



Role of the USDA Forest Service

National forests are America's great outdoors. The job of Forest Service managers is to help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the resources for generations to come. Each forest has a land management plan depicting the multiple uses of the forest and planned sustainability for resources like water, wilderness, plants, wildlife, wood and recreation. Wilderness areas are highly protected for their natural state with reduced human influence.

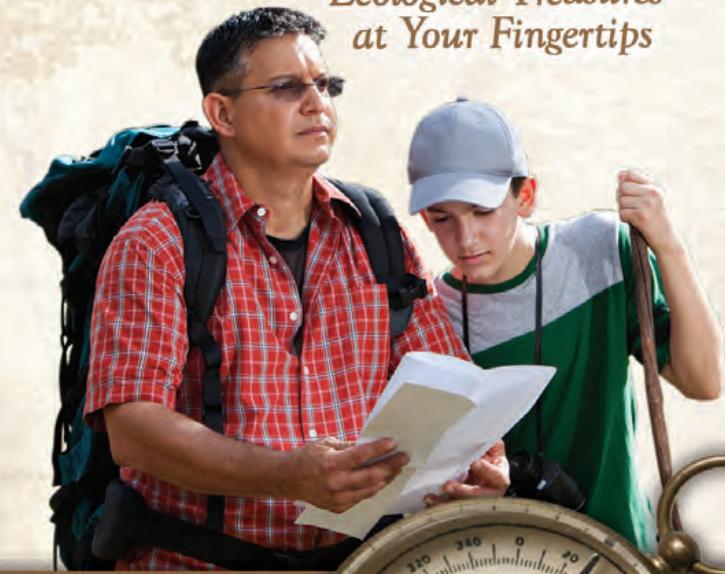
Alabama's wilderness areas are located on the Bankhead, Talladega and Shoal Creek Districts. Contact a Forest Service district office or visit the website at www.fs.usda.gov/alabama for additional information. Visitors can also enjoy developed campgrounds, swimming areas, and recreational opportunities throughout Alabama's four national forests – Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega and Tuskegee. Maps can be purchased online or at a district office.

- Bankhead Ranger District Office***
1070 Highway 33 | Double Springs, AL 35553 | (205) 489-5111
- Shoal Creek Ranger District Office***
45 Highway 281 | Heflin, AL 36264 | (256) 463-2272
- Talladega Ranger District Office***
1001 North Street (Hwy 21 North) | Talladega, AL 35160 | (256) 362-2909
- Conecuh Ranger District Office**
24481 Alabama Hwy 55 | Andalusia, AL 36420
334-222-2555
- Oakmulgee Ranger District Office**
9901 Highway 5 | Brent, AL 35034 | 205-926-9765
- Tuskegee Ranger District Office**
125 National Forest Road 949 | Tuskegee, AL 36083
334-727-2652

*The Wilderness Experience

ENJOY Wilderness in Alabama's National Forests

*Ecological Treasures
at Your Fingertips*



- DON'T FORGET!**
- ✓ Emergency Contact List
 - ✓ Water Bottle
 - ✓ Food
 - ✓ First Aid Kit
 - ✓ Pocket Knife
 - ✓ Rain Gear
 - ✓ Flashlight
 - ✓ Matches
 - ✓ Sweater or Jacket



USDA Forest Service
2946 Chestnut Street | Montgomery, AL 36107 | 334-832-4470
www.fs.usda.gov/alabama



Alabama Wildlife Federation
3050 Lanark Road | Millbrook, AL 26054 | 1-800-822-9453
www.alabamawildlife.org

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THE Wilderness EXPERIENCE

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Hiking in a wilderness takes you into a unique and primitive environment. Each wilderness is filled with ecological treasures that only nature can provide. To enjoy your experience, you should plan carefully, carry proper gear and know the rules and regulations.

■ **Dugger Mountain** is 9,200 acres in the Talladega National Forest – Shoal Creek District. It became the Forest Service's third wilderness area that was designated in December 1999. Known for its picturesque views, Dugger Mountain has an elevation of 2,140 feet, which makes it the second highest peak in the Talladega National Forest. Hikers can experience rugged and mountainous terrain and enjoy the Pinhoti Trail System.

■ **Sipsey Wilderness** is 25,002 acres located in the Bankhead National Forest. It is the second largest designated wilderness east of the Mississippi River. The area is remote and the forest is shaped by natural events. The wilderness is home to dozens of beautiful waterfalls. A 55-mile trail system provides the only access into the heart of this primitive area.

■ **Cheaha Wilderness** is 7,245 acres in the Talladega National Forest – Talladega District. The area offers high elevations with numerous overlooks for panoramic views of east-central Alabama. North of Cheaha Wilderness is Cheaha Mountain - the highest point and a prominent landmark in Alabama that rises to a height of 2,407 feet. Hikers can enjoy the Pinhoti Trail - Alabama's largest trail system that passes through Cheaha Wilderness.



Backcountry Traveling Essentials

- Be aware that a wilderness area is remote.
- Select sturdy surfaces (existing trails and campsites) and camp dispersedly to prevent the creation of new campsites and trails. Dispersed camping is a term used when camping anywhere in the national forest outside of designated campgrounds. Contact a district office for dispersed camping rules.
- Minimize campfire impacts by using a lightweight stove when possible. Build a fire ring with rocks, ensuring when you leave, the fire is completely out and scatter the rocks. Restore the area to a natural state.
- Concentrate on having as little impact as possible on the wilderness resources. Take only pictures and leave only footprints. Make sure you restore the area to its natural state and pack out everything you pack in.
- Dispose of waste properly. If camping in upland forests, dispose of solid waste by digging a cat hole 6 to 8 inches deep located at least 200 feet from water or campsite.
- Listen for weather forecasts and be prepared.
- Wear an orange vest or hat during the hunting season for safety purposes.
- For more tips on how you can help protect our wilderness, visit the "Leave No Trace" site at <http://lnt.org>.



If you Become Lost

- Pay close attention to your surroundings and landmarks, and relate this to your location on a map.
- Stay calm if you get lost. Panic is your greatest enemy. Try to remember how you got to your present location.
- Trust your map and compass, and do not walk aimlessly. If you are on a trail, don't leave it.
- Stay put if it is nightfall, if you are injured or if you are near exhaustion.
- As a last resort, follow a drainage or stream downhill. This can be hard going, but will often lead to a trail or road.

Activities PERMITTED

- Hunting, fishing and trapping in accordance with state regulations
- Hiking, backpacking, horse riding on designated trails (camping with stock animals not allowed), use of wheelchairs (including electric), use of small electronic equipment
- Special uses, if they are determined to be consistent and compatible with the goals and objectives of each Wilderness area (such as outfitter/guides, and scientific research)
- Overnight camping with permit required during hunting season
- Pets that are restrained or on a leash
- Visitors can expect to see Forest Service managers controlling non-native invasive species, such as cogongrass, to prevent invasive plants from threatening other species.
- To protect the area from wildfires, Forest Service managers will use wildfire suppression methods like hand tools. Use of chainsaws and other motorized or mechanized equipment may be approved.

Activities PROHIBITED

- Use of motorized and mechanized equipment, including bicycles, except as authorized for the emergency protection of life or property outside Wilderness
- Illegal drugs or alcohol
- All commercial activities
- Mineral leasing or mining, except for valid claims prior to Wilderness designation.
- Use of fireworks and other explosives
- Unique restrictions in the Sipsey Wilderness:
 - No camping longer than 7 days
 - No groups larger than 10 people
 - No possession of fireworks
 - No off-trail use of stock animals

