



Outdoor Adventures

National Forests and Grasslands in Texas 2013

Welcome

The breathtaking beauty of the great outdoors is evident throughout the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

The Texas Pineywoods stretch from the urban landscape of Houston to the Louisiana border and are home to the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston National Forests.

These four national forests have an amazing diversity of plant and animal life scattered across gently rolling hills, hardwood bottomlands and world-class fishing lakes.

North of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex are the Lyndon B. Johnson and Caddo National Grasslands. Purchased by the government in the 1930s, these lands are made up of abandoned farms and ranches that suffered severe soil erosion but are now a thriving testament to proper land management.

Whether it's boating, fishing and swimming in the numerous lakes and reservoirs, or camping off the beaten path, the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas offer an experience like no other.



Experience our national treasures



Coral bean adds a splash of red to the forest.

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With a wealth of recreation activities within easy driving distance, more and more vacationers are discovering the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages more than 675,000 acres of public land in Texas consisting of four national forests and two national grasslands.

The four national forests in Texas are the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston.

The national grasslands are north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and include the Caddo and the Lyndon B. Johnson.

The National Forests in Texas provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including 25 developed recreation areas, nearly 200 miles of hiking trails, scenic areas, wilderness areas, an off-road vehicle trail and more than 100 miles of horse trails.

Camping is offered on a first come, first served basis in developed recreation areas. A daily use fee is charged at most areas.

Campground facilities generally include tent pads, picnic tables, parking spurs for trailers, lantern-holding posts, fireplaces, potable water and toilets. Some areas also have showers, electricity, swimming beaches, boat ramps, amphitheaters, interpretive trails and concession services.

Excellent opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing abound. The National Forests in Texas lie in the path of warblers, vireos and other species of neotropical migrants.

The Davy Crockett and Sam Houston National Forests are located where the pine forests of the Deep South join the blackland prairies. The result is a mix of eastern and western species of birds and other wildlife found nowhere else in the state.

The Sabine and Angelina National Forests are on the shores of Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn Reservoirs, two large lakes featuring fishing and other water sports. Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston offer water-related outdoor recreation opportunities on and near the Sam Houston National Forest.

Primitive camping is allowed

anywhere in the general forest area, except during hunting season or unless posted otherwise. All campers are encouraged to practice "leave no trace" camping, leaving an area in the same natural condition in which it was found.

The Caddo National Grasslands contains three lakes. The largest, Lake Coffee Mill, is 651 acres with a developed recreation area with 13 picnic units and a boat ramp.

Lake Crockett is 450 acres with two developed recreation areas; West Lake Crockett has 11 camping units, while the east side has picnic areas and a boat ramp.

The 45-acre Lake Fannin offers fishing from the east side and an earthen boat launch site.

In the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands, Black Creek Lake Recreation Area has picnic units, and a boat ramp.

Cottonwood Lake is north of Black Creek Lake and has a boat ramp, and connecting the two areas is the Cottonwood-Black Creek Hiking Trail with nearly 75 miles of multi-use trails near Cottonwood Lake.

Angelina National Forest

Located in the heart of the Pineywoods, the 153,160-acre Angelina National Forest spans Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine and Jasper counties. The forest lies in the Neches River Basin and on the north and south shores of Sam Rayburn Reservoir, a 114,500-acre lake on the Angelina River formed by the construction of Sam Rayburn Dam in the early 1960s.

The Angelina National Forest is in the upper Gulf Coastal general plain province where the terrain is gently rolling. Longleaf pine is predominant in the southern portion, while loblolly and shortleaf pine dominate in the rest of the forest.

Summers are hot and humid and winters generally are short and mild. The average annual rainfall is 46 inches.



History

Archeological sites document the evidence of man's presence as far back as 12,000 years in what is now the Angelina National Forest.

Of more recent vintage is the Aldridge Sawmill and town site on a spur of the Sawmill Hiking Trail south of Boykin Springs Recreation Area.

The Aldridge Sawmill was built in 1905 and by 1911, there were 76 buildings at Aldridge including houses, a warehouse, hotel, company store, and company offices. In 1918, the mill was sold to Kirby Lumber Company and continued to run on a limited basis until 1923 when it was closed.

The last of the township was abandoned in 1927, and the site was acquired by the U.S. Forest Service in 1935. Although the town's buildings and homes are gone, the shells of the four concrete mill buildings, various concrete foundations, the mill pond and portions of the old railroad tram still remain.

Hikers are welcome, but due to archeological concerns, off-road vehicles and horses are not allowed in the area.

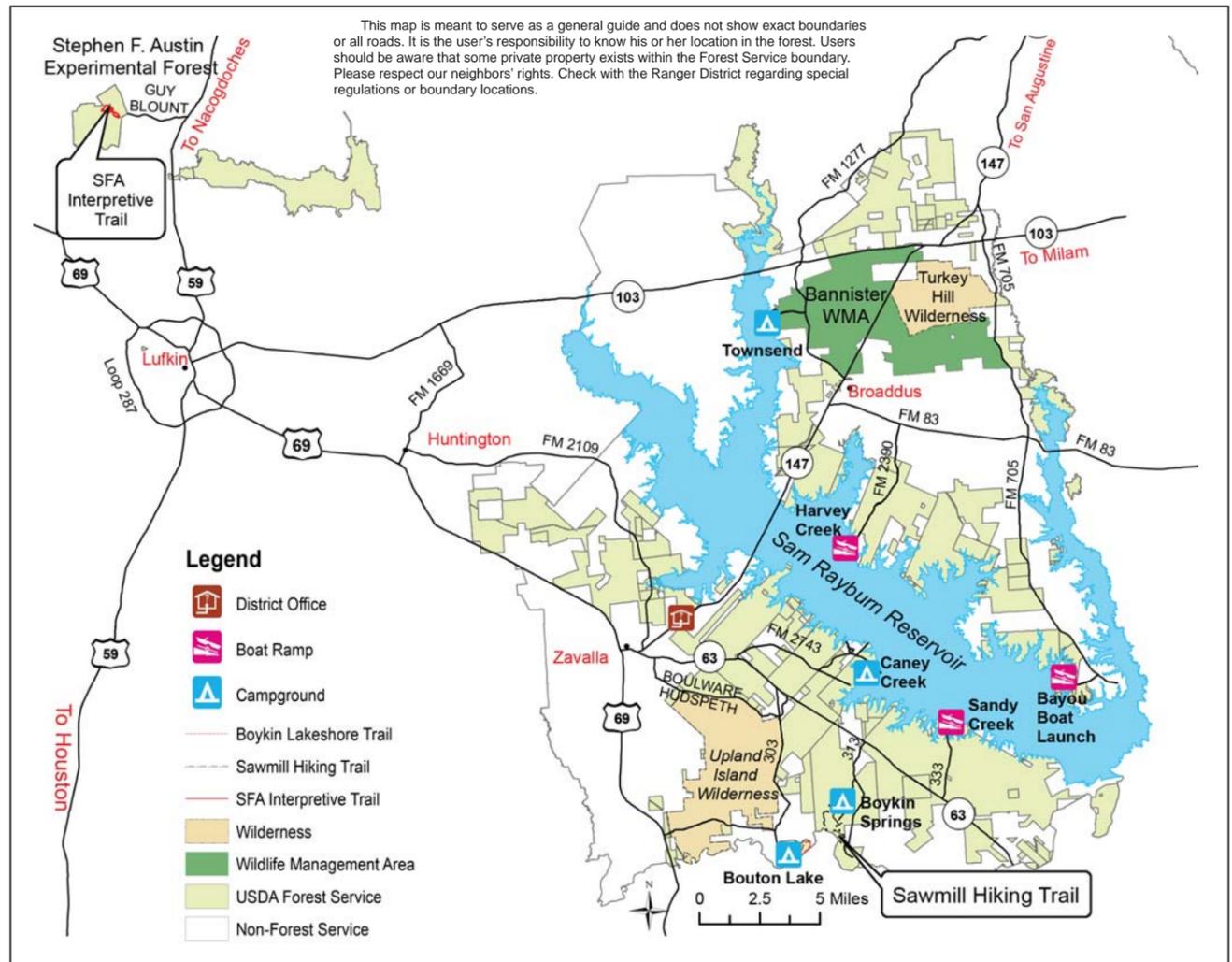
As a structure listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, no digging, collecting of artifacts, use of metal detectors, damaging or defacing of the site is allowed.

