Mark Branch Trail, located on Stearns Ranger District on the Daniel Boone National Forest, begins by following Forest Service Road 6105 for the first mile before entering the woods. A trailhead sign to the right of the road marks the trail. The trail will go from ridgetop to streamside, through mountain laurel thickets and beside rock cliffs. After hiking 1.3 miles from the road, you will reach Mark Branch (the creek) and the connection to the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail.

| Begins: | Forest Service Road 6105 |
| Ends:   | Mark Branch |
| Length: | 1.25 miles |
| Quad:   | Bell Farm, Barthell SW |
| Closest Town: | Whitley City |

To Hemlock Grove trailhead: From the Stearns office, take US 27 south for 4.7 miles to KY 92. Turn right on KY 92 at the traffic light. Go 5.3 miles to KY 1363, turn left and go 11.4 miles to the end of the blacktop. Turn right on Forest Service Road 564. Go 1.2 miles and turn left onto Forest Service Road 137. Go 2.6 miles to the picnic area on the left. Parking At the trailhead on Forest Service Road 6105.

**Loop Trail Opportunity:** Mark Branch Trail, Gobblers Arch Trail, and Section 37 of the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail form a 5-mile loop. Begin at Forest Service Road 6105 and follow Gobbler’s Arch Trail until it intersects with the Sheltowee Trace. Follow the signs for the Sheltowee Trace that point toward Peters Mountain. You will hike through an old field that is now a wildlife opening. Follow the Sheltowee Trace until it intersects with Mark Branch Trail, which will be on your right. Follow Mark Branch Trail to Forest Service Road 6105. Turn left and follow 6105 to Forest Service Road 569.

**Open Dates**
Trail is open all year.

**Trail Fees**
None.

**Restrooms**
Vault toilets at Hemlock Grove Picnic Area.

**Accessibility**
This trail does not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

**Guides like this are available at fs.usda.gov/dbnf. 5/29/2014**
Storing Your Food and Trash in Bear Country

Food and trash storage is mandatory to reduce odors that attract bears. Unless cooking or eating, store your food inside a hardtop vehicle, the trunk of a car or a bear-resistant container. Store your food garbage in the same manner where trash cans are not installed. When camping in the backcountry hang your food at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet away from a tree.