

# Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide Volume 2

Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area



John D. “J.D.” Smith  
Volume 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, August 2007

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## Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide, Volume 2

### ***General Comments***

- The purpose of this guide is to help you plan your backpacking trek on the Ouachita Trail.
- This guide contains information known at the time it was collected and witnessed. It is your responsibility to consult with official resources for accurate and up to date information about the weather, trail, water supply, fire situations, hunting seasons, etc. It is also your responsibility to determine the capabilities of the trekking crew and to lead them on a safe and exciting expedition into the wilderness of the Ouachita National Forest. The author carries no responsibility for your trip.
- Water is scarce. Plan on bringing all the water your trekking crew will need for the duration of the trip.
- Poison ivy is all over the place. Those sensitive should wear pants, long sleeved shirts, and poison ivy blocking cream.
- Lots of ticks, bring a first aid kit with tweezers
- Most of the trail is rocky. Wear good sturdy hiking boots. Wearing thin soled shoes will injure the feet on these trails. Do not allow anybody on the trail without the proper footwear.
- The Ouachita Trail is marked with **BLUE** paint on trees and rocks spaced about 50 to 100 feet apart. Stay with blue to stay on the Ouachita Trail. Other trails intersect that have different color markings like yellow and white.
- Some parts of the trail are overgrown with grass, especially during wet periods. Look ahead for the blue mark on the tree or rock in front of you.
- GPS locations, distances, directions are approximate. Some are derived from topographic maps rather than captured on the trail.
- All locations and directions are relative to an eastbound heading from Talimena State Park
- If backpacking during hunting season be very careful and make sure that everybody in the trekking crew is wearing hunter orange, and hunter orange is put up around the campsite. Check the Oklahoma hunting seasons website for season dates.
- Distances on graphical profiles shown in the recommended route sections do not match the distances on the Ouachita National Recreation Trail map. This is because the trails in the database are not exact and do not include the many switchbacks along the trail. The official Ouachita National Forest map was used for Boy Scout backpacking merit badge purposes on all backpacking treks.
- Leave note on dash of vehicles when parked at trailheads and along Scenic Highway 1 so authorities and tow trucks will know that the vehicle is not abandoned
- Remember to register at trailheads so rangers know you are on the trail



## **References**

- Ouachita National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ouachita.htm>
- Oklahoma State Park website: <http://www.oklahomaparks.com>
- Oklahoma Hunting Seasons website: <http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/seasons.htm>
- Ouachita National Recreation Trail Map
- Ouachita Trail Guide, Third Edition, Tim Ernst
- Talimena Scenic Drive flyer, available at Ouachita National Forest information stations
- DeLorme Topo USA software
- Topozone: <http://www.topozone.com>
- Boy Scout Backpacking Merit Badge book
- Google Earth

## **Wildlife**

The following wildlife have been seen along the trail at various times.

- Squirrel – May 2007, July 2007
- Deer – May 2007. Watch the deer along Highway 1/88 at night. My backpacking buddy John got hit by a deer in the fog. Luckily he wasn't hurt, but the car had some major damage.
- Toad – May 2007, July 2007
- Various birds – Cardinal July 2007
- ?? snake – July 2007
- ?? turtle – July 2007
- Big Foot ?? – May 2007

## **Places of Interest**

Locations identified on the Ouachita Trail in this guide are called "Places of Interest." There are several types of Places of Interest:

- Campground – an improved campground managed by forest service, with water, showers, and designated campsites
- Trailhead – location to park vehicle to enter the trail
- Campsite – location for a place to camp along the trail
- Water Source – location for a *possible* source of water. The Ouachita National Forest is generally dry, so don't plan on being able to get water at these locations.
- Intersection – location where another hiking trail or road intersects the Ouachita Trail

## ***National Forest Contact Information***

Be sure to call the National Forest for fire ban information.

Mena Ranger District  
Route 3, Box 220, Hwy 71 N  
Mena, AR 71953  
(501) 394-2382

Oden Ranger District – redirects to Mena Ranger District  
Ranger Station  
Oden, AR 71961  
(501) 326-4322

Queen Wilhelmina State Park  
3877 Highway 88 West  
Mena, AR 71953  
1-800-264-2477, (479) 394-2863 or (479) 394-2864  
<http://www.queenwilhelmina.com/>

## ***Gas Stations In the Area***

- Big Cedar, OK – there's a little station on the NW corner of the Highways 63 and 259. Looks like it closes early.
- Mena, AR – lots to choose from, but further east. But better than running out of gas!

## ***Special Thanks To***

- Troop 51 for giving me plenty of backpacking opportunities
- John Gillette for hiking 27 miles from Foran Gap to Big Brushy Recreation Area – in one day! Then going another 6 the next day.
- Royce Menke for hiking 16 miles from Queen Wilhelmina State Park to Foran Gap
- My sons Kyle and Blake for going on many trips with me
- And especially to my wife Suzanne for her support of my many hobbies

## ***Author Contact Information***

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## ***Suggested Routes***

### **Difficulty Levels**

These difficulty levels are for a reasonably fit Boy Scout and adult leader.

- Easy – a little effort, not many rocks on the trail
- Intermediate – a little harder
- Advanced – hardest level, either lots of rocks or steep trail to climb

### **Night Hikes on the Ouachita Trail**

Have an adult who has experience with the Ouachita Trail lead the trekking crew with a strong flashlight. The Ouachita Trail is marked by blue paint on trees every 50 to 100 feet. Keep watching for the next blue mark on the tree ahead of you, even when the trail is evident. On a night hike sometimes the trail cannot be distinguished because it blends in to the landscape. When this happens, stop, look slowly around the trees with your flashlight for the blue trail marks. Backtrack a little if needed. Don't panic. As long as you have been following the trail the next trail marker shouldn't be more than 50 feet away. A backpacking buddy of mine (nicknamed the "Pack Mule" because he can haul a lot of gear effortlessly) and I did a night hike from Talimena trailhead to the Kiamichi campsite in the fog where there wasn't more than 50 feet or so of visibility. Keeping on the trail was a challenge that night!

The trail markings on the last six miles west of Big Brushy Recreation Area are very faded. The trail however is well traveled and stands out easily. Suggest using callouts (like "Marker!") with your trekking crew for when the trail markings are seen on the tree trunks. If you go a few minutes without anybody making a callout you might be off the trail. Remarking the trail blazes along this part of the Ouachita Trail would be a great service project.

## Queen Wilhelmina Segment – 10 miles

- Difficulty level: Very Easy
- Out and back to from Upper Kiamichi to Queen Wilhelmina State Park
- Camp at Queen Wilhelmina State Park
- Great for beginners. In fact, this is really too easy for real backpackers. If you are looking for an easy trail for a beginner, but want a little challenge, I recommend the Kiamichi segment from Talimena State Park to the Kiamichi campsite.
- There are a few rocky areas to watch out for