The Sawmill Hiking Trail follows along the abandoned tramway.



Sam Rayburn Reservoir

In the middle of the Angelina National Forest is the fishing, boating and skiing paradise that is Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Anglers are required to have a Texas fishing license and to follow state regulations concerning water sports.



Forest Service boat ramps are located at Townsend, Harvey Creek, Bayou Boat Launch, Sandy Creek and Caney Creek

Additional boat ramps are located at numerous U.S. Army Corps of Engineer parks on the reservoir.

Caney Creek also offers camping and picnicking on the shore of Sam Rayburn Reservoir, but be sure and bring drinking water

Boykin Springs

Boykin Springs Recreation Area was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita in 2005, but has undergone extensive renovations that have restored the historic picnic shelter and spillway to its classic 1930s era look.

Visitors to Boykin Springs will find the spillway has been reconstructed to look as it did when the Civilian Conservation Corps built it in the 1930s and the trees that had grown up around the dam and spillway are gone.

Bouton Lake

Bouton Lake Recreation Area is on a 12-acre natural lake near the Neches River. Completed in 1963, this area provides visitors with primitive camping, fishing and hiking amidst hardwoods and cypress trees.

Whether camping in a small RV or tent, visitors have seven sites to choose

from. Visitors should note that the west side of Bouton Lake is privately owned and trespassing is forbidden.

Wilderness

The 5,473-acre Turkey Hill and the 13,390-acre Upland Island Wilderness Areas were entered into the national Wilderness Preservation System by the Texas Wilderness Act of 1984. These areas were set aside to allow the earth's natural processes to shape and influence the areas allowing hunting, horseback riding and hiking. Bicycles and motorized equipment are not allowed.

Wildlife

Hundreds of wildlife species exist in the Angelina National Forest.

Principal game in the forest are deer, hog, squirrel, wild turkey, woodcock, quail, dove and duck. Hunters can enjoy hunting and fishing in accordance with state game laws.

Sam Rayburn Reservoir is a 114,500-acre lake where fish and waterfowl abound. The habitat also offers resting grounds for migratory birds before they fly south toward the Gulf Coast. A population of wood ducks remains in the forest year-round.

The 20,700-acre Bannister Wildlife Management Area is located north of Lake Sam Rayburn.

Objectives for the area are to:



- provide an area of multiple resource management with increased emphasis on wildlife management;
- develop and maintain population levels of various game species to provide an improved hunting opportunity;
- demonstrate wildlife/timber management coordination techniques, applicable to the Pineywoods of Texas.

Improvements include game stocking, water impoundments and forage planting.

During the winter, bald eagles have been seen soaring over the lake, perched on a flooded snag or in pines along shorelines.

The red-cockaded woodpecker is also found throughout the forest. This small woodpecker makes its home by pecking cavities in large, older living pine trees. The red-cockaded woodpecker was designated an endangered species in 1973, and wherever these birds are found, emphasis is directed toward providing the special habitat they require.

Timber

When the Angelina National Forest was established, most of the land was severely cut over, and almost no commercial timber was left standing.

Today, the Angelina is a second- or third-growth forest and most of the land is very productive for growing trees.

Timber management practices are used to provide quality habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as restore, enhance or maintain desired forest communities such as the longleaf pine or shortleaf pine-oak communities.

Davy Crockett National Forest

Named for the legendary pioneer, Davy Crockett National Forest contains more than 160,600 acres of woodland streams, recreation areas and wildlife habitat.

Located in Houston and Trinity counties, the forest is centrally located within the Neches River and Trinity River basins.

The Davy Crockett National Forest was proclaimed a national forest by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on October 15, 1936.

The Ranger's office is located in Ratcliff, on Highway 7.



Ratcliff Lake

Built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area surrounds a 45-acre lake. The lake was once a log pond and source of water for the Central Coal and Coke Company Sawmill that logged the area from 1902 to 1920.

The area offers visitors camping, picnicking, a swimming beach and bathhouse, concession stand, an amphitheater, an interpretive forest trail, showers, boating and fishing in a beautiful forest setting often featured in travel magazines.

The picnic shelters, amphitheater and camping sites with electricity and water may be reserved from the National Reservation System online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777. All other campsites are first-come, first-served.

Big Slough Wilderness Area

Wilderness is congressionally designated land that is managed to allow the earth's natural processes to shape and influence the area.

