

WELCOME TO HERCULES GLADES WILDERNESS

This 12,413 acre Wilderness located in southwestern Missouri's Taney County on the Ava Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest encompasses some of the most scenic and unique country in the Midwest. Its combination of open grassland, forested knobs, steep rocky hillsides, and narrow drainages offers unusual beauty and a measure of solitude within easy reach of large numbers of wilderness users.

The area is characterized by shallow droughty soils and limestone rock outcroppings. Eastern redcedar and oak trees are interspersed with open glades supporting native tall prairie grasses. Redbud and dogwood provide beautiful spring flowers, while smoketree and maple put on vivid fall color displays.

The elevation range exceeds 600 feet between the high points, such as Pilot Knob and Coy Bald, and the bottom of Long Creek. Only portions of Long and Cane Creeks contain water the year round.

A variety of wildlife species live within the Hercules Glades, including white-tailed deer, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, turkeys, quail, numerous songbirds, small lizards and snakes. Copperheads and rattlesnakes may be encountered. Roadrunners, collared lizards and tarantulas are some of the more uncommon wildlife residents.

Hercules Glades has long been recognized for its special qualities. It was designated a Wilderness in Public Law 94-557, October 1976, and is managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Hercules Glades is one of eight wildernesses in Missouri, seven of which are located within the Mark Twain National Forest.



WILDERNESS REGULATIONS AND MANNERS

Wilderness is a natural area affected primarily by the forces of nature with little evidence of man's works -- "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Many individuals seek out its peace and solitude, yet it has different meanings and values to different people depending on their background and whether they are backpackers, hunters, photographers, or hikers.

Increasing numbers of Wilderness users may seriously impact the very values they seek. To insure that these values remain intact, please practice good wilderness manners and comply with the following regulations.



Regulations

There are certain human impacts that could damage or destroy the wilderness resource. These practices are not allowed within the Hercules Glades Wilderness.

- Camping within 100' of trails, streams, or other occupied campsites;
- Littering or leaving refuse, in an exposed or unsanitary condition;
- Placing a substance in or near a stream that may pollute the stream;
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it;
- Cutting or defacing live or dead standing trees or other vegetation;
- Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat, motorized equipment or mechanical transport;
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material, supplies or persons by means of aircraft, including helicopters;
- Building "structures" such as rock fire rings, tables, lean-tos and the like;
- Discharging a firearm within 150 yards of an occupied area, or in any manner or place that endangers any person or property:
- Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition;
- Tying staock directly to trees;
- No more than 10 individuals shall travel or camp together as one group.

Missouri Department of Conservation hunting and fishing regulations and license requirements apply.

Wilderness Manners

Backpackers should leave no sign of their presence so that the next person can enjoy natural scenes and solitude. Tread lightly so nature can endure and replenish.

All overnight and day use visitors are asked to register at one of the trailhead self-registration stations.

Limit group size to 10 persons or less. This reduces impact on soil and ground cover. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leave your camp cleaner than you found it. **Pack out what you pack in.** Animals generally dig up what you bury, so don't. Dispose of human waste at least 100 feet from campsites, trails and waterways. Dig a shallow hole and cover it, nature will biologically decompose.

Minimize campfire usage and keep them small in size. Dead fallen trees add to the natural environment and future shortages may cause complete restrictions. Fire rings are unnatural signs of man and should be avoided. The use of small gas or chemical cooking stoves is recommended. **Use care with open campfires**, make sure they are dead out and their evidence is covered or scattered before leaving.

Protect the solitude; seek out campsites that are out of sight and sound of trails and other camps. When sharing an area, keep a low profile and maintain the solitude.

Avoid overuse of popular areas, and search out the lesser known attractions.

Be prepared - have the right equipment and clothing for primitive travel and the season of the year. Technology doesn't always work in the wilderness. In addition to a GPS or cell phone, be sure to carry a good map and compass; practice safety and carry a first aid kit. The universal distress signal is three of anything: shots, shouts, smokes, whistles.

