



# Mark Branch Trail #635



Stearns Ranger District • Daniel Boone National Forest • Kentucky



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



**Directions**  
From US 27 in Whitley City, take KY 92 west. After crossing the Yamacraw Bridge over the Big South Fork River, turn south (left) on 1363. Follow the signs for Great Meadow Campground. At the intersection of Forest Service Road 562 and 139, go left, following 139 to Forest Service Road 569. Turn right onto 569. Go about 0.5-mile to Forest Service Road 6105 on the right.



**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.



Trails are closed to motorized vehicles.



Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.



Do not camp or build fires within 100 feet of the base of any cliff or the back of any rock shelter.

Guides like this are available at [fs.usda.gov/dbnf](http://fs.usda.gov/dbnf).  
5/29/2014



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 Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trail.

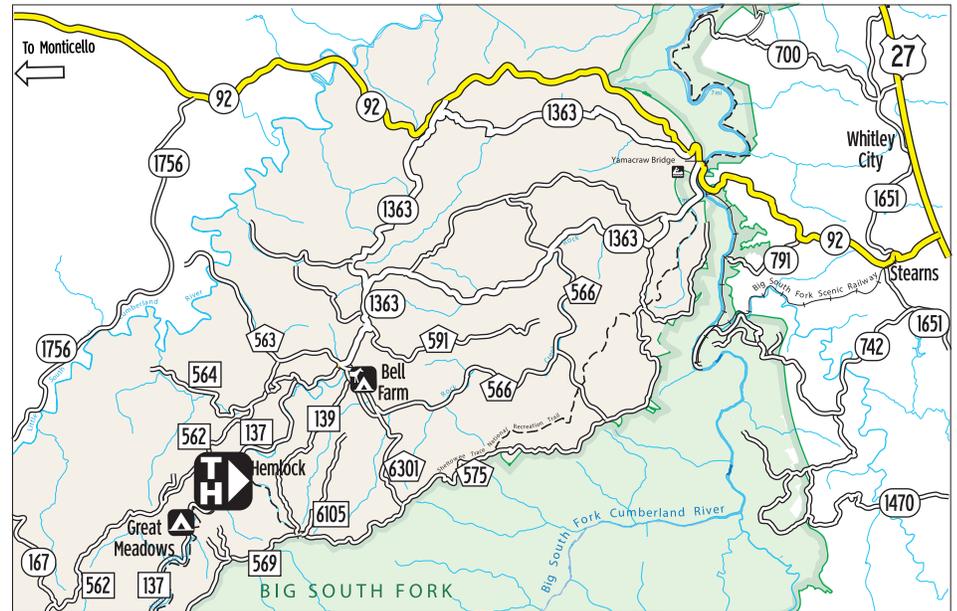
Begins:	Forest Service Road 6105	Difficulty:	More difficult
Ends:	Mark Branch	Surface:	Dirt
Length:	1.25 miles	County:	McCreary
Quad:	Bell Farm, Barthell SW	Latitude:	36.64522
Closest Town:	Whitley City	Longitude:	-84.710473

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 Sheltoewe 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 Sheltoewe Trace. Follow the signs for the Sheltoewe Trace that point toward Peters Mountain. You will hike through an old field that is now a wildlife opening. Follow the Sheltoewe 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.

**KNOW before you GO** 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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r8).



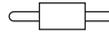
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service  
Southern Region - Daniel Boone National Forest  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>

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## Mark Branch Trail #635 Gobbler Arch Trail #636

Stearns Ranger District | Daniel Boone National Forest

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  575 State Road    |  National Forest Land      |
|  Forest Road       |  Big South Fork NRRRA Land |
|  Stream            |  Trailhead                 |
|  631 Trail         |  Campground                |
|  100 Shelton Trace |  Picnic Area               |

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

## 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.