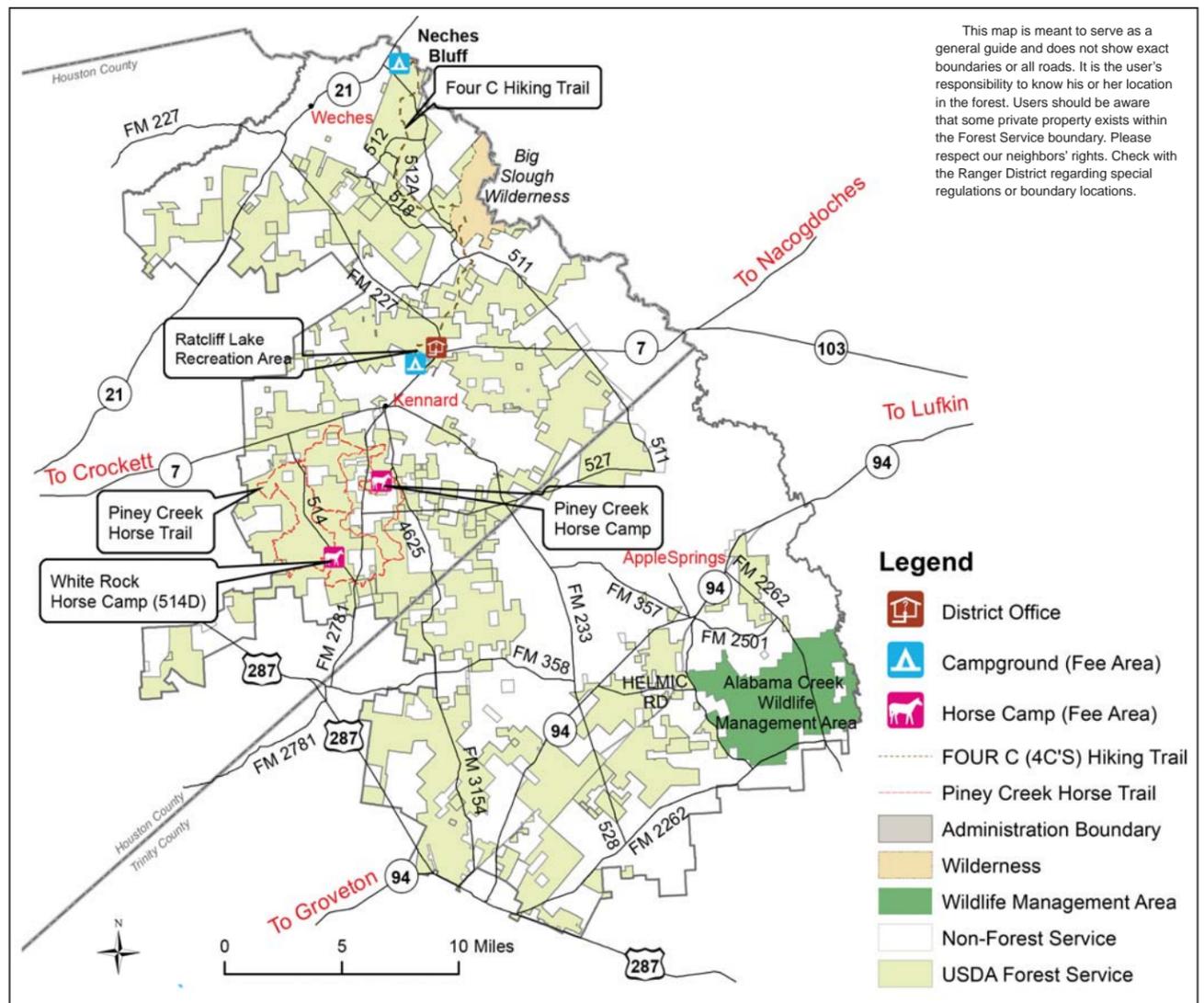
The 3,639-acre Big Slough Wilderness was set aside under the Texas Wilderness Act of 1984 and remains natural and pristine and to provide opportunities for solitude and challenge. The trees in the area are primarily hardwoods such as white oak, red oak, hickory, chestnut oak, cherry-bark oak, sweetgum, nutall oak and willow.

Hardwoods account for 66 percent of the area and about 26 percent is shortleaf and loblolly pine.



Four C Hiking Trail

The Four C Hiking Trail is a 20-mile trail that begins at Ratcliff Lake



Recreation Area and ends at the Neches Bluff Overlook. It was named one of the top 10 trails in Texas by Texas Monthly magazine.

Named for the Central Coal and Coke Company, the Four C Trail follows abandoned tramways.

Except for a one-mile segment through privately owned land, the Four C Trail stays on national forest land. The trail is marked with white rectangular tree tags.

A portion of the trail crosses the Big Slough Wilderness Area. This area is free of any development and offers the visitor solitude and primitive experiences.

Walnut Creek Campsite is located on a small ridge near Walnut Creek about midway on the trail, and the Pond Campsite is near mile 13 of the trail on the edge of a small man-made pond.

Spring and fall are the best seasons to experience the trail, but the trail can be hiked year-round. Extra care must be taken during hunting season (October through January) due to hunters in the area. Bright orange or other highly visible clothing should be worn. Camping is not allowed along the Four C Trail during hunting season.

The Four C Trail is a hiking trail and horses, bikes and off-road vehicles are not allowed. Care must be taken with fire, and users should carry out their trash. Trees, shrubs and plants should not be cut or removed, but left for others to enjoy.



Piney Creek Horse Trail

The Piney Creek Horse Trail meanders 54 miles through the Davy Crockett National Forest.

A \$10 per day fee covers camping at either of the two horse camps and use of the entire horse trail system. A self-service pay station is available at the site. The charge is per vehicle (for camping or trail use) even if vehicle is not parked at the camp area. An annual permit can be purchased for \$50 per vehicle at the Ranger's office.

Trail riding groups of more than 75 persons (including spectators) need a special-use permit and should contact the Ranger's office three months prior to the event.

The trail follows Forest Service roads, tram roads, pipeline rights-of-way, game trails and highways. It is mostly on national forest land, but there are crossings on private property and public roads.

Trailhead parking areas are at main access points on FS 566 and FS 514D, and all road crossings are well signed.

Triangular markers indicate the route. Use caution in wet weather since parts of the trail flood.

Usually by May the heat, ticks, mosquitoes and redbugs combine to make horseback riding and camping on the trail uncomfortable. The best seasons for using the trail are fall and spring, but insects can still be a problem, so insect repellent is recommended. And extra care should be taken during hunting season.

Camping is permitted anywhere along the trail or at one of the horse camps. Vault toilets are at each location but potable water and designated campsites are at the Piney Creek camp. Do not drink water from the streams.

There are trash receptacles at each horse camp. The "pack-it-in and pack-it-out" philosophy prevails.

Firewood is usually available on the trail (use dead and down wood only), and always be careful with fires.

Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area

A wide variety of wildlife exists in the national forest. Principal game includes squirrel, deer, quail, dove, turkey and waterfowl. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker lives within carefully managed habitat on the forest.

The Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area provides an opportunity for intensive wildlife management on 14,500 acres of the forest.

Sabine National Forest

The 160,806-acre Sabine National Forest is the easternmost of the four national forests in Texas and forms part of the boundary between Texas and Louisiana. The forest is situated on the western slopes of the Sabine River watershed within Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Jasper and Newton counties.

History

This ecologically diverse and rich forest environment has been inhabited for at least 12,000 years. The earliest inhabitants were nomadic hunters, traveling in family-sized units and seasonally drawing freely from the diverse fauna and flora found in this and adjacent regions.

When the first Europeans ventured into this area in the late 16th century, they encountered an agriculturally dependent native people inhabiting large villages, with complex religious and social orders governing their way of life. Spanish efforts to establish missions among the Caddo (whom the Spanish called Tejas) and settle this area in the 17th and 18th centuries were largely unsuccessful, as there were few conversions and frequent conflicts between the native inhabitants and the European immigrants. By the beginning of the 19th century, the Caddo were being moved out of their native homeland along the Sabine and Red Rivers. They were relocated to neighboring Oklahoma shortly after Texas gained statehood. Lasting evidence of the mission and settlement efforts of the Spanish is found in Nacogdoches and San Augustine and going eastward along the "El Camino Real" to Natchitoches and Los Adaes in western Louisiana.

The route which roughly parallels State Highway 21 has been recently designated as a National Historic Trail.

