

Mark Twain National Forest

Missouri

Big Piney River



Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

August 25, 2012

Highlights

The Big Piney is the largest tributary of the Gasconade River and is rated as one of the best fishing streams, especially in the Smallmouth Bass Special Management Area. Numerous springs feed the river so that it is floatable throughout most of the year, except in especially dry years. It flows through Texas, Pulaski and Phelps counties, and has some very scenic stretches.

Activities:

Boating, floating, hunting and fishing are popular activities along the river. State regulations apply. Anglers may have good success in catching smallmouth, largemouth, and rock bass (or goggle-eye), as well as panfish. Floaters and boaters need to share the river, and respect the needs of other users.

If you are planning to spend the night along the river, you may camp on a gravel bar. If you camp on a gravel bar, make sure you are not on private land.

Safety:

Be prepared for expected conditions. Bring dry clothing, plenty of water and food for longer than you anticipate being on the river, sunscreen and bug repellent, as well as life jackets and/or other equipment recommended for your activities.

Remember that camping close to the river can be dangerous! A storm, miles away and unknown to you, can cause the river to rise quickly and without warning, flooding your camp, washing away your boat and other belongings, and cutting you off from safety. Be alert to changing conditions. Cell phone service along the river is limited and sporadic at best. Make sure someone knows where you are, and when you will return.

For More Information

Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District

108 S. Sam Houston Blvd.

Houston, MO 65483

Phone: (417) 967-4194 Fax: (417) 967-2524

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-4: 30 pm

Accesses to the Big Piney: Access on the National Forest includes Slabtown Recreation Area, East Gate Access, Crossroads Access along Highway J, and Booker Bend Access. MO Department of Conservation provides access at Baptist Camp, Dog's Bluff, Simmons Ford, Boiling Springs, Mason Bridge, and Ross Bridge. Private access may also be available.

Directions: Slabtown: From Licking MO take Hwy 32 west for 4 miles; turn north on Hwy N for 2.5 miles, then south on Hwy AF for 6.5 miles. **East Gate:** From Rolla, head west on Interstate 44; exit on Hwy J and head south about 8 miles. Follow signs to Fort Leonard Wood. Access is just east of the Big Piney River.

Fees: There are no fees for use of the river or accesses.

Facilities: Limited facilities available at each of the Forest Service access points: gravel ramps and parking areas, but no drinking water, tables or toilets.

General: Some of the land along the river is privately owned. Respect the rights of property owners. Pack out all your trash and leave the area as clean, or cleaner, than you found it.

Emergency Contacts: Sheriff or Ambulance: 911

Phelps Co. Regional Medical (Hospital) 573-458-8899



Vicinity Map

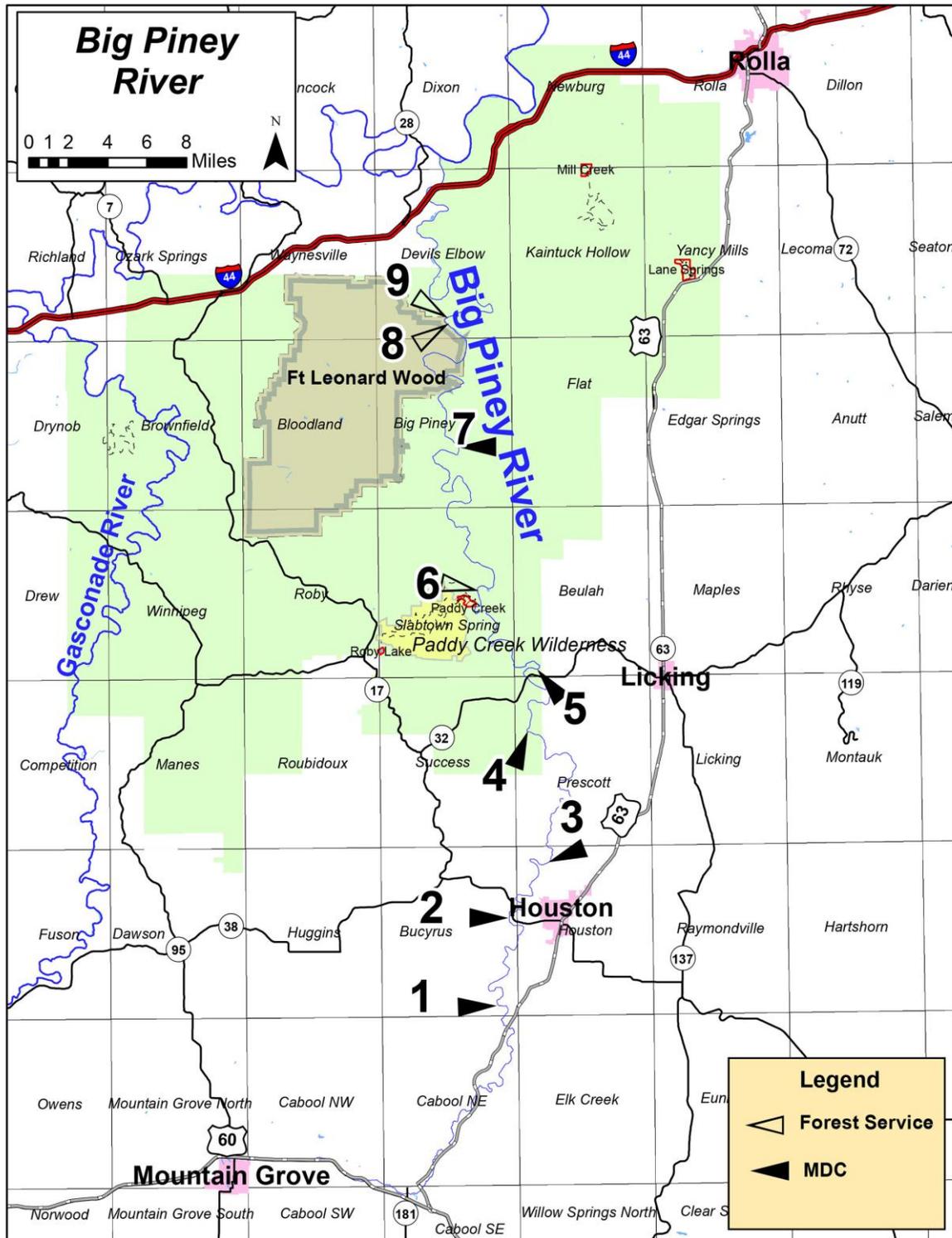
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401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>





1. Baptist Camp Access, low water bridge/no ramp
2. Dog's Bluff Access, on Highway 17
3. Mineral Springs Access
4. Boiling Spring
5. Mason Bridge
6. Slabtown Access
7. Ross Bridge
8. East Gate Bridge Access
9. East Gate River Access

*Note: access areas are impacted by high water/flooding events check on their conditions and/or make alternate plans.