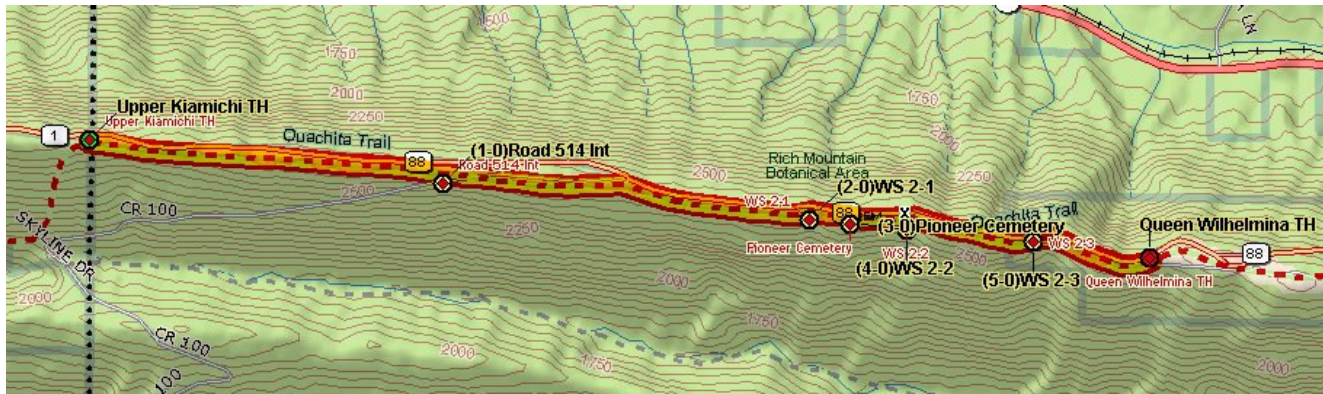


Figure 1 - Queen Wilhelmina Segment

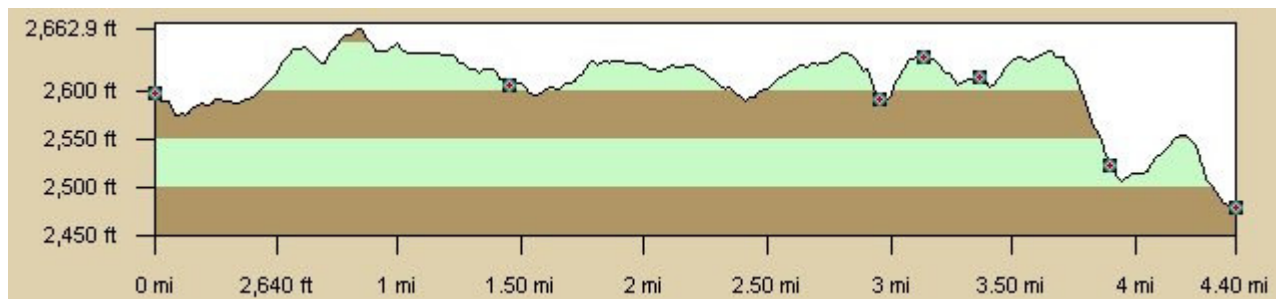


Figure 2 - Queen Wilhelmina Segment Profile

### One way Profile:

Line Distance:	4.4 miles
Terrain Distance:	4.4 miles
Climb Distance:	2.2 miles
Descent Distance:	2.2 miles
Elevation Gain:	-119 feet
Highest Elevation:	2662 feet
Lowest Elevation:	2477 feet, at Queen Wilhelmina trailhead



## Queen Wilhelmina to Foran Gap Segment – 16.6 miles

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- Might want to bring a machete on this segment. (Half serious) The 2.5 miles east of Queen Wilhelmina are overgrown with lots of hidden rocks. Then along the ridge line between Eagle Gap and Foran Gap the trail is also overgrown.
- Because of the overgrowth I don't recommend night hikes between Queen Wilhelmina and Highway 88. Same goes along the Eagle Gap to Foran Gap part of the segment between Polk Campsite and Water Source 2-9.
- Might want to bring a machete on this segment. (Half serious) Along the ridge line between Foran Gap and Eagle Gap the trail is overgrown. Definitely don't want to wear shorts in this area because of the poison ivy, ticks, briars, and dense vegetation.
- Lots of poison ivy and ticks along this route.
- Suggested campsites: Queen Wilhelmina, Rich Mountain, Eagle Gap, Eagleton, Scott, Polk



Figure 3 - Queen Wilhelmina to Foran Gap West Portion

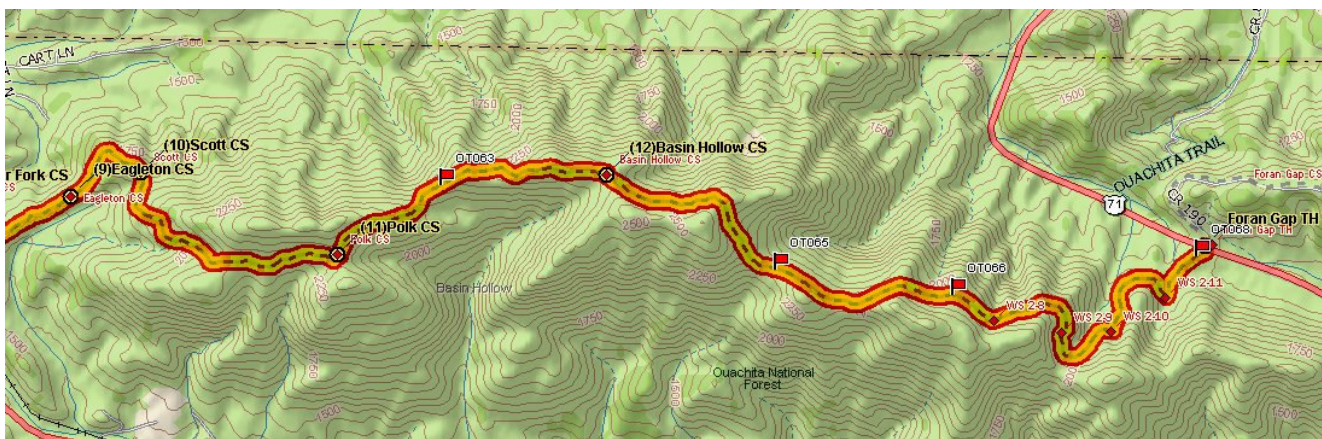
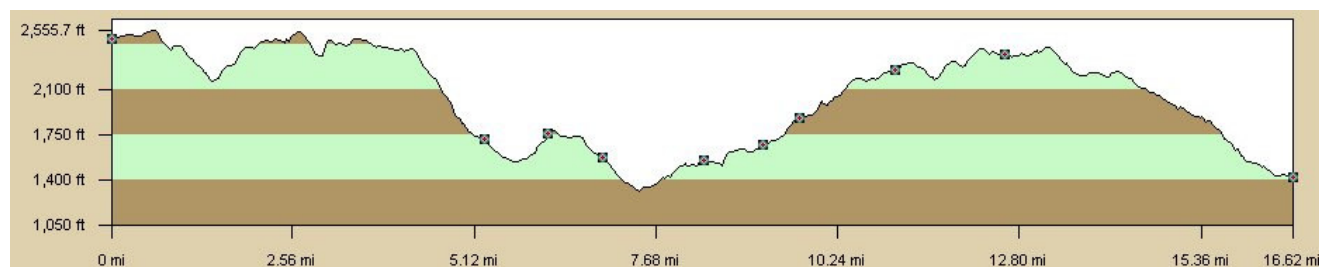


Figure 4 - Queen Wilhelmina to Foran Gap East Portion

## Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide – Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area



**Figure 5 - Queen Wilhelmina to Foran Gap Segment Profile**

Linear Distance: 16.5 miles  
 Terrain Distance: 16.6 miles  
 Climb Distance: 7.2 miles  
 Descent Distance: 9.4 miles  
 Elevation Gain: -1071 feet  
 Highest Elevation: 2555 feet  
 Lowest Elevation: 1309 feet, at Eagle Gap

Point of Interest	Accumulated Distance	Remaining Distance
Queen Wilhelmina TH/CS	0.00 mi	16.54 mi
Highway 88 Intersection	3.07 mi	13.47 mi
Rich Mountain Campsite	5.22 mi	11.32 mi
Highway 270 Intersection Black Fork Mountain Trailhead	5.59 mi	10.95 mi
Ouachita River Campsite	6.12 mi	10.42 mi
Eagle Gap Campsite	6.87 mi	9.67 mi
Eagle Gap Intersection	7.37 mi	9.17 mi
Clear Fork Campsite	8.31 mi	8.24 mi
Eagleton Campsite	9.13 mi	7.41 mi
Scott Campsite	9.64 mi	6.90 mi
Polk Campsite	10.98 mi	5.56 mi
Basin Hollow Campsite	12.51 mi	4.03 mi
Foran Gap Trailhead	16.54 mi	0.00 mi

## **Foran Gap to Clear Fork Campsite Segment – 16.5 Miles**

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- This is a shorter portion of the Queen Wilhelmina to Foran Gap segment, but in a westerly direction
- Out and back to get 16.5 miles
- Might want to bring a machete on this segment. (Half serious) Along the ridge line between Foran Gap and Eagle Gap the trail is overgrown. Definitely don't want to wear shorts in this area because of the ticks, briars, and dense vegetation.
- Because of the overgrowth I don't recommend a night hike between Water Source 2-9 and Polk Campsite.
- Lots of poison ivy and ticks along this route.
- Suggested campsites: Polk, Scott, Eagleton, Clear Fork



## Foran Gap to Big Brushy Recreation Area Segment – 26.9 miles

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- Overall an easy trail. Only real difficulty is that there isn't any water along the way, besides a spring about 5 miles in. There are only two established campsites, but I identified several others that are good flat open areas for groups.
- Closest water cache location is the parking area 20.3 miles down the trail at Road 76 Campsite.
- Suggested campsites: Tan-A-Hill Spring, Road 76, Road 774, Road 813, Big Brushy
- To increase the distance to 30 miles to meet the Backpacking Merit Badge requirements I suggest going west from Foran Gap to Water Source 2-10 then backtrack to Foran Gap.