In the late 19th century, commercial timber operations moved into the Pineywoods seeking to replenish their profits by tapping the unharvested stands of virgin pine found here. Little concern for forestland conservation was shown during these early days.

By the second decade of the 20th century, railroad logging was at full-scale operation in the forests of East Texas. Soon, the lack of conservation practices and the increasing effectiveness of railroad-based logging led to virtually complete exhaustion of the timber resource, and the industrial timber operations moved to new areas.

The numerous relics of old railroad tramways are found in the Sabine National Forest – lasting evidence of this boom period of the early logging industry in Texas.

Today, the forests you see are second-growth or third-growth forests and are a result of federal forest management under the multiple-use and ecosystem management concepts.

Since 1905, the policy for management in the national forest system has been "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." In 1960, Congress passed the Multiple-Use-Sustained-Yield Act that



provided additional authority to the Forest Service, directing it to continue what it had been doing since 1905 – to give consideration to range, timber, wildlife and fish, soil, water and outdoor recreation.

Recreation

The eastern part of the Sabine National Forest outlines Toledo Bend Reservoir, the fifth largest man-made reservoir in the U.S. and a nationally known recreation attraction. Recreation developments adjacent to Toledo Bend Reservoir are extensive. Private facilities range from fish camps with marinas and primitive camping, to highly developed lodge and motel-type facilities. Outdoor recreation opportunities in the Sabine National Forest include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking.

There are approximately 51 private facilities on the Texas side of Toledo Bend Reservoir and 40 or more private developments on the Louisiana side.

Boating

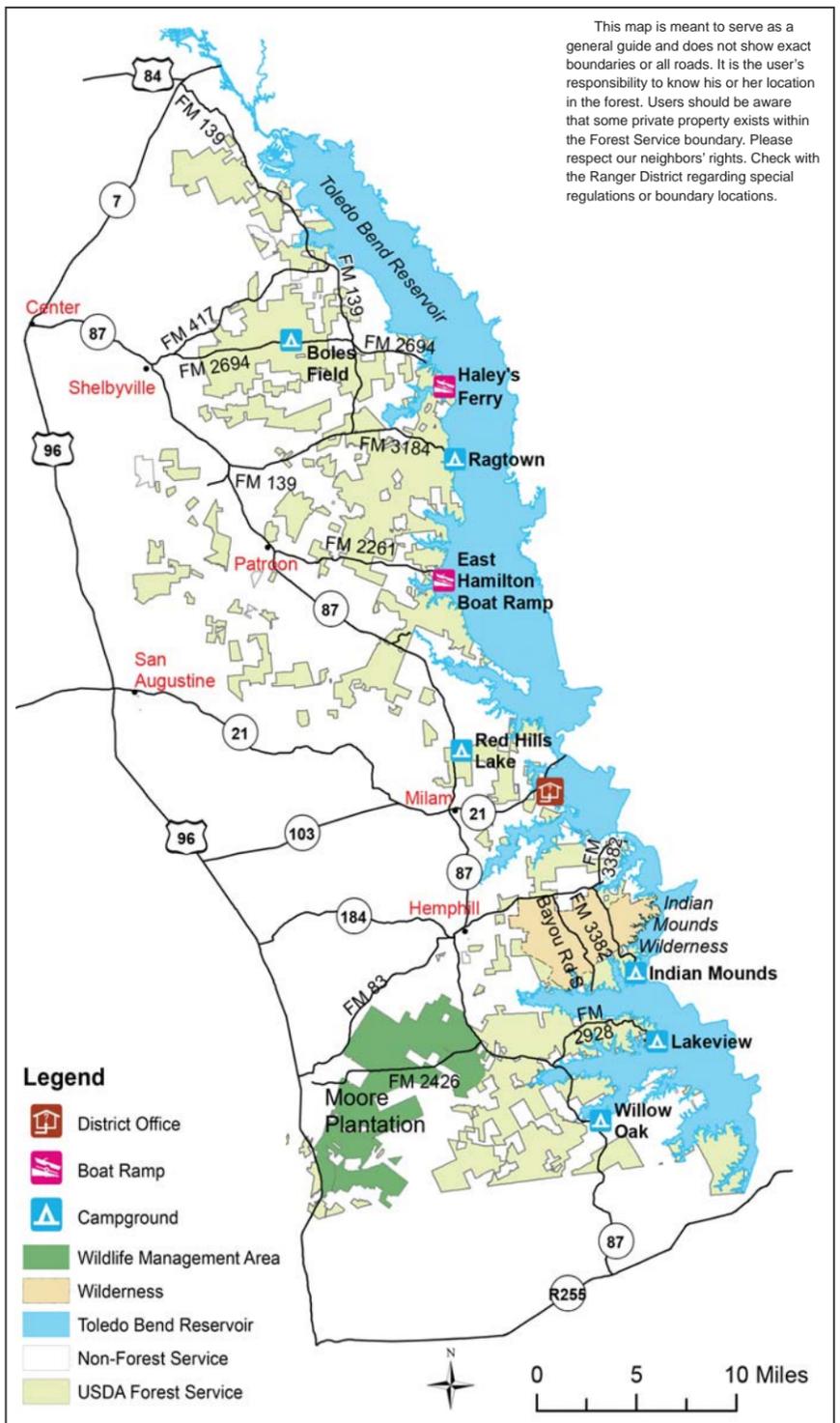
Toledo Bend Reservoir offers the best in fishing and scenic shorelines. The Forest Service and private businesses provide boat ramps at all major recreation areas and other selected spots on the reservoir, giving boaters a wide choice of access points to the lake.

Hunting and Fishing

The Forest Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department work together to offer prime habitat for game and fish populations in national forests. Moore Plantation is a 26,500-acre wildlife management area in Sabine County cooperatively managed by these two agencies. It is known for excellent deer hunting. Toledo Bend Reservoir is a nationally known bass fishing lake, and numerous tournaments are held here each year.

Wilderness

Indian Mounds is a 12,369-acre congressionally designated wilderness area set aside to allow the earth's natural processes to shape and influence the land. Hunting, horseback riding, and hiking are allowed. Bicycles, other



for dispersed or primitive camping throughout the forest.

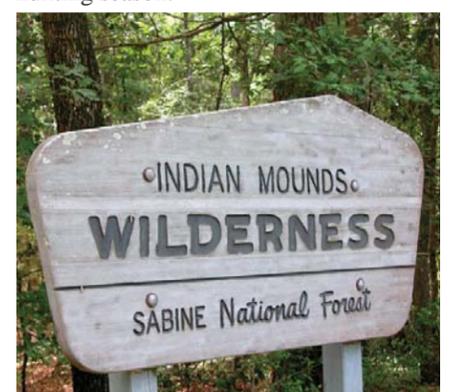
When camping outside the developed camping sites, be extremely careful with campfires and always carry out all trash.

Hiking

The forest is open to hiking, horseback riding and bicycles (no bicycles allowed in the Wilderness). If cross-

county is not your style, the many miles of roads through the woods are perfect for a scenic drive especially in the spring and fall.

Hiking is at its best in the early spring when the forest is filled with native wildflowers, or fall when the hardwood leaves change color. Be sure to wear highly visible clothing (hunter orange is best and must when hunting) during hunting season.



