

Toadstool & Hudson-Meng Trail System



USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
Nebraska National
Forests and Grasslands

- ▲ Campground
- Interpretive Site
- Trail Junction
- Non-Motorized Trail
- Forest Service Road
- Other Public Road
- Stream - Intermittent
- Open Water - Perennial
- Open Water - Intermittent
- Forest Service Lands

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

Trail/Loop	Miles
Great Plains Trail, FS Road 918, and Bison Trail Loop	5
Bison Trail (one way)	3
Interpretive Loop	0.8

Distances between trail junctions are labeled on the map in miles.

Information Resources

Nebraska National
Forests & Grasslands



Toadstool Geological Park
& Campground



Interpretive Loop Brochure



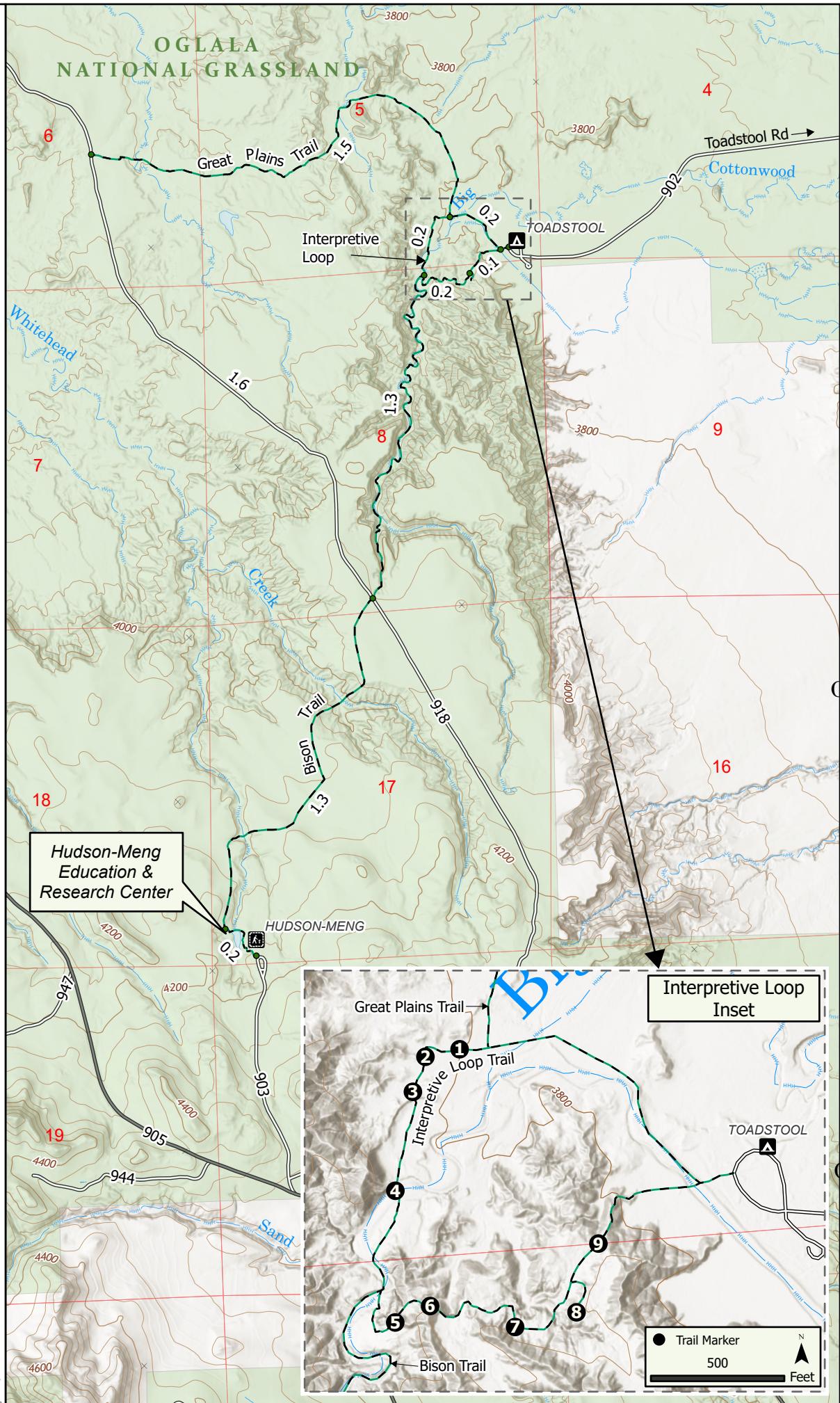
Hudson-Meng Education
& Research Center



Bring drinking water!
None is available in this area.

Disclaimer

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Welcome to Toadstool Geologic Park

The Oglala National Grassland is one of the United States' 20 National Grasslands. The Oglala National Grassland spans nearly 94,000 acres of mixed-grass prairie with wooded streambeds that are home to animals such as pronghorn, mule deer, prairie dogs, and golden eagles. The grassland hosts various historical and scientifically significant sites such as Toadstool Geological Park, Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center, and Cody-Yellow Hair and Warbonnet Battlefield Monuments.

Toadstool Geologic Park is a stark, other-worldly landscape unlike any other place in Nebraska. Its name was inspired by the narrow clay pedestals topped with slabs of sandstone that resemble toadstool mushrooms. It is one of the most memorable places in the grassland with its unique layers, formations, and scientifically valuable fossil deposits. Toadstool is a key link in understanding the earth's history from 38 to 24 million years ago. Geologists consider it the "type section for the White River Geologic Group", formed through various volcanic events and wet and swampy periods, meaning that all other similar-aged deposits in North America are compared to the geological standard designated at Toadstool. It is also the standard for animal fossils of that age.

Inside the park are three trails of varying difficulty. The Interpretive Loop trail is an easy, one-mile trail that guides you through nine interpretive stations (see "Time Travel through Toadstool Geologic Park" brochure). Branching from the interpretive loop trail to the north is the Great Plains Trail which takes you on a 4.8-mile hike through the northern portion of the park. This trail uses Forest Service Road 918 and the northern portion of the Bison trail to make a loop back to the Interpretive trail. Branching from the Interpretive trail to the south is the Bison trail which takes you on an out and back three-mile (each direction) hike to the Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center.

Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center houses one of the most important paleo archeological discoveries in North America. Visitors can tour the bonebed enclosure 9:00 am through 4:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays, Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends to discover the mysterious past of the Bison antiquus (extinct bison) that died there.

Please pack appropriately. It is recommended to bring at least one liter of water.

Be cautious of wildlife; rattlesnakes can occupy the trail at times.

Please leave fossils and tracks just as they are. Federal laws and regulations protect these resources on national forests and grasslands because they belong to us all!