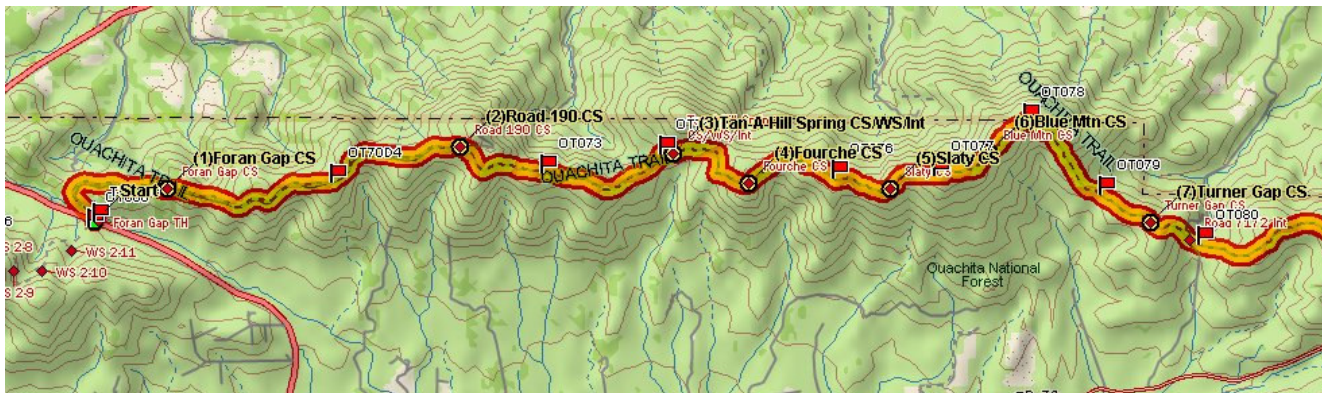


Figure 6 - Foran Gap to Big Brushy West Portion

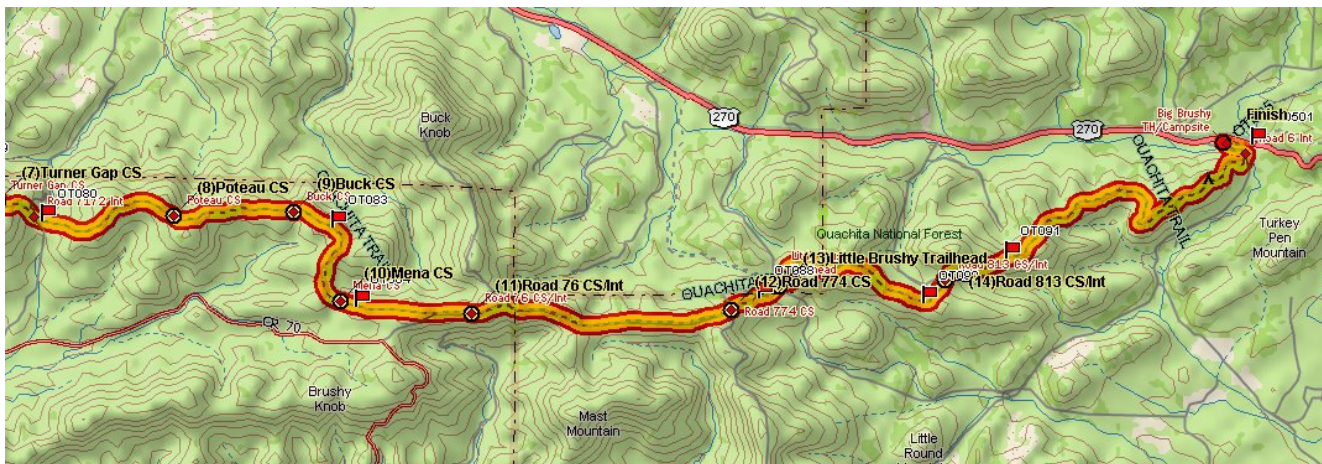
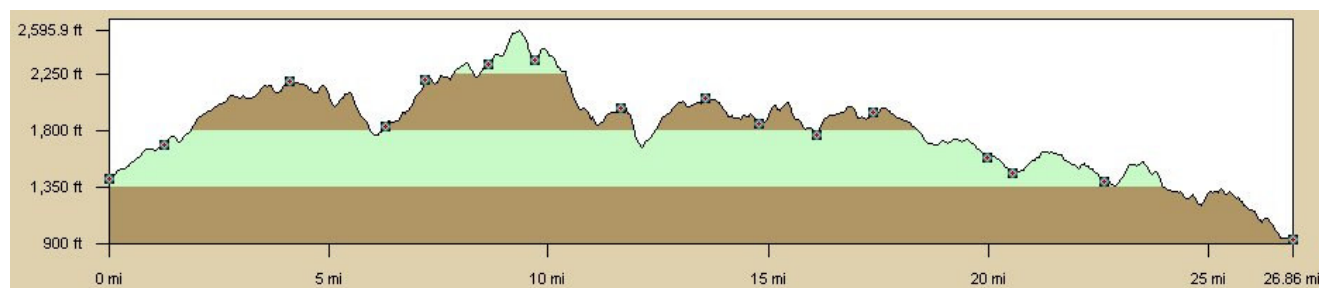


Figure 7 - Foran Gap to Big Brushy East Portion



## Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide – Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area



**Figure 8 – Foran Gap to Big Brushy Segment Profile**

Linear Distance: 26.8 miles  
 Terrain Distance: 26.9 miles  
 Climb Distance: 13.5 miles  
 Descent Distance: 13.4 miles  
 Elevation Gain: -481 feet  
 Highest Elevation: 2595 feet  
 Lowest Elevation: 933 feet, at Big Brushy Recreation Area trailhead

Point of Interest	Accumulated Distance	Remaining Distance
Foran Gap TH	0.00 mi	26.76 mi
Foran Gap Campsite	1.25 mi	25.51 mi
Road 190 Campsite	4.08 mi	22.68 mi
Tan-A-Hill Spring Campsite	6.25 mi	20.51 mi
Fourche Campsite	7.17 mi	19.60 mi
Slaty Campsite	8.60 mi	18.16 mi
Blue Mountain Campsite	9.63 mi	17.13 mi
Turner Gap Campsite	11.58 mi	15.18 mi
Poteau Campsite	13.50 mi	13.26 mi
Buck Campsite	14.70 mi	12.06 mi
Mena Campsite	16.02 mi	10.75 mi
Road 76 Campsite/Intersection	17.30 mi	9.46 mi
Road 774 Campsite	19.87 mi	6.89 mi
Little Brushy Trailhead	20.43 mi	6.34 mi
Road 813 Campsite/Intersection	22.52 mi	4.25 mi
Big Brushy Trailhead	26.76 mi	0.00 mi

## **Big Brushy to Road 76 Campsite Segment – 19 Miles**

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- This is a shorter portion of the Foran Gap to Big Brushy segment, but it starts at Big Brushy and goes west
- Out and back to get 19 miles.
- A lot of this is through a burnt out area, and on Road 76. It's not the most scenic part of the Ouachita Trail.
- Suggested campsites: Big Brushy, Road 76 Campsite, Road 774 Campsite, Road 813 Campsite

## **Foran Gap to Slaty Campsite Segment – 17 Miles**

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- This is a shorter portion of the Foran Gap to Big Brushy segment
- Out and back to get 17 miles
- Suggested campsites: Tan-A-Hill Spring, Slaty
- Slaty Campsite has space for just 4 to 5 tents, and is lacking a complete fire ring. It is a good campsite for a smaller group.