Caddo and Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands



The 17,873-acre Caddo and 20,313-acre Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) National Grasslands are located in north-central Texas, northeast and northwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in Fannin, Wise and Montague counties.

Before the federal government purchased them in the late 1930s, the grasslands were mostly abandoned farms and ranches suffering severe soil erosion from poor agricultural practices. Since 1955, the national grasslands in Texas, along with the national forests, have been managed by the Forest Service.

The national grasslands in Texas are part of the western and eastern cross-timbers vegetation type, with both hardwood forests and open grasslands. The national grasslands provide recreation areas and lakes for camping, swimming, hunting, fishing and habitat for wildlife.

Grasslands management restores native prairies and improves wildlife habitat and the Forest Service reseeds rangeland, provides water, builds and maintains fences and conducts prescribed burning.

Windmills and ponds provide water for livestock.

Oil and gas wells are a common sight on the Caddo and LBJ National Grasslands. The United States does not own all the mineral rights for these lands because a few of the sellers retained permanent mineral ownership.

The counties in which national grasslands lie receive 25 percent of the income from mineral leasing and royalties as well as from grazing permits, special land use fees and recreation fees. These funds are returned to the counties to be used for schools and roads.

Wildlife

White-tailed deer, small mammals, coyotes, bobcats, red fox, waterfowl, bobwhite quail, turkey and songbirds thrive in the diverse habitats provided by the grasslands.

Largemouth bass, blue, channel catfish and perch are common catches at the grasslands' many lakes.

In spring, migratory neotropical birds from Central and South America make their way across the grasslands, and wildflowers blanket the gently rolling hills in color.

Recreation

The national grasslands offer various facilities for camping, picnicking and other outdoor activities. Popular areas are East and West Lake Crockett Recreation Areas, Coffee Mill Recreation Area, Black Creek Recreation Area, Valley View Group Use Facility, TADRA Point Trailhead, Bois D'Arc Trailhead and Cottonwood Lake.

The historic 1930s recreation area, Lake Fannin on the Caddo National Grasslands, is a favorite place for reunions and receptions. The remodeled lodge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is available to the public through a special use permit issued to the Lake Fannin Wilderness Park Association. This group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to restoring and reopening the area to the public for recreation.

Recreation users on the national grasslands should be extremely careful with fire because the prairie grasses can be highly flammable.

TADRA Multi-Use Trail - LBJ

The 75-mile TADRA Multi-Use Trail is open to horseback riding, mountain biking and hiking. Access to the trail is provided by the TADRA Point Trailhead, Valley-View Group Use Campsite and numerous dispersed campsites.

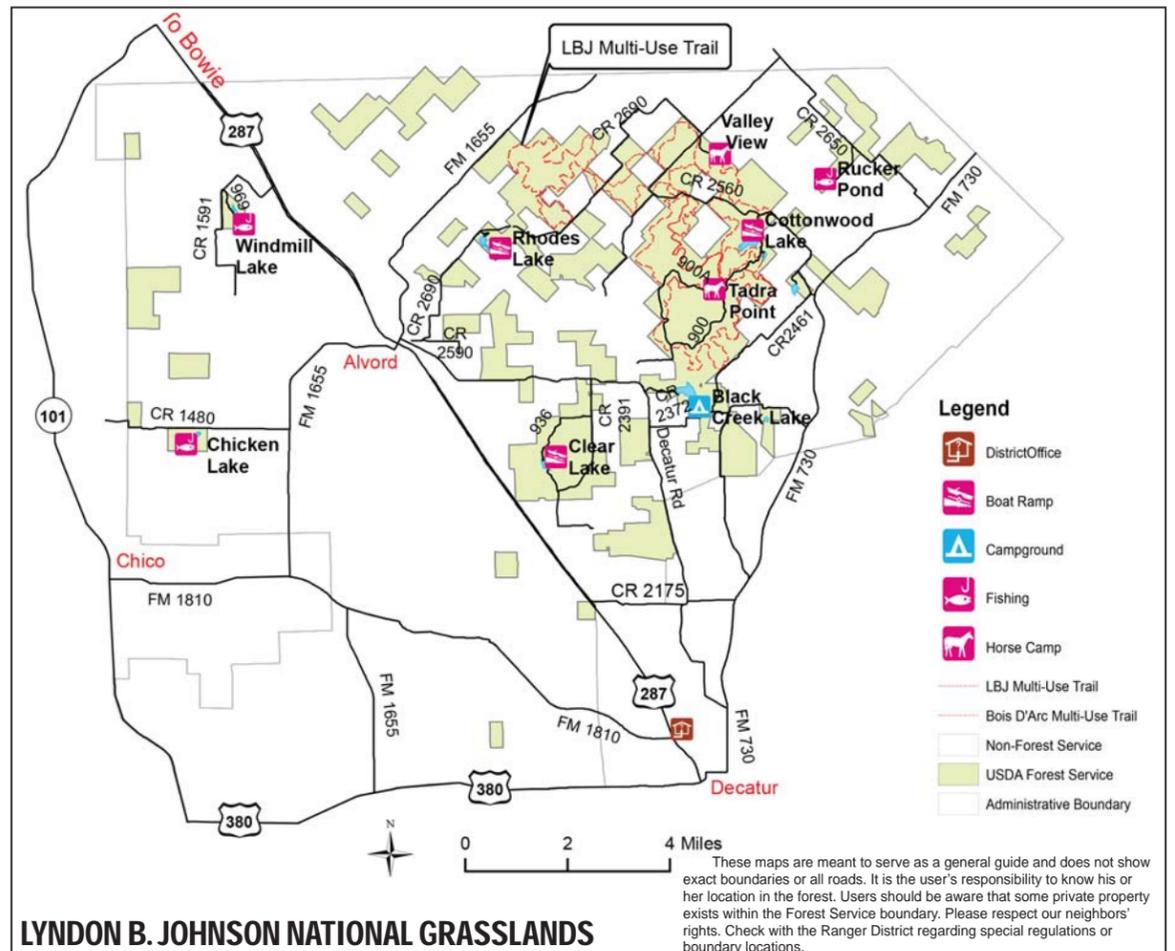
The trail system consists of five loops that begin and end at TADRA Point. Additionally, open areas of the grasslands are popular for cross-country horseback riding. Because soils on the LBJ and Caddo Grasslands are susceptible to erosion, vehicle travel is restricted to designated roads.

