

Athens - Big Fork Trail

Ouachita National Forest



Hiking



Biking



SOUTHERN REGION NATIONAL FORESTS

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ATHENS - BIG FORK TRAIL

Trail Highlights: Rather than running east to west along creek beds like other trails on the Caddo Ranger District, this trail runs north to south across the mountains. Crossing eight mountains, the trail is considered extremely strenuous. Trail features include spectacular views of the Ouachita Mountains from such high points as Eagle Rock Vista, Brushheap Mountain and Hurricane Knob. A geologic outcropping, located 150 feet south of the highest point on Brushy Mountain, adds to the hiker's experience.

Surrounding Areas:

- **Shady Lake Recreation Area**, a well developed camping and day use area, offers swimming, camping, picnicking, hunting and fishing opportunities.
- For a more primitive camping experience try **Bard Springs Recreation Area**.
- The **Little Missouri Hiking Trail**, **Viles Branch Equestrian/Hiking Trail** and the **Eagle Rock Loop** connect with this trail at the north and south ends.

For More Information:

Caddo-Womble Ranger District
1523 Hwy 270 East
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2101

Length: 10.5 miles, one-way.

Directions:

- Southern trailhead: Take Highway 246 west from Athens to Forest Road 38. Turn right on Forest Road 38 for 9/10 mile. Turn right on Weyerhaeuser Road 53800 for 7/10 mile, then left on Forest Road B23F and follow it 9/10 mile to the trailhead sign.
- Northern trailhead: Take Highway 8 from Big Fork to Forest Road 38 and turn south. Travel for 1.5 miles to Forest Road B15. The trailhead is at the end of the road.
- Interior trailheads: Located on Forest Roads 25 and 106.

Trail Information: The trail is unsurfaced. Travel time is about 8 to 10 hours one-way. The trail is marked with white rectangles.

Difficulty Level: Most difficult.

Recommended Season: Autumn through spring.

Safety: Be sure to carry an adequate supply of water. Drinking water only available at Recreation Areas.

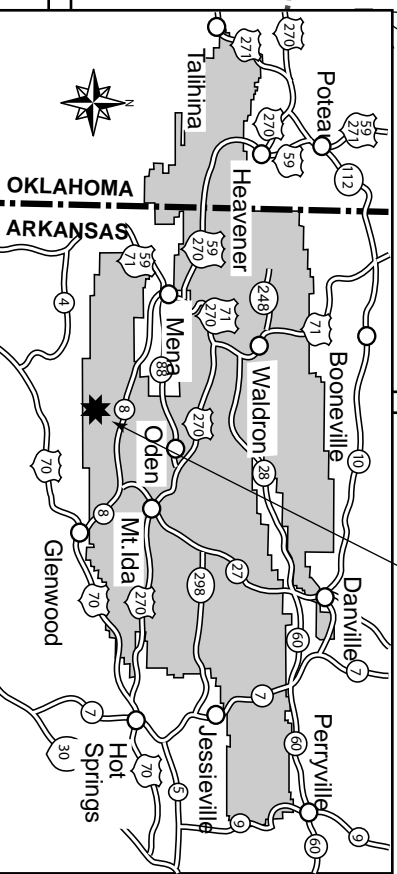
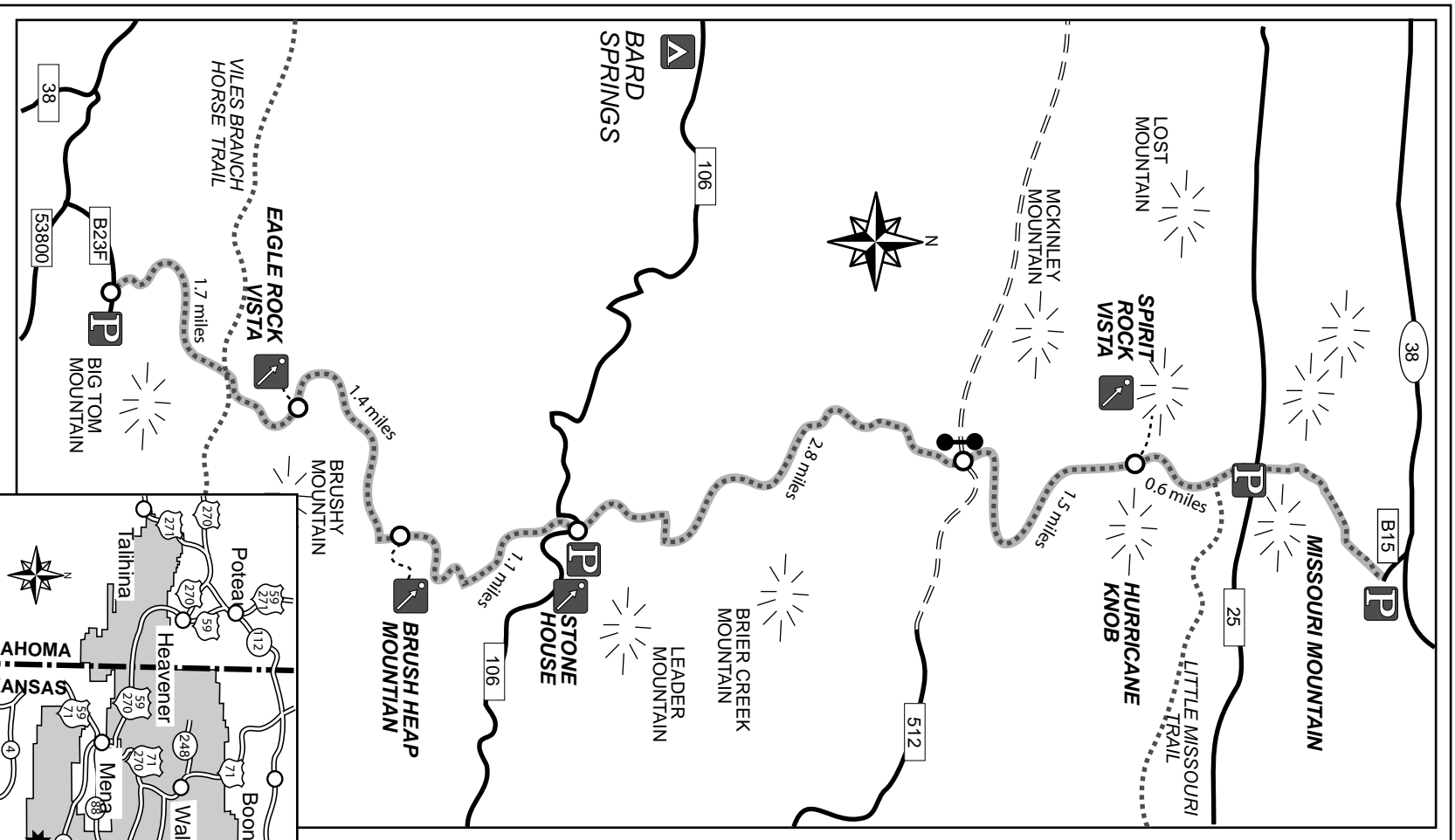
History: This historic, 125-year-old postal service trail was partly restored in 1986 through the joint efforts of the Forest Service and the Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society. The Student Conservation Association completed the trail in 1993.

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Ouachita National Forest



	Recreation Area
	Unpaved Road
	Rough Road
	Athens-Big Fork Trail
	Trails
	Trailhead / Parking
	Mountain
	Point of Interest
	Forest Road
	Gate



USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle: Athens