## Pashubbe to Foran Gap Segment – 33.5 miles

- Difficulty level: Easy to Intermediate
- This segment goes further west than what is documented in Volume 2. Refer to Volume 1 for Places of Interest information.
- Lots of water available in the Kiamichi River Valley. Also available along the route at Queen Wilhelmina Campground, Ouachita River, Clear Fork River. Of course water availability depends on how wet the season is. Clear Fork River at Eagle Gap is the last sure chance to get water until just before Foran Gap, which is 9 miles ahead. Fill up there for the night if camping along that portion of the trail segment.
- Nice part of the segment for a night hike would be from Pashubbe Trailhead to the River Valley/Quentin Campsites. Or go a mile and half further to the Pine Mountain Campsite. If you go past River Valley there will be several stream crossings. Will be harder to negotiate in the dark. The trail here is clear and well marked.
- Suggested campsites: Pashubbe Campground, River Valley, Pine Mountain, Queen Wilhelmina, Rich Mountain, Eagle Gap, Eagleton, Scott, Polk

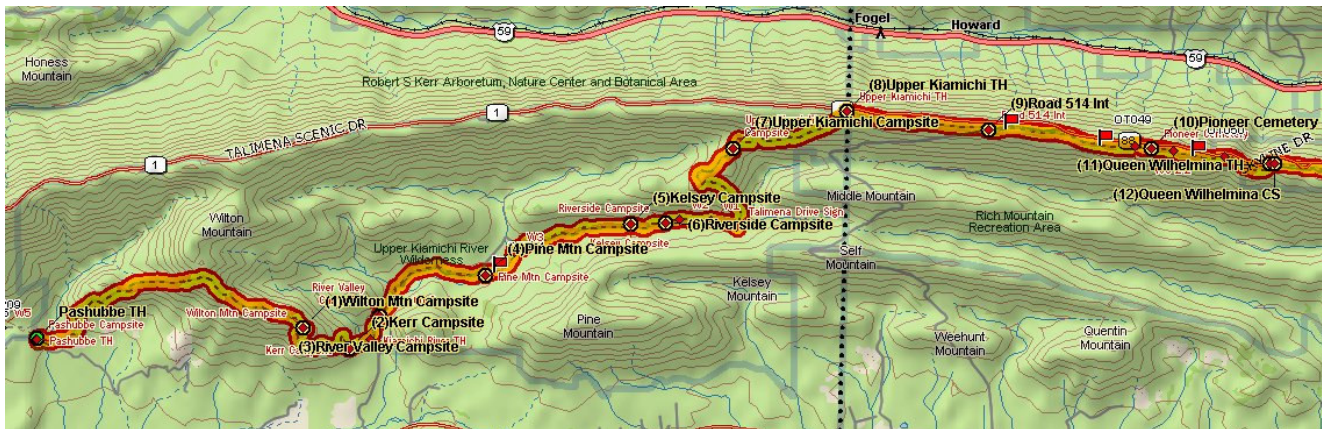
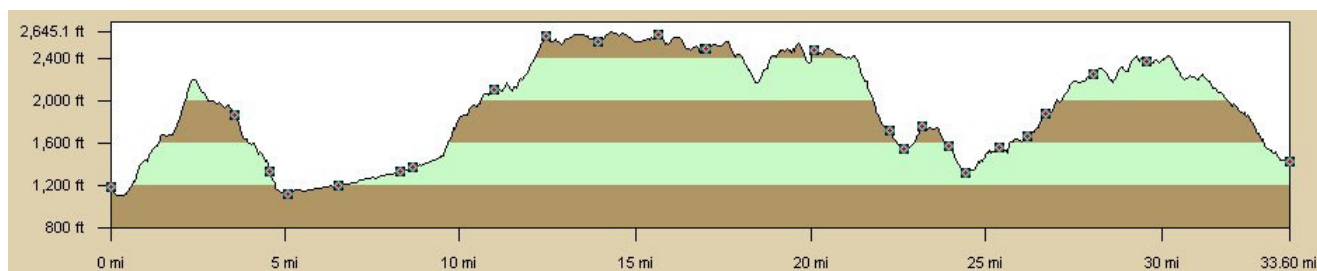


Figure 9 - Pashubbe to Foran Gap West Portion



Figure 10 - Pashubbe to Foran Gap East Portion

## Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide – Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area



**Figure 11 - Pashubbe to Foran Gap Segment Profile**

Linear Distance: 33.5 miles  
 Terrain Distance: 33.6 miles  
 Climb Distance: 17.0 miles  
 Descent Distance: 16.6 miles  
 Elevation Gain: 239 feet  
 Highest Elevation: 2645 feet  
 Lowest Elevation: 1099 feet, right after Pushubbe trailhead

Point of Interest	Accumulated Distance	Remaining Distance
Pashubbe TH	0.00 mi	33.46 mi
Wilton Mountain Campsite	3.54 mi	29.91 mi
Kerr Campsite	4.53 mi	28.92 mi
River Valley Campsite Quentin Campsite	5.05 mi	28.41 mi
Pine Mountain Campsite	6.46 mi	26.99 mi
Kelsey Campsite	8.22 mi	25.24 mi
Riverside Campsite	8.60 mi	24.85 mi
Upper Kiamichi Campsite	10.89 mi	22.57 mi
Upper Kiamichi Trailhead	12.35 mi	21.11 mi
Road 514 Intersection	13.84 mi	19.61 mi
Pioneer Cemetery	15.56 mi	17.90 mi
Queen Wilhelmina Trailhead	16.87 mi	16.59 mi
Queen Wilhelmina Campground	16.91 mi	16.54 mi
Highway 88 Intersection	19.98 mi	13.47 mi
Rich Mountain Campsite	22.13 mi	11.32 mi
Highway 270 Intersection Black Fork Mountain Trailhead	22.50 mi	10.95 mi

# Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide – Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area

Ouachita River Campsite	23.04 mi	10.42 mi
Eagle Gap Campsite	23.79 mi	9.67 mi
Eagle Gap Intersection	24.29 mi	9.17 mi
Clear Fork Campsite	25.22 mi	8.24 mi
Eagleton Campsite	26.04 mi	7.41 mi
Scott Campsite	26.56 mi	6.90 mi
Polk Campsite	27.90 mi	5.56 mi
Basin Hollow Campsite	29.42 mi	4.03 mi
Foran Gap Trailhead	33.46 mi	0.00 mi



## Places of Interest

### *Upper Kiamichi Trailhead*

Type: Trailhead Name: Upper Kiamichi trailhead GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.632'N 94° 27.351'W GPS Elevation: 2573	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: to the north at Highway 1 Price for parking: 0
Notes: Beginning of the Upper Kiamichi eastward trail segments. Leave car here for beginning or end of the trail segment. The trailhead register is actually to the west of the Highway 1 access point intersection. Be sure to go there to register your trek before heading eastward.	



Figure 12 - Arkansas State Line parking area



Figure 13 - Upper Kiamichi Trailhead Registration Box



Figure 14 - Trail Distance sign at Upper Kiamichi Trailhead



### ***Road 514 Intersection***

Type: Intersection	GPS Odometer:
Name: Road 514 Intersection	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.463'N 94° 25.832'W	Location from trail: On
GPS Elevation: 2560	Price for parking: 0
Notes: Road intersection.	