Bois D'Arc Multi-Use Trail, Caddo

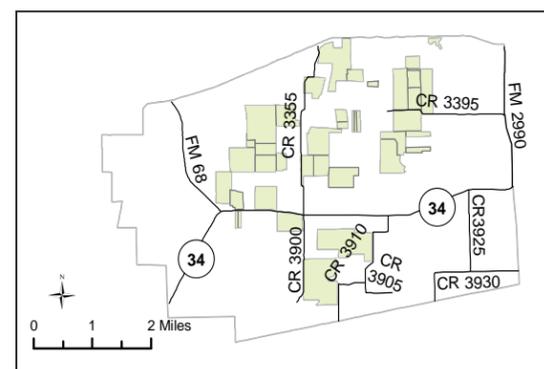
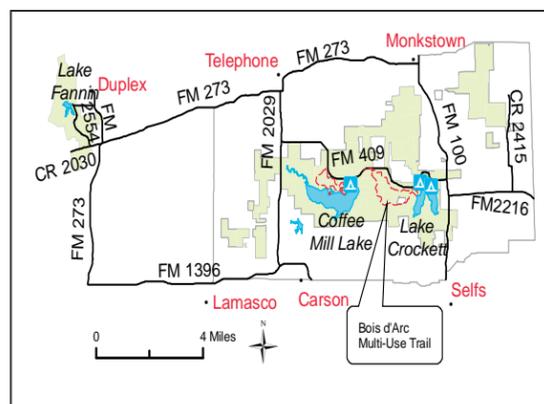
The trail system consists of three loops that begin and end at the Bois D'Arc Trailhead. The trail is 28 miles and offers views of Coffee Mill Lake and Crockett Lake.

Caddo Wildlife Management Area

A diverse habitat among the grasses and trees of the area attracts small mammals, red and gray fox, waterfowl, gulls, quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey



CADDO NATIONAL GRASSLANDS



and a variety of other birds. Visitors have excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography.

The 16,240-acre area attracts many hunters, other visitors and wildlife. Deer hunters are required to have a public hunting big-game permit.

Fishing

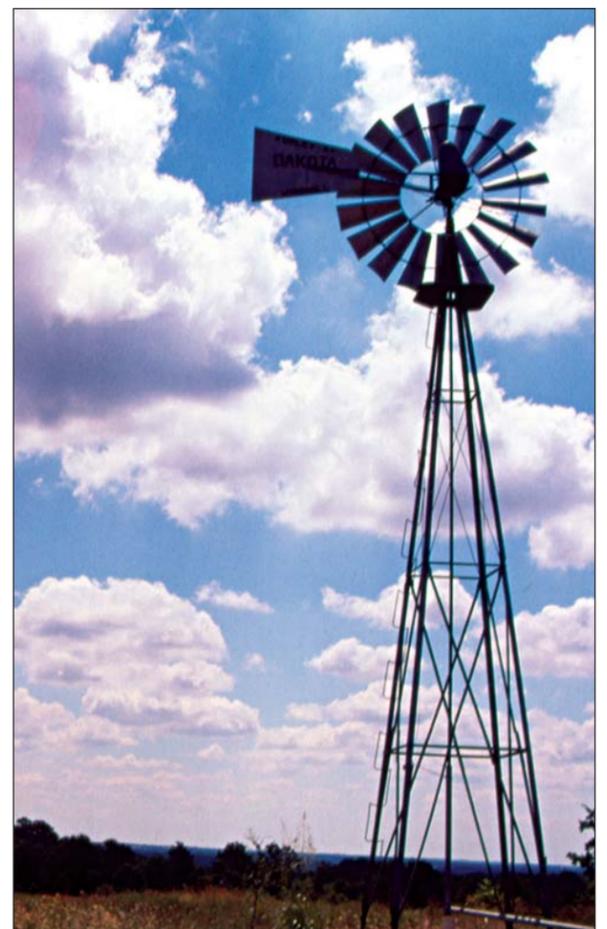
There are approximately 400 lakes and ponds, ranging from less than an acre to more than 40 acres on the LBJ National Grasslands. Most of the lakes were stocked upon completion, and the larger ones are stocked periodically with catfish.

Lakes with boat launches include Black Creek, Cottonwood, Clear and Rhodes lakes, but caution is advised as some ramps are primitive.

Catfish, largemouth bass and perch are common catches at most of the lakes and ponds. Crappie have been caught on Black Creek, Cottonwood and Clear lakes. In addition, there are numerous small ponds that are not accessible by road that offer great opportunities.

In Wise County, the 30-acre Black Creek Lake is a developed recreational site with picnic spots, walk-in campsites, a concrete boat ramp and a four-mile hiking trail. It is located off CR 2360 and CR 2461 with access from FS 902. Primitive camping is allowed off FS 922.

Cottonwood Lake is approximately 40 acres with a



Windmills are a common sight in the grasslands.

concrete boat ramp. Little Cottonwood Lake, located 300 yards to the southeast, is 10 acres. Both lakes can be reached from FS 900, which runs between CR 2560 and CR 2474.

The 18-acre Windmill Lake is for fly fishing only, and is located off CR 1591.

The 750-acre Coffee Mill Lake, off FM 409 in Fannin County, has a paved boat ramp, tent camping and limited RV space.

Lake Crockett is a 450-acre lake stocked with catfish, sunfish, crappie and bass. The east side offers a paved boat ramp, fishing pier, camping, a picnic area and restrooms. There is no room for RVs due to limited space. The west side does accommodate RVs and has 12 campsites and hiking trails. Entrances to both the east and west sides are off FM 409.

Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest

The Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (SFAEF), located eight miles southwest of Nacogdoches, offers quiet refuge to all who seek the natural enchantment of a forest experience. Tucked away in the heart of the Pineywoods, the forest is bordered on its southern and eastern boundaries by the Angelina River and the Alazan Wildlife Management Area.

The SFAEF is a 2,560-acre tract consisting of approximately 1,800 acres of mature bottomland hardwood with the remainder being southern pine and mixed pine/hardwood forest.

Part of the Angelina National Forest, SFAEF is administered by the Southern Research Station through its Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory in Nacogdoches.

Since its adoption into the national forest system in 1945, the primary objective of the experimental forest has been wildlife and timber management research.

The site is also used as an outdoor classroom in the study of forest ecosystems for students majoring in forestry, wildlife management, forest recreation and environmental science. In 1990, management objectives for the SFAEF were expanded to include educational and recreational opportunities for the general public.

The Interpretive Trail System

Completed in the summer of 1997, the forest's innovative interpretive trail system represents the commitment of the Forest Service to meet the changing needs and perspectives of society.

Unique in its concept and design, it features the first major trail in this region designed and constructed for universal accessibility. Two separate loops, spanning a distance of 2.9 miles, take visitors into some of the most dynamic and scenic areas of the forest.

Jack Creek Loop

Jack Creek is a cool, clear, spring-fed perennial stream which serves as the centerpiece for this loop. Traversing gentle slopes along the banks of the creek, this barrier-free, 0.8-mile surfaced trail provides universal access to a mature mixed forest where 100-year-old pines and hardwoods still stand stalwart against the rush of modern time.

The rich moist soils along the creek support diverse vegetation that is dominated by large, old hardwoods that offer a soothing environment for exercise as well as opportunities for quiet reflection and relaxation.

Since these trees also provide cover and food, which support many species of birds and mammals, wildlife viewing (especially birding) is an inherent part of the unobtrusive visitor's experience.

