

# Mark Twain National Forest

*Missouri*

## Rockpile Mountain Wilderness Trail

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Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

May 13, 2013

### Highlights

A Wilderness is a special area set aside by Congress which “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable...” This 4,238 acre Wilderness takes its name from an ancient circle of granite rock, piled by some earlier man on top of the mountain. Scenic attractions include Rockpile Mountain itself, the steep limestone bluffs and rock formations. It is within the St Francois Mountains, one of the oldest landforms in North America. The narrow gorges or “shut-ins” with rushing cascades during periods of runoff and the scattered granite glades add variety to the wilderness landscape, as well as unique plant and animal communities. White tailed deer, wild turkeys and squirrels can be found.

### Trail

This trail leads to the heart of the Rockpile MTNF Wilderness. Trails in wilderness are primitive with few markings or improvements. Be sure to take a map and compass. There are only 2 miles of maintained trail within the wilderness area open to hiking and horseback riding. The rest of the area is accessed by old woods roads or cross country exploration. The area is rugged and is for experienced hikers only. Before you start, be prepared with adequate supplies; water sources within the Wilderness are not recommended for drinking. The area has no significant permanent water except for the St. Francois River which touches the area along the southwest corner. Drainages within the area are intermittent, flowing only in times of surplus rainfall.

### Contact for More Information

Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District  
10019 Highway 8 West, Potosi, MO 63664  
Phone: (573) 438-5427 Fax: (573) 438-2633  
Hours Monday thru Friday 8AM- 4:30PM

**Directions:** From Fredericktown, MO, south on Hwy 67, right on Hwy C for 10 miles, right on County Road 406, left on Forest Road 2124 to Little Grass Mountain Trailhead.

**Difficulty Level:** More Difficult

**Length:** 2 miles

**Best Seasons:** Fall, winter, spring

**Restrictions:** Foot and Horse only, maximum group size 10. No motorized or mechanized transportation permitted.

**Safety:** During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Get weather information prior to hike. Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

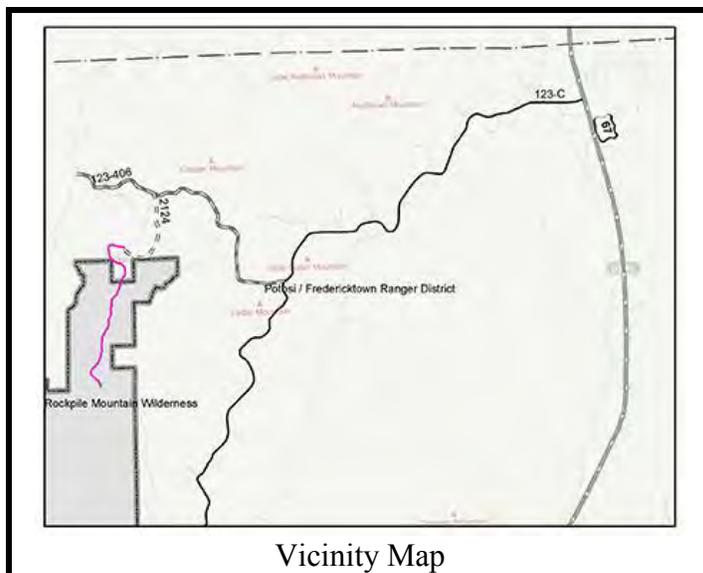
**Other Recreation Activities:** Backpacking, bird watching, photography, wilderness camping.

**Emergency Contacts: 911**

Madison County **Sheriff:** (573) 783-2234

Madison Co. **Ambulance:** (573) 783-7900

Madison Co. **Medical Center:** (573) 783-3341



Vicinity Map



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**Mark Twain National Forest**

401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

[www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf)



LEGEND

-  Wilderness Boundary
-  Forest Boundary
-  Private Land/Other Ownership
-  Hiking Trail
-  Trailhead