**Figure 15 - Road 514 Intersection**



### ***Water Source 2-1***

Site sequence: Water source 2-1 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.315'N 94° 24.257'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail:
Notes: Water flowing at the time. May 2007.	



**Figure 16 - Water Source 2-1**

### ***Pioneer Cemetery Intersection***

Type: Intersection Name: Pioneer Cemetery Intersection GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.300'N 94° 24.079'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On Price for parking: 0
Notes: The first person buried here was a little girl that was chased up a tree by wolves as she was gathering firewood for the night. She froze to death in the tree that night.	



**Figure 17 - Pioneer Cemetery Intersection Sign**





**Figure 18 - Pioneer Cemetery**

### **Water Source 2-2**

Site sequence: Water source 2-2 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.273'N 94° 23.835'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail:
Notes: Water flowing at the time. May 2007.	



**Figure 19 - Water Source 2-2**

### **Water Source 2-3**

Site sequence: Water source 2-3 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.224'N 94° 23.292'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail:
Notes: Water flowing at the time. May 2007.	





**Figure 20 – Bridge 1.5 Miles from Queen Wilhelmina State Park**



**Figure 21 - Vista Lookout Point Intersection**





**Figure 22 - Vista Lookout**

### ***Queen Wilhelmina Trailhead***

Type: Trailhead	GPS Odometer:
Name: Queen Wilhelmina Trailhead	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.162'N 94° 22.795'W	Location from trail:
GPS Elevation:	Price for parking: 0
Notes: Ouachita Trail at the Queen Wilhelmina State Park	



**Figure 23 - Queen Wilhelmina Trailhead**



### ***Queen Wilhelmina Campsite/Water Source***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-1 Given name: Queen Wilhelmina Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.161'N 94° 22.746'W GPS Elevation: 2480 approx GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Num fire seats:	Num tents: 2 at each site allowed Closest access point: Nearest water source: At campsite Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Must bring your own, or purchase from the lodge Location from trail:
Notes: Located on the second highest mounting in Arkansas. The lodge was opened in 1898 and named to honor the young Queen of the Netherlands. Reservations are recommended. Cost in May 2007 was \$13 per night. Only 2 tents allowed at each campsite. Running water available at the campsite and at the restroom facility. The Lodge has a nice restaurant with buffet for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Ordering from a menu is also available. See the Queen Wilhelmina State Park website for the latest pricing information. Great place to stay for a night along the way for extended Ouachita Trail backpacking trips.	



**Figure 24 - Looking East at the Western part of the campground**

The tent campsites are located in the last 5 sites in the west part of the State Park. See yellow tent in the picture above. It's a good walk to the restroom, and a good hike up to the lodge and restaurant.





**Figure 25 - Restrooms with Showers, Water Source**



**Figure 26 - Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, Restaurant**



**Figure 27 - Lover's Leap Trail Lookout Deck**



**Figure 28 - Ouachita Trail/Lover's Leap direction sign**



## Ouachita Trail Backpacking Guide – Upper Kiamichi to Big Brushy Recreation Area

The trail from Queen Wilhelmina Lodge to this point is very nice, wide, smooth, and well traveled. When you get to the Lover's Leap lookout stop by to take a look. It is one of the best unobstructed views that I have seen along the Ouachita Trail. Keep going to the left of the lookout deck. When you see this sign, take a left. You will immediately feel like you are going off into the weeds! But the trail is there. Just follow the trampled part down the hill. Oh yeah, you might need a machete for this segment! There is a lot of overgrowth, and rocks underneath that you can't see very well. Go slow, and be careful.



**Figure 29 – TODO ?? Snake**

### **Water Source 2-5**

Site sequence: Water source 2-5 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.915'N 94° 21.280'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Water barely flowing. Red color. July 2007.	



**Figure 30 - Water Source 2-5**

### ***Highway 88 Intersection***

Type: Intersection	GPS Odometer:
Name: Highway 88 Intersection	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.723'N 94° 20.185'W	Location from trail: On
GPS Elevation:	Price for parking: 0
Notes: Intersection 2.5 miles east of Queen Wilhelmina lodge	



**Figure 31 - Distance Sign South Side of Highway 88 Intersection**





**Figure 32 - Highway 88 Intersection**



**Figure 33 - TODO ?? Turtle**

### ***Rich Mountain Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-2 Given name: Rich Mountain Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.740'N 94° 19.049'W GPS Elevation: 1762 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: None	Num tents: 6 at site, lot more on trail Closest access point: Highway 270 Nearest water source: Ouachita River Cell phone coverage: Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Nice fire ring, trail is clear and flat which will provide room for a lot of tents	



**Figure 34 – Rich Mountain Campsite**



## ***Highway 270 Intersection***

Type: Intersection	GPS Odometer:
Name: Highway 270 Intersection	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.036'N 94° 19.007'W	Location from trail: On
GPS Elevation:	Price for parking: 0
Notes:	



**Figure 35 - Highway 270 Direction Sign to the South**





**Figure 36 - Highway 270 Intersection, Black Fork Mountain Trailhead Sign**



**Figure 37 - Trail entrance from Highway 270 to the North**

### ***Black Fork Mountain Trailhead***

Type: Trailhead Name: Black Fork Mountain trailhead GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.077'N 94° 19.061'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: to the left Price for parking: 0
Notes: Nice place for overnight camping before hitting the trail	



**Figure 38 - Black Fork Mountain Trailhead Registration**





**Figure 39 - Black Fork Mountain Trailhead Distance Sign**



## ***Ouachita River***

Site sequence: Water source 2-6 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.114'N 94° 19.081'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Flowing river, nice bridge crossing so you don't have to get your feet wet	



**Figure 40 - Ouachita River**



**Figure 41 - Railroad Crossing past Ouachita River**

### ***Ouachita River Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-3 Given name: Ouachita River Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.250'N 94° 18.999'W GPS Elevation: 1782 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: 2-3	Num tents: 3 Closest access point: Highway 270 Nearest water source: Ouachita River Cell phone coverage: Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: On the hill to the right at the curve, just a little ways past the Ouachita River and railroad tracks	



**Figure 42 – Ouachita River Campsite**



### ***Eagle Gap Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-4 Given name: Eagle Gap Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.246'N 94° 18.287'W GPS Elevation: 1604 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: past 58 Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: 1	Num tents: many along the road intersection Closest access point: Highway 270 Nearest water source: Ouachita River Cell phone coverage: Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Turn left at the intersection, then immediately to the right	



**Figure 43 – Eagle Gap Campsite**

### ***Eagle Gap Intersection, Clear Fork River***

Type: Intersection, Water Source 2-7 Name: Eagle Gap Intersection, Water Source 2-7 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.424'N 94° 18.057'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On Price for parking: 0
Notes: A stream runs through a pipe at Eagle Gap intersection. Continue east on the OT about 70 yards to cross the Clear Fork River. It was running in July 2007.	



**Figure 44 - Eagle Gap Intersection, looking South**





**Figure 45 – Clear Fork River Water Source**



### ***Clear Fork Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-5 Given name: Clear Fork Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.093'N 94° 17.438'W GPS Elevation: 1680 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: many in the open area Closest access point: Eagle Gap Nearest water source: Clear Fork River Cell phone coverage: Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Big open area, looks soft and comfortable for tents. Named after the Clear Fork River.	



**Figure 46 – Clear Fork Campsite**

### ***Eagleton Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-6 Given name: Eagleton Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.116'N 94° 16.734'W GPS Elevation: 1709 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: None	Num tents: 5 Closest access point: Eagle Gap Nearest water source: Clear Fork River Cell phone coverage: Sprint PCS analog/digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Needs fire seats. Named after the town of Eagleton on Highway 270.	



**Figure 47 – Eagleton Campsite**



### ***Scott Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-7 Given name: Scott Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.220'N 94° 16.369'W GPS Elevation: 1921 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: 5	Num tents: 5 Closest access point: Eagle Gap Nearest water source: Clear Fork River Cell phone coverage: Sprint PCS analog/digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Huge fire ring!	