Management Loop

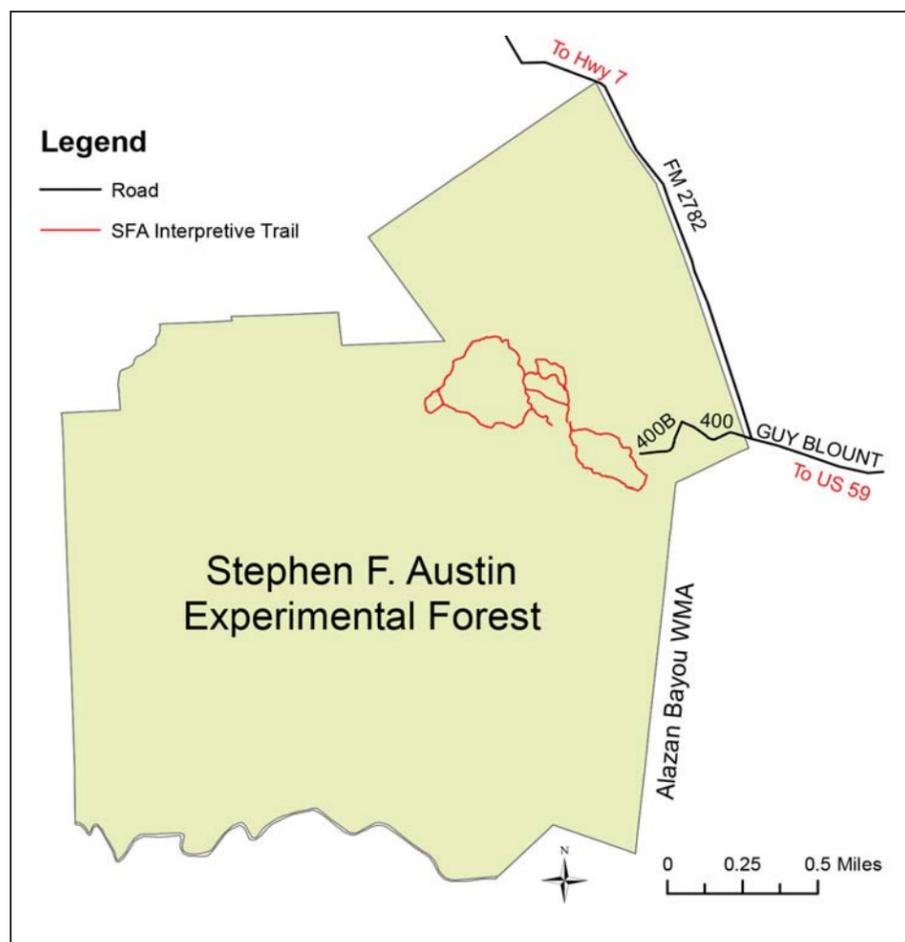
As environmental issues become increasingly a part of public awareness and concern, the Forest Service is taking the initiative to provide and promote conservation education.

Experiential learning opportunities offered in a living outdoor classroom are geared toward fostering respect for our forest resources and appreciation of sound management principles.

Winding two miles through five different units on the forest, this loop provides visitors a chance to view an array of forest management practices at



The Stephen F. Austin Interpretive Trail offers universal accessibility.



various stages of process.

Not just a path through the forest, the trail is like a corridor through time. Integrated into the management objectives for each different area, it permits visitors to witness firsthand the forest's response to various treatments across the years.

General Information

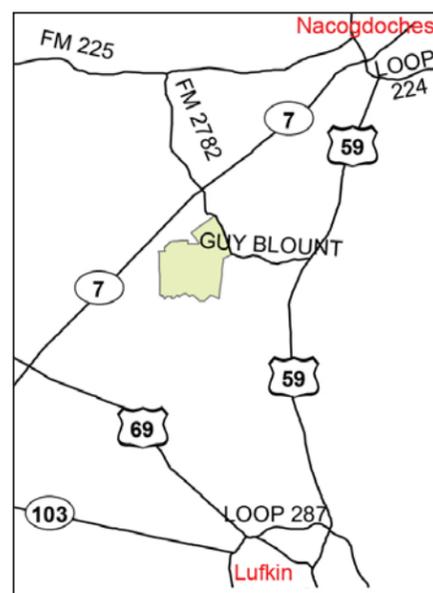
Approximately half of the more than 300 species of birds which are common to this area of Texas are found in the forest.

More than 80 species of butterflies add color and quiet beauty, while the anticipation of catching a glimpse of one of the roughly 30 indigenous mammals makes each visit exciting for wildlife lovers.

The temperate climate permits year-round use of the trail and allows visitors to appreciate the beauty each season brings.

Binoculars and cameras can enhance lasting memories.

Visitors may wish to bring their own water, as fountains are available only near the parking area. Insect repellent is advised from May through September.



The parking lot provides both handicap and bus spaces, and shaded picnic tables are adjacent to the parking area.

Accessible restrooms are available. Pets must be kept on leashes and firearms are prohibited.

How to Recognize National Forest Land

Maps commonly show proclaimed national forest boundaries. However, all land within this boundary is not national forest land; some is privately owned. The land shown in green on the maps indicate national forest land.

Red paint and signs mark the boundaries between national forest land and private property. Recognition of these markings and boundary signs helps the visitor to be certain to stay on national forest land.

Visitors should comply with state law and the owner's rules when entering private land.

Entrance (portal) signs. These signs can be seen along major roads entering the national forests, usually on the first tract of government land encountered. Generally, portal signs are not used on low traffic volume roads.

Welcome signs. These signs are located on or just inside the boundaries or individual tracts of national forest land where the road enters. The sign will be oriented so that the land behind the sign is public land. Generally, they are not used on dead-end or woods roads or on small blocks of public land.

Upon entering woods on public land, welcome signs will not be present and the visitor should rely on property line markings and boundary signs.

Property line marking and boundary signs. The boundaries of individual national forest tracts adjacent to other ownerships are marked with brown and yellow property boundary signs.

The small metal boundary signs are fastened either to trees or posts located on the boundary line and at road crossings, and the signs are placed so that public land is behind the sign. Red paint spots on trees define the boundary line through woods.

While the majority of boundaries are identified and posted, occasionally visitors may encounter an area where signs have been vandalized or lines are not yet marked. In these cases, visitors should be alert to avoid accidentally trespassing on private land.