When traveling on a trail, stay on the trail. When traveling cross-country, use your map and compass. Use of blazes, ribbons or other trail markers should be avoided; let the next fellow find his own way as you did.

Pack your own shelter, including needed poles and stakes; they have fewer impacts and are more comfortable than lean-tos.

Remember that saddle and pack stock have the right - of - way on trails. Step surely off the trail on the downhill side. Give way to them and avoid conflicts and possible accidents.

Don't tie saddle and pack stock to small trees, as the rope rubbing and concentrated animal trampling will injure or kill the vegetation. It's better to use hobbles or tie a rope between two large trees and use it as a hitch rail. When breaking camp, scatter manure and smooth up the area.

Avoid prolonged stock grazing in one area; it can have a serious impact on vegetation. Bring concentrated supplemental stock feed to help reduce this impact.

Picket your stock at least 200 feet away from waterways, trails, or camps.

Reduce the Spread of non-native, invasive plants by removing weedseeds from your animals and gear before arriving on the forest, and assuring that stock aren't eating these weeds within 48 hours of their arrival on the forest.

Be aware of natural hazards that may occur within the Wilderness, and take precaution to maintain your safety. Flash flooding may occur during and after rainstorms; trees and limbs may fall with even moderate winds.

Hercules Glade Wilderness is surrounded by private property. Please respect the rights and property of private landowners.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Vault toilets are provided at tower site trailhead.

Drinking water is not available at trailheads and the limited open water sources within the Wilderness are not recommended for drinking. Bring your own, or plan to chemically treat or boil water found within the area.

The Ozark climate is mild enough to make wilderness visits feasible throughout the year, as long as visitors have the proper gear. When possible, take advantage of this opportunity and plan your visit outside the peak spring and fall use seasons.

Hercules Glades is readily accessible and relatively small in size, making day trips very worthwhile. Hotels, motels, and resorts are located within reasonable driving distances as are public and private campgrounds. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has camping facilities at reservoir areas south of Hercules Glades.