**Figure 48 – Scott Campsite**

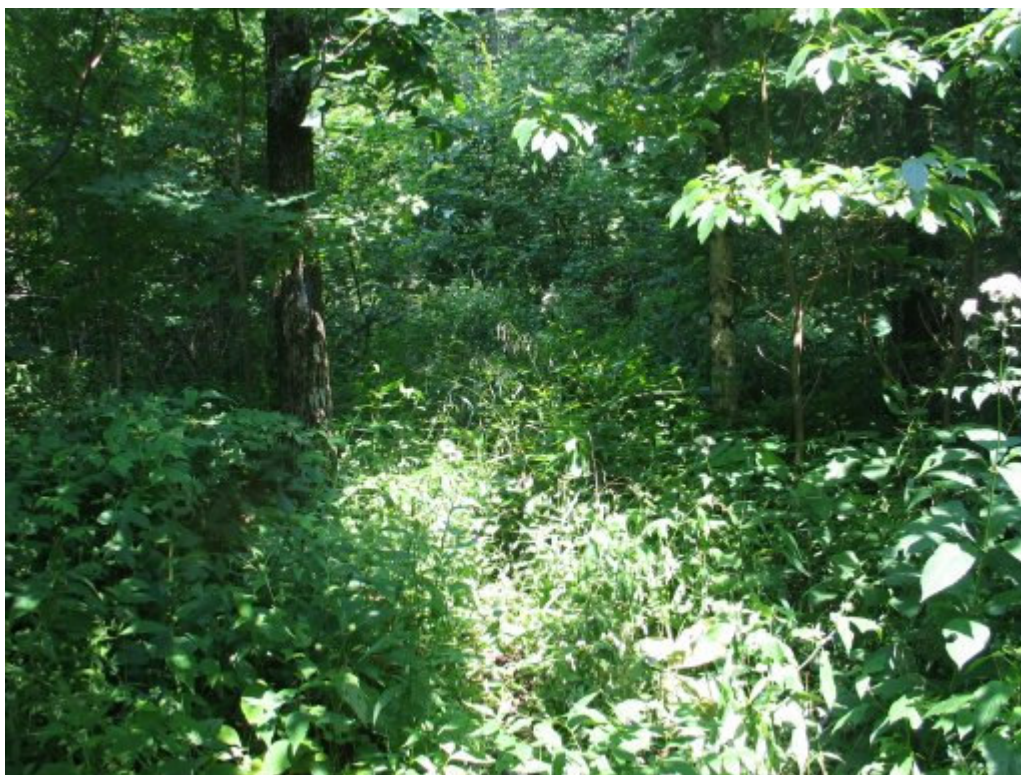


### ***Polk Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-8 Given name: Polk Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.869'N 94° 15.346'W GPS Elevation: 2315 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: 5	Num tents: 2 Closest access point: Foran Gap Nearest water source: Cell phone coverage: not tested Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the left
Notes: Real rocky, lots of ticks. Named after Polk County, which this part of the Ouachita Trail traverses.	



**Figure 49 – Polk Campsite**



**Figure 50 - Overgrown Ouachita Trail between Eagle Gap and Foran Gap**

Like just east of Lover's Leap Trail at Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, this part of the Ouachita Trail is very overgrown. The trail is hard to see, there are rocks underneath the overgrowth. Not a good section for beginner scouts. Not a good section for a night hike because you won't be able to see the trail during growth periods. Might want to bring a machete. Felt like at times I was hiking the Amazon!



### ***Basin Hollow Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-9 Given name: Basin Hollow Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.213'N 94° 13.952'W GPS Elevation: 2421 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: None	Num tents: 2, maybe Closest access point: Foran Gap Nearest water source: Cell phone coverage: not tested Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Have to clear out lots of brush to make this site usable. Located right above its namesake, Basin Hollow, which contains Basin Creek.	



**Figure 51 – Basin Hollow Campsite**



### **Water Source 2-8**

Site sequence: Water source 2-8 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.588'N 94° 11.944'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Flowing water at the time, but under rocks. July 2007.	



**Figure 52 - Water Source 2-8**

### **Water Source 2-9**

Site sequence: Water source 2-9 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.536'N 94° 11.592'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Just a trickle at the time, and this was a very wet season. July 2007.	



**Figure 53 - Water Source 2-9**



### ***Water Source 2-10***

Site sequence: Water source 2-10 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.540'N 94° 11.331'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Pretty, small waterfall on the right up the hill.	



**Figure 54 - Water Source 2-10**





**Figure 55 – Beautiful View North a mile or so West of Foran Gap**

### **Water Source 2-11**

Site sequence: Water source 2-11 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.684'N 94° 11.051'W GPS Elevation:	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On trail
Notes: Great place to sit a spell and soak those tired dogs of yours in some cool water!	



**Figure 56 - Water Source 2-11**





Figure 57 - Foran Gap Trailhead Registration, West Side



Figure 58 - Foran Gap Distance Sign, West Side



### ***Foran Gap Trailhead***

Type: Trailhead Name: Foran Gap trailhead GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.91'N 94° 10.81'W GPS Elevation: 1411	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: Price for parking: 0
Notes: Parking is on the west side across the highway.	



**Figure 59 - Exit, or entrance, from/to Black Fork Mountain Trailhead**





**Figure 60 - Foran Gap Trailhead Parking Area**



**Figure 61 - Foran Gap Trailhead**





**Figure 62 – Foran Gap Trailhead Registration, East Side**



**Figure 63 - Looking up the trail eastbound at Foran Gap Trailhead**



### ***Foran Gap Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-10 Given name: Foran Gap Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.147'N 94° 10.151'W GPS Elevation: 1690 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: None	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Foran Gap Trailhead Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the left
Notes: Easy walk up the trail to this campsite from Foran Gap	



**Figure 64 – Foran Gap Campsite**



**Figure 65 - Ouachita Trail Mile Marker 73**

### ***Road 190 Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-11 Given name: Road 190 Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: up to 34° 41.436'N 94° 07.431'W GPS Elevation: GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Foran Gap Trailhead Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the trail
Notes: This is not a designated campsite, but provides a spacious area to set up plenty of tents. The first three or so miles goes up an old overgrown road. Lots of flat areas can be used for camping.	



### ***Tan-A-Hill Spring Campsite/Water Source/Intersection***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-12, Water Source 2-12 Given name: Tan-A-Hill Spring Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.360'N 94° 05.455'W GPS Elevation: 1825 approx GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Spring or Lori Creek Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the trail
Notes: This is a crossroads of several mountain roads. Looks like it gets a lot of ATV and hunter traffic through here. The main road used to be the original wagon trail through the Ouachita Mountains. Follow the trail to the east to the water sign, then go up the hill to the Tan-A-Hill spring. This is the last chance to get water until you reach the Big Brushy Creek. Better fill up here. If the spring is dry, try Lori Creek which is right past the trail reroute sign. Continue along the old trail for a ways until you get to the creek.	



**Figure 66 – Tan-A-Hill Spring Sign**



**Figure 67 - Take special note of this direction sign. It points to the LEFT.**

After the Spring area, the Ouachita Trail has been rerouted. The sign in the picture above was actually laying down, broken, on the ground. There are newer, brighter blue, trail markings going to the left. But the trees on the old trail that continues straight have blue markings. Don't go straight, or you might find yourself lost!



**Figure 68 - Deer past Tan-A-Hill Spring**



### ***Fourche Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-13 Given name: Fourche Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.123'N 94° 04.755'W GPS Elevation: 2193 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: 2 to 3 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Tan-A-Hill Spring, Lori Creek Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the right
Notes: on top of the hill, good climb from Tan-A-Hill Spring	



**Figure 69 – Fourche Campsite**



## ***Slaty Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-14 Given name: Slaty Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.058'N 94° 03.443'W GPS Elevation: 2325 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: after 75 Fire ring? Yes, but barely Num fire seats: None	Num tents: 4 to 5 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Tan-A-Hill Spring Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right of the trail
Notes: The fire ring exists, but is shallow and doesn't look like it has been used in a long time. Named after Slaty Creek which is just below the ridge to the SSE.	



