Eagle Rock Loop
Ouachita National Forest

Trail Highlights: This trail offers the longest loop trail in Arkansas. A combination of the Little Missouri, the Athens-Big Fork and part of the Viles Branch Horse Trail, this trail travels through the southwestern portion of the Ouachita National Forest. Trail difficulty ranges from easy to most difficult. The trail has numerous river, stream and creek crossings and travels over nine mountains.

Surrounding Areas:
- Albert Pike Recreation Area is closed to all use, including trailhead parking, until further notice.
- Little Missouri Falls, a forested picnic area, offers fishing and a trail to a waterfall overlook.
- Bard Springs, a 17-unit campground (no utilities) on a scenic stream. No horses.
- Shady Lake Recreation Area, another well-developed recreation area on a small scenic lake that offers swimming, camping and fishing opportunities. No horses.
- For more hiking experiences in the area try the Caney Creek Trails. Horses allowed.

For More Information:
Caddo Ranger Station
912 Smokey Bear Lane
Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-4186

Length: 26.8 miles - 2 to 3 days travel time one way.

History: This trail was developed along a 100 year-old postal route and old wagon roads in partnership with the Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society and the Little Missouri Trails Council.

Surface type: Unsurfaced.

Trail Markings: White rectangles.

Drinking Water: Treat all river and stream water before drinking.

Safety: Be careful when crossing rivers and creeks during periods of high water.

Difficulty:
- Little Missouri: Hiking and biking-more difficult.
- Viles Branch: Equestrian-difficult; Biking and hiking-easy to most difficult.
- Athens-Big Fork: Hiking and biking-most difficult.

See note on Page 3 for additional information on trail difficulty.

Trail Map: The trail map is divided into 6 sections as shown in the snapshot on page 2 and on pages 3 through 8.

This map is only available in this on-line version.

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*Ouachita National Forest*  
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**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

**Albert Pike Recreation Area** from Texarkana:
- US-71 north for about 45 miles to US-70,
- US-70 east for about 28 miles to AR-369,
- AR-369 north for about 12 miles to Albert Pike.

**Albert Pike Recreation Area** from Hot Springs:
- US-70 west for about 34 miles to AR-84,
- Right (west) on AR-84 for about 13 miles to AR-369 at Langley,
- Right (north) on AR-369 for about 6 miles to Albert Pike.

**Little Missouri/Athens-Big Fork Junction Trailhead** from Mena:
- AR-8 southeast for about 1.5 miles to AR-375,
- Right (south) on AR-375 for about 12 miles to Polk County Road 25 (at community of Shady),
- Left (east) on Polk-25 (Polk-25 becomes FSR-25) for about 6 miles to the trailhead at FSR-912.

**Little Missouri Falls Trailhead** from Mt. Ida:
- AR-27 south for about 8.4 miles to AR-8,
- Right (west) on AR-8 for about 12 miles to FSR-43 (watch for sign),
- Left (south) on FSR-43 for about 4 miles to FSR-25,
- Right (west) on FSR-25 for about 1/2 mile to FSR-539 and Little Missouri Falls.

**Albert Pike Recreation Area** to Little Missouri Falls:
- North on FSR-73 for about 3 miles to FSR-43,
- Left (northwest) on FSR-43 for about 4 miles to FSR-25,
- Left (west) on FSR-25 for about 1/2 mile to FSR-539 and Little Missouri Falls.

**Athens-Big Fork South Trailhead** from Texarkana:
- US-71 north for about 45 miles to US-70,
- US-70 east for about 15 miles to AR-4 (US-278),
- Left (north) on AR-4 for about 11 miles to AR-84 (at Umpire),
- Right (north) on AR-84 for about 6 miles to AR-246 (at Athens),
- Left on AR-246 to FSR-38,
- Right on FSR-38 for about 2 miles to FSR-53800, FSR-B23F and the Trailhead.

*See Trail Snapshot*

**Starting trailhead:** Start at the trailhead that works best for you.  
Section numbers are not intended to suggest starting points or direction of travel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Sections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Rock Loop</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Missouri</td>
<td>4, 5, 6 and 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens-Big Fork</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viles Branch (partial)</td>
<td>3 and 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*See Trail Snapshot*
Hiking:
All trails

Biking:
All trails

Equestrian:
Viles Branch

Eagle Rock Loop is very difficult with a lot of steep and vigorous vertical activity (one leg alone crosses six ridges in eight miles, each between 500 - 800 feet). The Loop also has numerous tricky creek crossings, almost certainly requiring wet crossings in March and April, and one ford of the Little Missouri River that can be 50 yards wide. Many experienced hikers consider the Loop a "test" of hiking skill and about the most difficult Arkansas has to offer. If you think you (and your group or family) can handle all that, the Loop is a great hike with scenery, vistas, a large-volume cascading waterfall, and beautiful bluffs around the Albert Pike recreation area.
Brier Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Long Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Blaylock Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

FR 106 West Trailhead
GPS: N34.381914
W093.961959
UTM 83
Blaylock Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

To Bard Springs and Shady Lake recreation areas

16 Bard Springs and Shady Lake recreation areas

Align with Section 1

Align with Section 2

Align with Section 3

Align with Section 4

Stone House

1.1

2.8

HIKING
All trails

BIKING
All trails

EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch
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East Saline Creek: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Athens-Big Fork/Viles Branch Horse Trail Junction
GPS: N34.354727
W093.974854
UTM 83
Viles Branch: Normally dependable water. Treat before drinking.

Athens-Big Fork South Trailhead
GPS: N34.347103
W093.984343
UTM 83
About 84 miles to Texarkana.
About 25 miles to Glenwood.

Align with Section 4

Align with Section 2
HIKING
All trails

BIKING
All trails

EQUESTRIAN:
Viles Branch

Little Missouri River:
Dependable year-round water. Treat before drinking.

River crossing:
May be hazardous during high water.

Albert Pike Recreation Area
GPS: N34.225406 W093.530536 UTM 083
About 6 miles to Langley

Alfred Pike Recreation is closed to all use until further notice.

Align with Section 2
Align with Section 4
Align with Section 6
Little Missouri Falls Trailhead
GPS: N34.422745  W093.919383  UTM 83

Align with Section 1  Align with Section 5