



# Barren Fork Horse Camp

Stearns Ranger District • Daniel Boone National Forest • Kentucky



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



**Location**  
**From Somerset**, go south on US 27 for 22 miles to the Stearns office, on your left. From Whitley City, go north on US 27 for 3.7 miles to the Stearns office on your right.

**From I-75:** Take exit 25 for US 25W toward Corbin. Turn right at US-25W S/Cumberland Falls Road and go 7.4 miles then take a slight right at KY 90 W. Go 20 miles and turn south onto US 27 for 5.7 miles to Stearns office.

Next to Stearns office, take Barren Fork Road for (Forest Service Road 684) 0.8 miles. Turn right at the split in road. Go 0.1 mile. to campground at right.



**Parking**  
At campsites. Day visitors must park in the overflow parking area.



**Open Dates**  
April 1 to Nov. 15.



**Hours**  
Campers only from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.



**Fees**  
U.S. Fee Area. Pay at site with fee envelope or buy a fee pass at the Stearns Ranger District office.

Barren Fork Horse Camp, located on Stearns Ranger District, is a popular campground for horseback riders who enjoy the forest setting. Several interconnecting trails provide miles of riding pleasure. The campground offers 40 campsites that accommodate horse trailers and RVs up to 35 feet. Campers without horses are welcome to camp here. There are no hookups or dump sites. Visitors can also enjoy fishing at a nearby pond.

The picnic shelter may be reserved for group-use by calling the Stearns office at 606-376-5323. Unless reserved, the shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

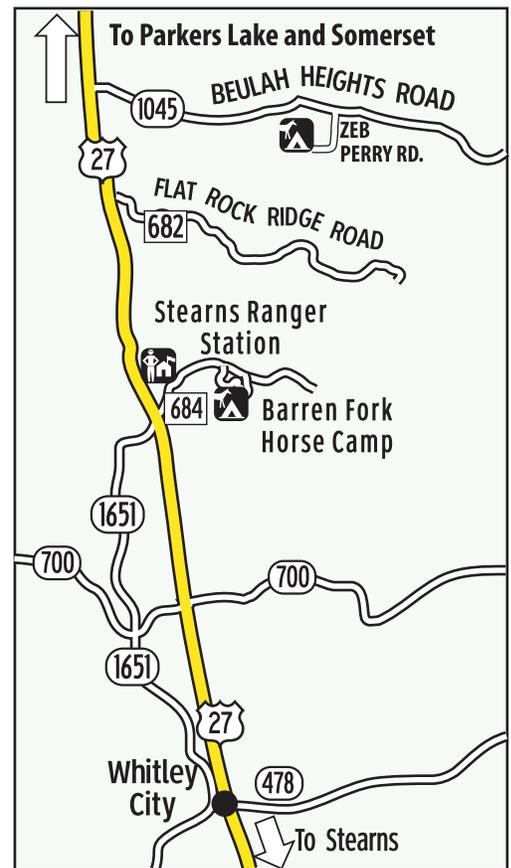
Closest Town: Whitley City      Latitude: 36.7756  
County:                    McCreary                    Longitude: -84.468033

## 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. Visit the Barren Fork Accessible Heritage Trail to see interpretive signs and the old foundations of some of the buildings that were part of the community.



John McPherson holding Rushin in front of Barren Fork Coal Tipple, about 1913. Photo from Reba Perkins.



Guides like this are available online at [fs.usda.gov/dbnf](http://fs.usda.gov/dbnf).  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service  
Southern Region - Daniel Boone National Forest  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>

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### Picnic Shelter

Available on first-come, first-served basis unless reserved. To reserve, call 606-376-5323.



### Picnic Tables

At shelter and some campsites.



### Restrooms

Accessible vault toilets.



### Trash Pickup

Bear-resistant bins.



### Campsites

41 campsites for horse trailers and RVs up to 35 feet.



### Accessibility

Area 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.



Do not tie horses to the trees. Use picket lines and corrals to secure horses.



Trails closed to motorized vehicles.



Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.



**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).

**Area Trails:** Arabian #622 (4 miles) and Canter #625 (2.75 miles) are close to the horse camp and connect with other trails such as the Sheltolee Trace National Recreation Trail Section 30 (10 miles), Belgian #624 (3 miles), Flat Rock Ridge #616 (1.5 miles), Draft #617 (.75 miles), Indian Creek #626 (1.75 miles) and North Flat Rock #627 (3 miles).



### Rules and Regulations

- Do not tie horses to the trees. Riding, hitching, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or back animal in violation of posted instructions is prohibited.
- All tents and equipment must be located within the designated site.
- All vehicles must be on marked sites. Use designated parking lots if available.
- Please thoroughly clean up manure, hay and garbage before you leave.
- Only two vehicles per campsite. The vehicles must be parked on gravel pull-ins. One of the vehicles at the campsite must display a pass. The pass must have both vehicle numbers listed.
- Use Forest Service fire rings for all fires. Your fire must be dead out before leaving.