**Figure 70 – Slaty Campsite**

### ***Blue Mountain Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-15 Given name: Blue Mountain Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.328'N 94° 02.523'W GPS Elevation: 2376 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Spring Campsite Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the trail
Notes: open area on ridge	



**Figure 71 – Blue Mountain Campsite**



### ***Turner Gap Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-16 Given name: Turner Gap Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.783'N 94° 01.030'W GPS Elevation: 1983 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: 3 to 4 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Spring Campsite Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the trail
Notes: No fire ring. In a nice open area directly on the trail	



**Figure 72 – Turner Gap Campsite**



## Road 7172 Intersection

Type: Intersection	GPS Odometer:
Name: Road 7172	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.634'N 94° 0.676'W	Location from trail: On
GPS Elevation: 1673 approx	Price for parking: 0
Notes: GPS coordinates are approximate, taken from a map rather than from the trail. This is a good emergency exit to Highway 270 to the north. Mill Creek Campground is in that area. According to the USGS Buck Knob Arkansas topographic map, the road intersects Highway 270 at 34° 43.59'N 93° 59.28'W. On the map below see the red plus mark. Mill Creek Recreation Area is to the west of the 7172 access point.	

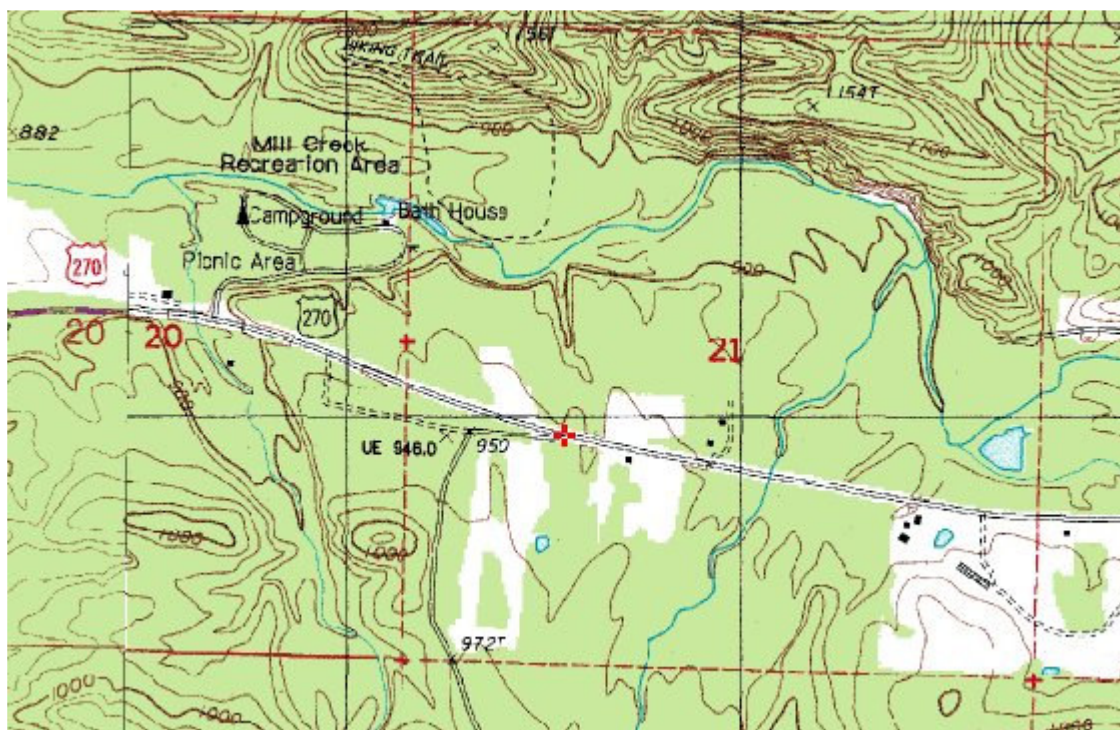


Figure 73 - Highway 270 Mill Creek

### ***Poteau Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-17 Given name: Poteau GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.635'N 93° 59.263'W GPS Elevation: 2051 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: past 81 Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: 4 to 5 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Spring Campsite Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: on the trail
Notes: Nice stopping point. Camp on the trail.	



**Figure 74 - Poteau Campsite**



**Figure 75 - Big Foot stops for a pose on the Ouachita Trail**

No, we didn't really see Big Foot. But do some research and you will quickly see that there have been sightings in these mountains. I recently saw a story on one of the reputable news stations in Dallas about a Big Foot expedition in SE Oklahoma. And there is a "Big Foot Information Center" in Talihena, OK. People really get into this! But until I see some DNA evidence from the creature's dung or hair samples, you can count me out.

Oh yeah... One night along the trail I was abducted by aliens and taken to the planet Mogulus. But I woke up in the tent the next day, with soreness all over my body, especially in my legs and back, feeling like I had been inspected, probed, and run in a hamster wheel for observation.



### ***Buck Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-18 Given name: Buck Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 40.653'N 93° 58.049'W GPS Elevation: 1923 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: past 82 Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: None	Num tents: 4 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Spring Campsite Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Nicest campsite on this trail segment. Best fire ring, anyway.	



**Figure 76 - Buck Campsite**

### ***Mena Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-19 Given name: Mena Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 39.903'N 93° 57.582'W GPS Elevation: 1760 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: 3 Closest access point: Foran Gap Trailhead Nearest water source: Tan-A-Hill Spring Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: Not a fire ring, but a fire has been built on this spot between the stump and the cut tree. Service project would be to build a fire ring here. In the picture look between the stump on the left and cut tree on the right.	



**Figure 77 - Mena Campsite**



### ***Road 76 Campsite/Intersection***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-20 Given name: Road 76 Campsite/Intersection GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 39.789'N 93° 56.268'W GPS Elevation: 1980 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: 5 Closest access point: Road 76 Nearest water source: Here, a water cache location Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the left
Notes: This is a great place to drop off water, or to have a vehicle meet the trekking crew.	



**Figure 78 - Road 76 Campsite**





**Figure 79 – Forest Service Road 76**

The Ouachita Trail follows Road 76 for about 2.5 miles. You would think that it is actually easier, but I don't think so. The road surface is harder, so it is tougher on your feet. The trail is in open sunlight, so you will be hotter. My preference is to be on a foot trail under the trees. But that's just me.

Road 76 access from Highway 270/71 from the west GPS coordinates are 34° 39.328'N 93° 09.203'W. I believe that the road is paved at first, marked with a sign to the Irons Fork Reservoir. But this is a long way to go on a gravel road, something like 16 miles, as compared to about 5 miles access from the north Highway 270 on the east side. The actual road name at Highway 270 is County Road 375. Follow this road up to Road 76. Refer to a map because the road winds around and intersects other roads. GPS coordinates for the north access at Highway 270 is 34° 41.27'N 93° 53.38'W.

