trail use.
Barren Fork Camp is a U.S. Fee Area.

Accessibility
These trails do not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Water
Drinking water is available from five faucets in the campground. Nearby pond has water for horses.

Guides like this are available at fs.usda.gov/dbnf. 5/29/2014

Draft Trail #617 is located near Barren Fork Horse Camp on Stearns Ranger District. The trail begins at Barren Fork Road 684 and ends at Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail, Section 30. This trail follows an old logging road and powerline before entering the forest. It crosses a drain with a wooden bridge and then ascends to the ridgetop where it connects with the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail.

Parking: There is a pull-off to the left on 684 past the Stearns office or you may park at the Barren Fork Horse Camp or at the US 27 Sheltowee Trace trailhead.

Begins: Barren Fork Road 684
Ends: Sheltowee Trace Sect. 30
Length: .75 mile
Quad: Wiborg
Closest Town: Whitley City

Difficulty: Easy
Surface: Dirt
County: McCreary
Latitude: 36.78507
Longitude: -84.481972

Welcome To Barren Fork Area

This area was the site of a coal mining town operated by Barren Fork Mining and Coal Company from 1881 to 1935. Here they mined what was considered some of the best quality low sulfur coal in McCreary County. Over 100 families were thought to have lived and worked in the mining community. The mines were sold to Eagle Coal Company in 1895. The mines were closed in 1935 due to labor disputes. The land was then sold to the United States in 1936, but the minerals were reserved by the company and small mining operations continued until 1948. In this vicinity you may find the old foundations of some of the buildings that were part of the community.

You are responsible for your own safety.

All outdoor activities have inherent risks and you may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take precautions. Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/r8.