## Storing Your Food and Trash in Bear Country

Unless cooking or eating, store your food and trash inside a hardtop vehicle, the trunk of a car or a bear-resistant container. When camping in the backcountry hang your food at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet away from a tree.

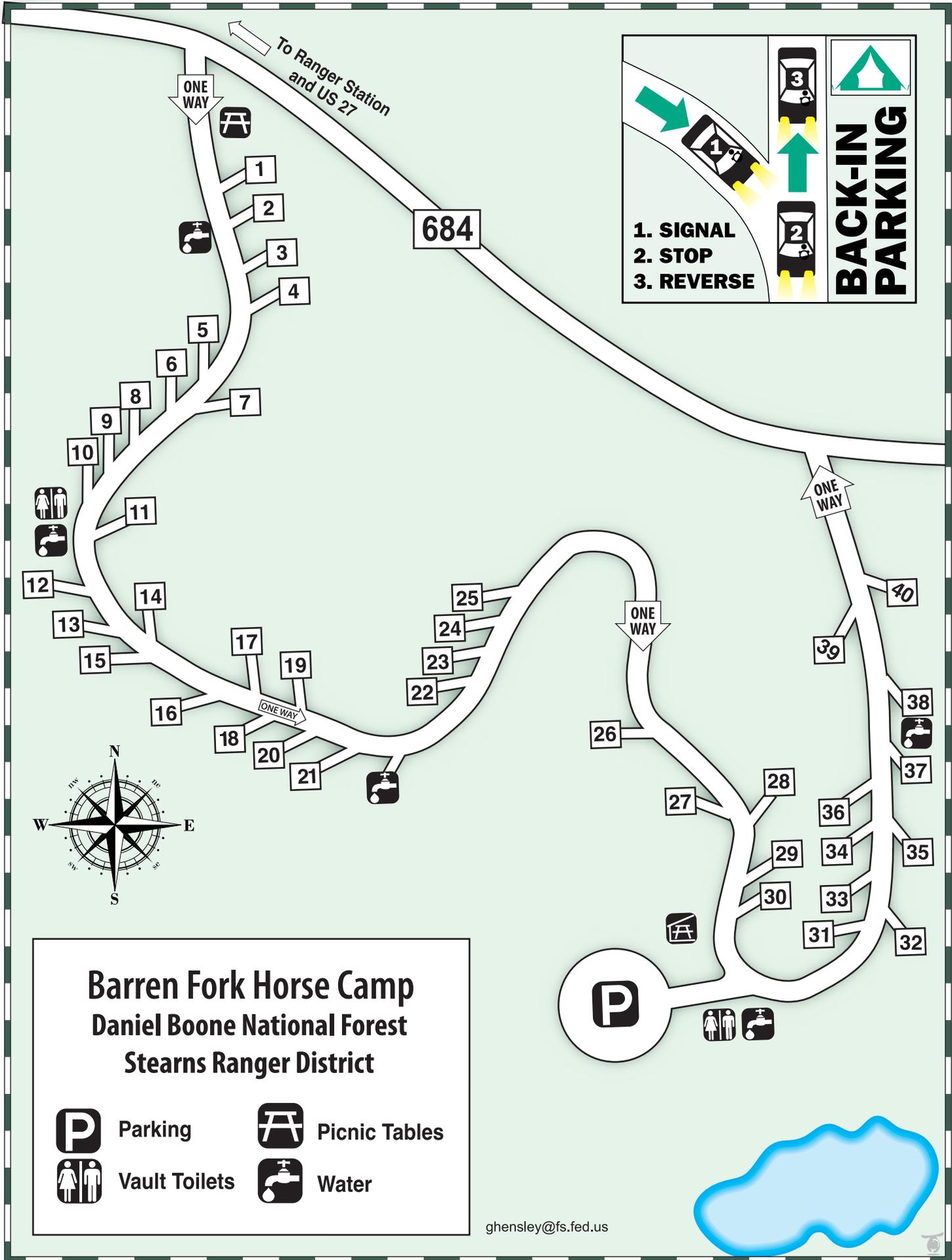
Food and trash storage is mandatory on the Daniel Boone National Forest.



### DO NOT ENTER MINES!

You may find mine portals in this area. Abandoned mine sites can be great safety hazards. Many of these structures contain dilapidated frames, open shafts, and water-filled pits. The dangers that are found in the mines include old explosives, hazardous chemicals, snakes, spiders, mice, and bats. Hazards include falls and cave-ins that could cause serious injury or death.





# Barren Fork Horse Camp

## Daniel Boone National Forest

### Stearns Ranger District

- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Vault Toilets
- Water

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