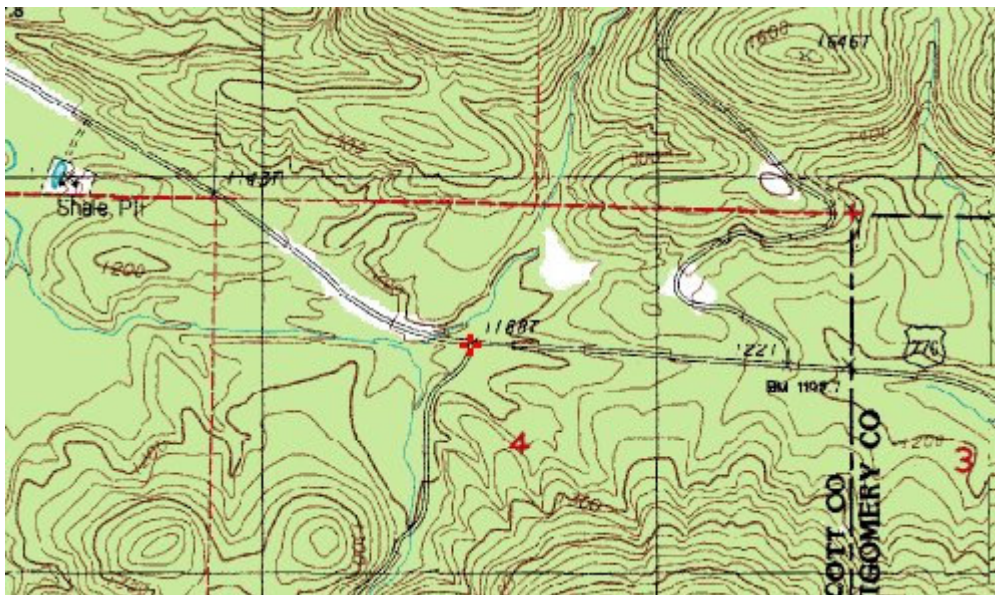


Figure 80 - County Road 375 access point at Highway 270

## **Road 774 Campsite**

Site sequence: Campsite 2-21 Given name: Road 774 Campsite GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 39.786'N 93° 53.637'W GPS Elevation: 1630 GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Road 76 Nearest water source: Here, a water cache location Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the right
Notes: This is a great place to drop off water, or to have a vehicle meet the trekking crew. Nice place to stay for the last night on the trail. From this point it is about 7 miles to Brushy Creek trailhead.	



**Figure 81 – Road 774 Campsite**

Road 76 access from Highway 270 GPS coordinates are 34° 41.27'N 93° 53.38'W. I looked for this road on Highway 270, but didn't see an obvious entrance. According to Tim Ernst' book [Ouachita Trail Guide](#) the access road on Highway 270 is 11.7 miles east of Y City, 4.7 miles west of Big Brushy Recreation Area.





**Figure 82 - Ouachita Trail going back into the forest from Road 76**

The area east from here to Brushy Creek is burnt out. The markings on the trees are faded, but the trail is easy to pick out.

Note about night hikes in this area: because of the faded markings, it is not recommended. The Forest Service really needs to remark the trees since the prescribed burn. Doing this would be a good service project.

### ***Road 48 Intersection/Little Brushy Trailhead***

Type: Intersection/Trailhead	GPS Odometer:
Name: Little Brushy Trailhead	OT Mile marker:
GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 39.960'N 94° 53.167'W	Location from trail: on the trail
GPS Elevation: 1456 approx	Price for parking: 0
Notes: This trailhead register needs some work. Hasn't been used or maintained in a long time it appears. From this point to Big Brushy it is only about 5.5 miles, just a couple more hours of hiking. You could register here if you want too, especially if you plan on staying overnight on the trail before you reach Big Brushy Recreation Area trailhead. The trailhead register is a little ways past the road intersection.	

## Road 813 Campsite/Intersection

Site sequence: Campsite 2-22 Given name: Road 813 Campsite/Intersection GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 39.996'N 93° 51.458'W GPS Elevation: 940 approx GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? No Num fire seats: N/A	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Road 813 Nearest water source: Brushy Creek Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the left of the trail
Notes: Big open area by parking area.	

Road 813 access from Highway 270 GPS coordinates are 34° 41.17'N 93° 51.49'W. I looked for this road on Highway 270, but didn't see an obvious entrance.

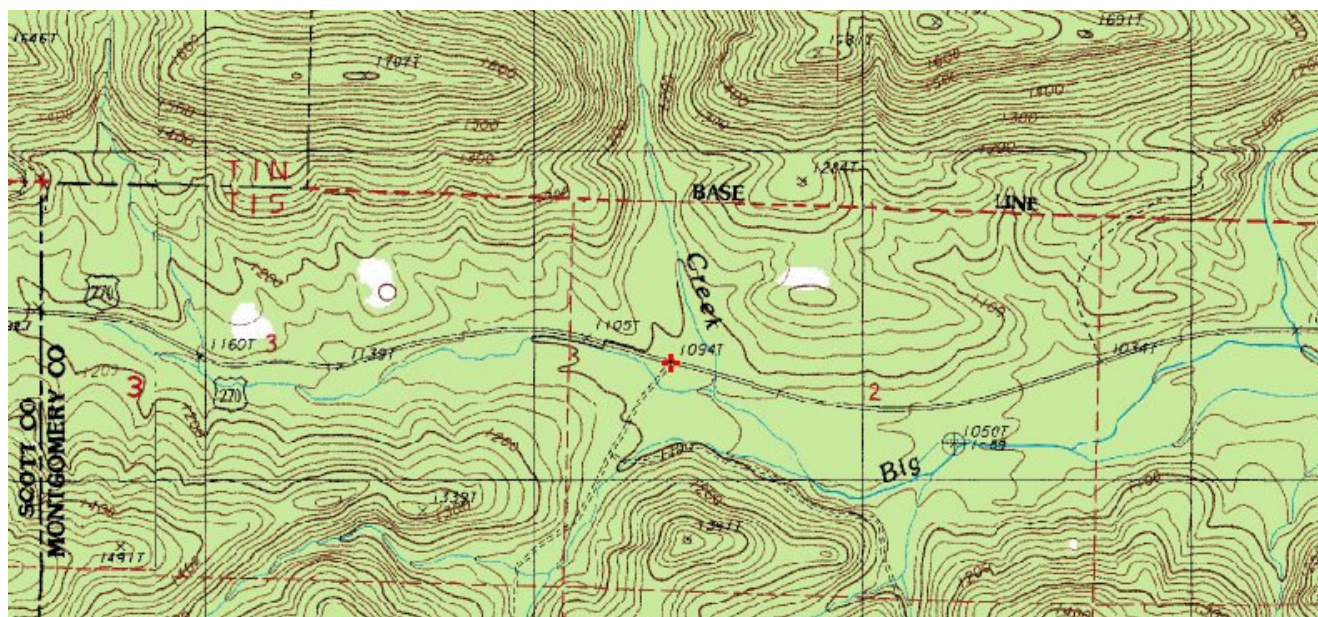


Figure 83 - Road 813 access at Highway 270



### ***Road 6 Intersection***

Type: Intersection Name: Road 6 Intersection GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.017'N 93° 48.401'W GPS Elevation: 946 approx	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: On Price for parking: 0
Notes:	



**Figure 84 - Road 6 Intersection before Big Brushy**





**Figure 85 - Bridge over Brushy Creek**

## ***Big Brushy Recreation Area Campsite***

Site sequence: Campsite 2-23 Given name: Big Brushy Recreation Area GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.10'N 93° 48.59'W GPS Elevation: 930 approx GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Fire ring? Yes Num fire seats: Picnic tables	Num tents: a lot Closest access point: Highway 270 Nearest water source: Brushy Creek Cell phone coverage: Cingular digital Firewood supply: Plentiful Location from trail: to the left
Notes: A great place for an overnight stay. No cost for a campsite. But no running water. Restrooms are a latrine. But sitting on a seat sure beats squatting any day! What luxury you will have for a night. Plus taking a dip in Brushy Creek while you are here will be a great way to cool off.	



Figure 86 - Big Brushy Information Center



**Figure 87 - Big Brushy Recreation Area Campsite**



### ***Brushy Creek Water Source***

Site sequence: Water source 2-13 GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.10'N 93° 48.59'W GPS Elevation: 930 approx	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: right below bridge
Notes: After 26.9 miles of not seeing any water this is a very refreshing site! After that hike I just wanted to go dive in and cool off.	



**Figure 88 - Brushy Creek Water Source**

## ***Big Brushy Trailhead***

Type: Trailhead Name: Big Brushy trailhead GPS Lat/Lon: 34° 41.10'N 93° 48.59'W GPS Elevation: 930 approx	GPS Odometer: OT Mile marker: Location from trail: to the right Price for parking: 0
Notes:	



**Figure 89 - Big Brushy Trailhead**



**Figure 90 - Big Brushy Recreation Area access from Highway 270**