For More Information

Angelina
National Forest
111 Walnut Ridge Road
Zavalla, TX 75980
936-897-1068



Davy Crockett
National Forest
18551 Hwy. 7 East
Kennard, TX 75847
936-655-2299



Sabine
National Forest
5050 Hwy. 21 East
Hemphill, TX 75959
409-625-1940
Toll Free: 866-235-1750



Sam Houston
National Forest
394 FM 1375 West
New Waverly, TX 77358
936-344-6205
Toll Free: 888-361-6908



Caddo/LBJ
National Grasslands
1400 US 81/287
P.O. Box 507
Decatur, TX 76234
940-627-5475



Maps and general information
can be obtained from:

Forest Supervisor's
Office
National Forests and
Grasslands in Texas
2221 North Raguet St.
Lufkin, TX 75904
936-639-8501
TDD: 936-639-8560



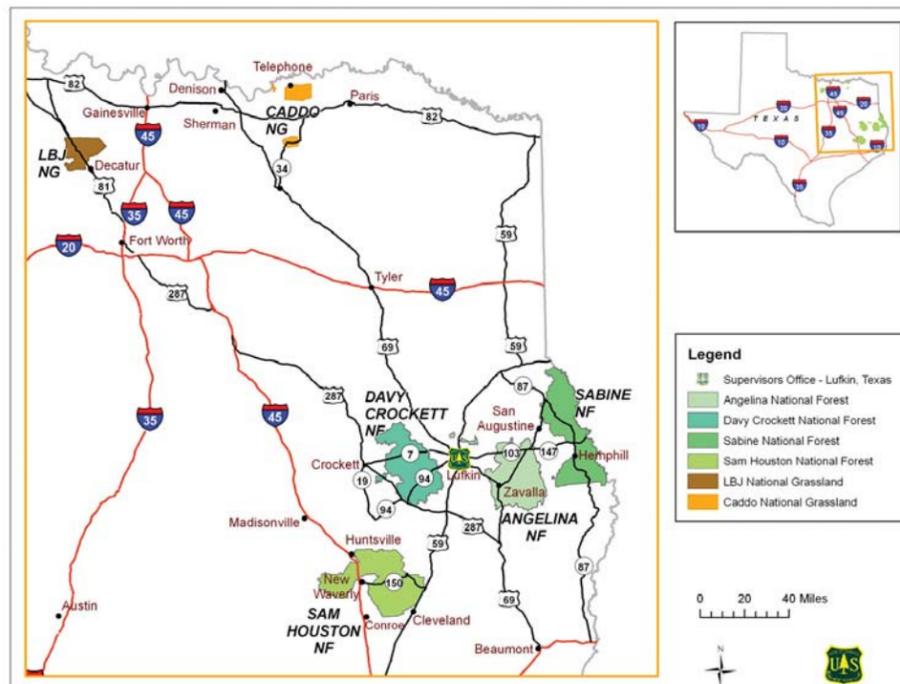
Sam Rayburn Reservoir
U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Route 3, Box 486
Jasper, TX 75951
409-384-5716



Toledo Bend Reservoir
Sabine River Authority
Route 1, Box 270
Burkeville, TX 75932
409-565-2273



Texas Parks
and Wildlife Department
Old Texas Plaza
4100 S. Medford Dr.
Suite 204B
Lufkin, TX 75901
936-632-1311
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/



The red-cockaded woodpecker makes its home in pines throughout the National Forests in Texas.

Camping

Developed recreation areas offer conveniences such as showers, restrooms and picnic facilities.

Primitive camping is allowed except in designated scenic areas or where otherwise prohibited.

During hunting season – September through January – camping is permitted only in designated camps in the Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston National Forests. For safety's sake, always wear hunter orange during hunting season.

Pack drinking water, maps, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, raincoat, and a first-aid kit.

Don't rely on your cell phone. There is minimal cell coverage in national forests.

Camping in the national forests is limited to 14 days during a 30-day time period.

Nature's Hazards

Copperhead, Canebrake rattlesnake, Cottonmouth, Coral and Pigmy rattlesnake are five poisonous snakes native to this area of Texas. All have triangular-shaped heads and slit-shaped pupils. Of course the best way to deal with an encounter with a snake is to not get close enough to see its eyes!

Leave snakes alone. Be careful when walking in tall grass or other places where you cannot see your feet.

Ticks and chiggers are common insects found in the woods. Ticks attach themselves to your body and can transmit diseases. If you find one on you, gently pull it off, record the date on your calendar, and notify your doctor. Chiggers, also known as redbugs, cause you to itch and are more of an irritant than a danger. Avoid sitting in grasses and directly on the forest floor, especially in pine needles. Use insect repellent.

Poison ivy makes most people break out in an itchy rash. The oils on this plant can cause an allergic reaction, with or without leaves. It is active in all seasons. The vine has roots or little hairs on it throughout the year. This, and the fact it has three leaves, is an easy way to identify the plant. Remember, "Leaves of three, let it be!"

Our national forests are a refuge for wild animals, such as bears, alligators and venomous snakes. Wild animals can be upset by human presence and can unexpectedly become aggressive. Feeding wildlife causes dependence on campers, an increase in camper disturbance and interaction, and can make wildlife more aggressive. Do not give them a reason or an opportunity to attack. Always keep your distance. Your safety is your responsibility. Observe wildlife only from a distance.

Firearms

No discharge of firearms is allowed in developed recreation areas, across from or within 150 yards of all roads, trails and camps where people are likely to be. State laws apply to all firearm use.

Motorized and Off-highway Vehicles

The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas has implemented the Travel Management Rule that requires all registered motor vehicles to be limited to designated roads shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). Depending on seasonal use, the roads on the map will be open to licensed street-legal vehicles.

OHVs riding is allowed only on the Sam Houston National Forest designated OHV trail. The 85-mile Multiple-Use Trail allows motor vehicles less than 50 inches wide. Call the Sam Houston Ranger Office at 936-344-6205 before you visit to determine if the trail is closed due to water on the trails.

Hiking, bicycling and horse back riding also are allowed on the trail.

Visit our website for MVUM maps and additional information, or call or visit the ranger's office of the forest where you are visiting (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Volunteering to help maintain trails is a great way to show your support and get involved. Contact your local Forest Service office to see how you can help.



State Regulations for OHVs

All OHVs driven on public lands in Texas (or on lands purchased through Texas Recreational Trails Grant funding) must follow these state guidelines:

- Display a current Texas OHV decal available for \$16 from Texas Parks and Wildlife. For more information on the OHV decal, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/ohv/
- Take an ATV Safety Rider Course and carry your certificate (call 1-800-887-2887 for information).
- Wear a D.O.T. approved helmet and eye protection.
- Do not carry passengers
- Operators under 14 years of age must be under direct supervision of parent or guardian.

Mercury Warning

Largemouth bass in Ratcliff and Boykin Springs Lakes have shown elevated levels of mercury. This is a common occurrence in area lakes. Sources may be natural and made soluble by naturally acidic soil and water. Only largemouth bass and bowfin are affected. Sunfish and channel catfish do not accumulate significant levels of

mercury due to their food habits.

Please observe the Texas Department of Health's advisory for similar lakes in the area. Adults should limit consumption of largemouth bass from these lake to no more than two eight-ounce meals per month. Children should limit consumption of largemouth bass from this lake to no more than two four-ounce meals per month.

Target Practice

There are no target practice areas in the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas except for a designated area in the LBJ Grasslands which is open to clay pigeon shooting with shotguns.

Bringing Your Dog

In campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and trailheads, your dog must be on a leash no longer than six feet and under control at all times. If you tie your dog, find a shady spot and give him a lot of attention to minimize barking which could disturb other forest visitors.

Maps

Maps and general information for each of the forests and grasslands may be purchased from ranger offices or the forest supervisor's office in Lufkin.

These maps are good for determining locations of roads, trails and other recreational sites on the districts.

Forest maps are \$10 each and wilderness maps are \$4 each.

Order forms are available on the Web at: www.fs.usda.gov/texas

Or call 936-639-8501 for more information and for postage and handling charges.



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region

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