

# Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest

Page 1 of 8



Hiking: All trails



Biking: All trails



Equestrian:  
Viles Branch



**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**, a developed area, offers swimming, and fishing opportunities. No camping. No horses.
- **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**, a 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:

Womble Ranger Station  
91523 Hwy 270 E.  
Mt. Ida, AR 71957  
(870) 867-2101

**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:** Albert Pike Recreation Area.

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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EAGLE ROCK LOOP

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Ouachita National Forest



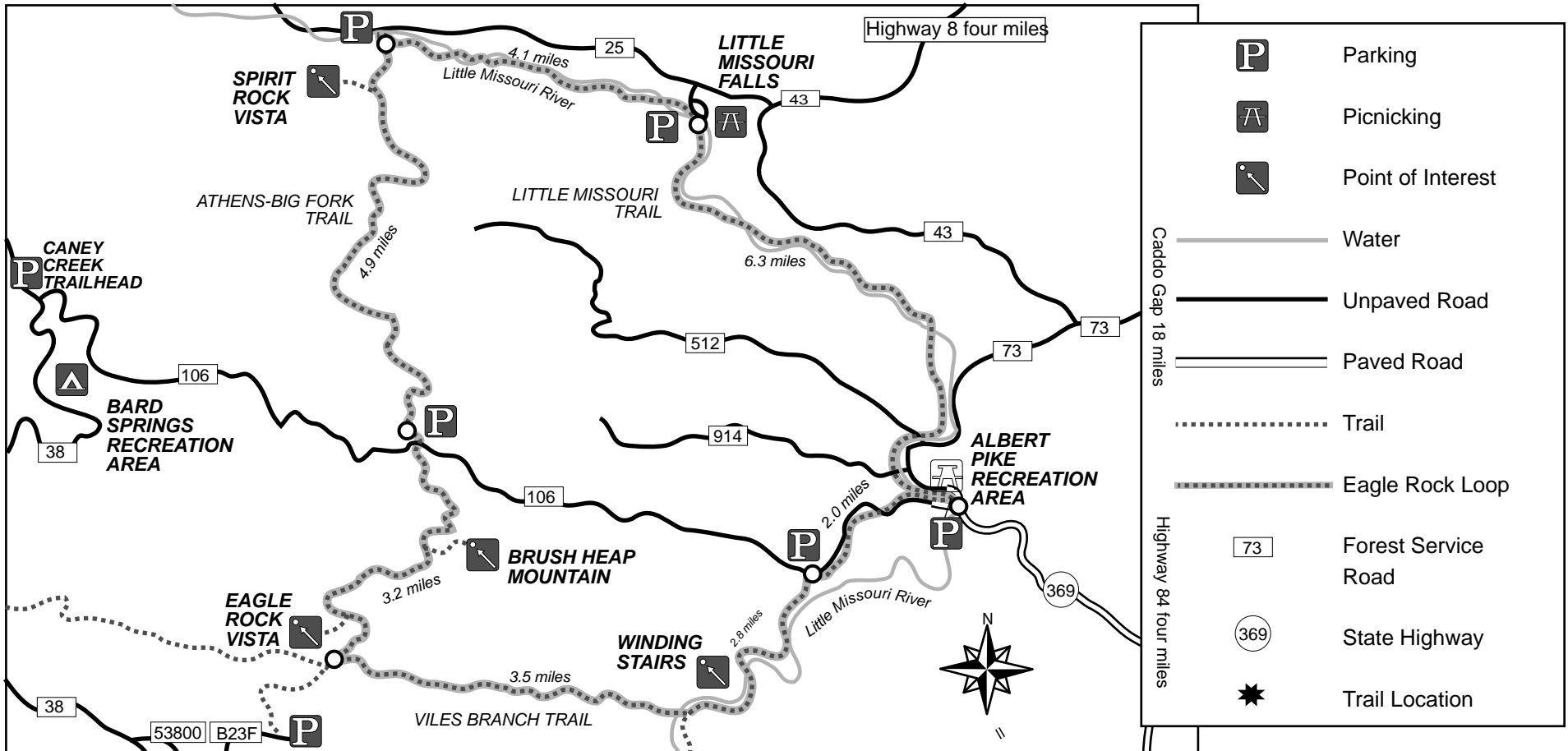
Hiking: All trails



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Equestrian:  
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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.

USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangles: Athens, Big Fork