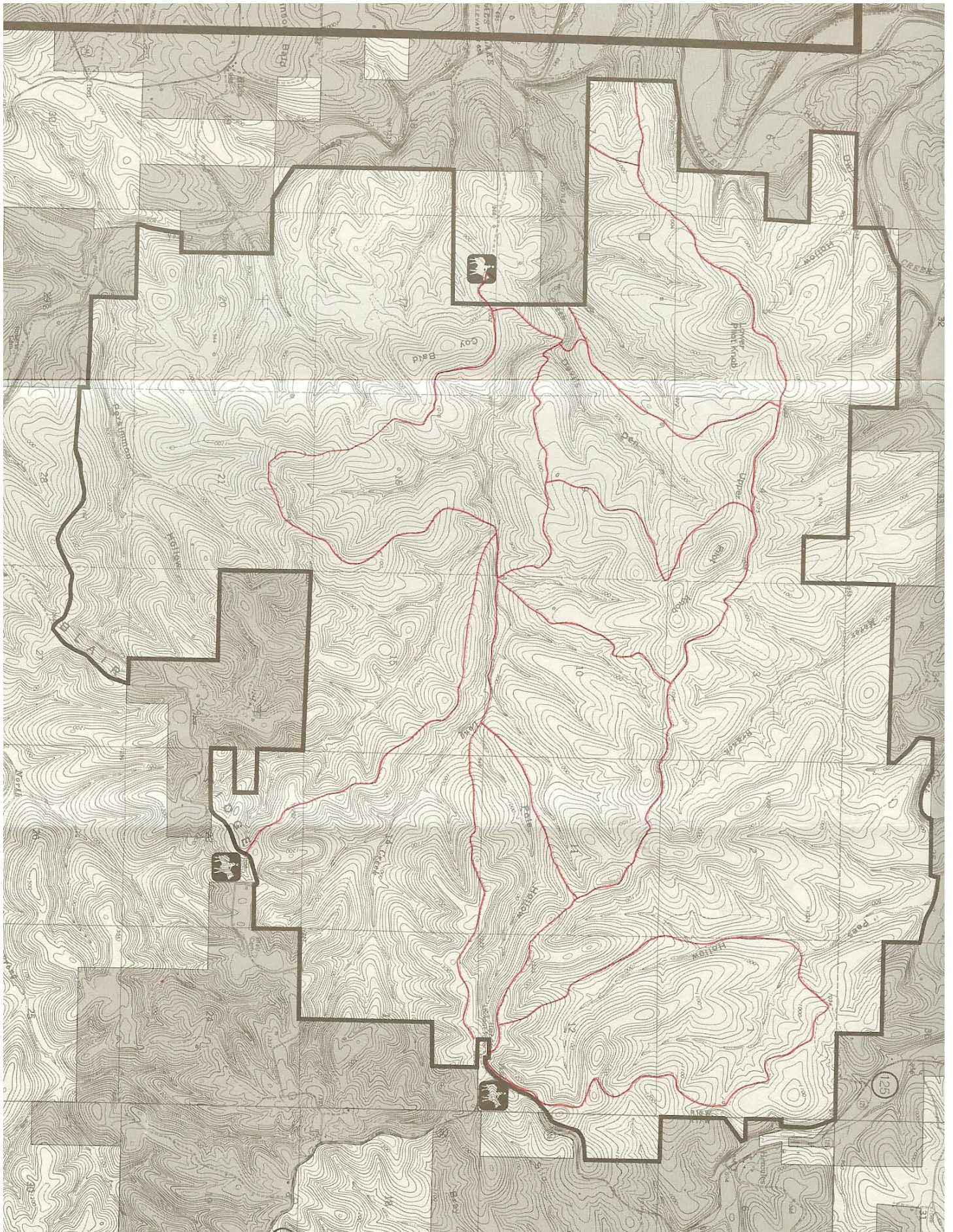
USGS quadrangle maps can be purchased from the Forest Service or the U.S. Geological Survey. The wilderness is located on Hilda and Protom NE quadrangle maps. Maps of each Ranger District at one - half inch to the mile scale may be purchased from the Forest Service.

Wilderness Rangers frequently visit trailheads and also patrol the interior of the area. They are there to assist you and answer your questions. Have a pleasant wilderness experience and remember, leave only footprints and take only photographs and memories.


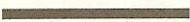
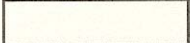


For Further Information Contact:


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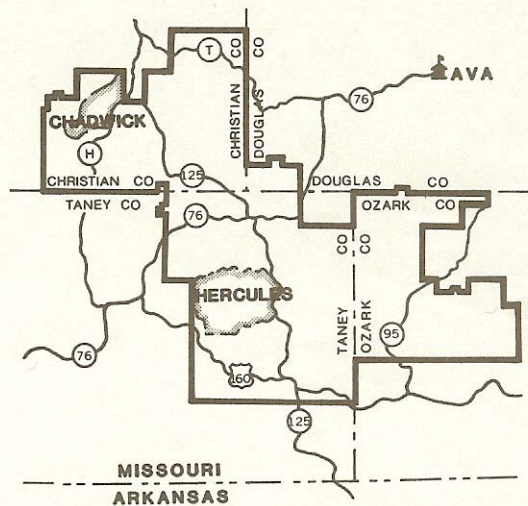


LEGEND

-  Wilderness Boundary
-  Forest Boundary
-  Private Land
-  Horse/Hiking Trail
-  Trailhead

0  1 Mile

LOCATION MAP



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Hercules Glade Wilderness is accessible from State Highway 125 from the east, Blair Ridge Road (just off 124) from the south and Broken Back Bridge Road (County Road 160-200) off Highway 160 from the west.