

Moccasin Gap Horse Trail

Region

Ozark Mountains (Ozark National Forest)

Trail Manager

District Ranger; Bayou Ranger District; Rt. 1, Box 36; Hector, AR 72843; (501) 284-3150

Location

There is easy access from Highway 7 to the horse camp at Moccasin Gap on an improved gravel road.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Posts have been provided for tying your horses to avoid damaging trees.
- Hobbling is permitted.
- Riders should wear hunter orange during spring and fall hunting seasons.
- Stay on the trails. You will encounter roads and trails that leave or cross the marked trails. These are not part of the trail system if they are unmarked.
- Use trash cans provided for your litter.
- Scatter hay and manure before leaving the horse camp.

TOTAL LENGTH OF TRAILS

28 miles; outside perimeter 20 miles; time varies

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Varies by section of trail—Easiest to Most Difficult. Please refer to map.

DESCRIPTION

Moccasin Gap Horse Trail consists of four major loops with many inner loops. The trail that is on existing Forest Service roads is currently open to horses, motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles—so watch out for other users. Some newly constructed parts of the trail are suitable only for horses.

Stave Mill Falls Loop begins at the horse camp and meanders along Moccasin Creek past several beautiful waterfalls. It is very scenic when the water is high. This is a good ride for even inexperienced riders. Stave Mill Falls connects directly to Gap Hollow Loop and to Black Oak Ridge Loop.

Black Oak Ridge Loop is one large loop connecting with Stave Mill Falls Loop and High Mountain Loop. Much of this loop is new trail that travels along the ridge above Moccasin Hollow and provides a beautiful view, especially when the leaves have fallen. Approximately half of this trail is for horse use only. There is easy access to Mack's Pines from the south end of this trail if you need to pick up supplies. (Use caution when crossing Highway 7.)

High Mountain Loop is actually a series of loops

which can be ridden in many combinations. It is the farthest from camp and the longest. The outermost loop of High Mountain trail, north of its intersection with Gap Hollow trail, crosses Moccasin Creek twice and then follows it for some distance. The scenery is spectacular and includes waterfalls and overlooks. However, the trail in this section is rocky and very steep for about two miles and is not recommended for novice riders and/or horses. Much of the remainder of High Mountain Loop is on old logging roads and is easily negotiated by all riders.

Gap Hollow Loop leaves from the horse camp. It is a combination of timber roads and new trail. The northern trail was constructed for the use of horses only. It offers some secluded, rustic riding. Gap Hollow Loop is a more challenging trail than Stave Mill Falls, yet is easy enough for any rider to enjoy. It is the closest access to High Mountain Loop from the horse camp.

Trails are marked in both directions with color-coded horseshoe-shaped marks on the trees. Connector trails are marked in the color towards which you are riding. For example, the trail connecting Gap Hollow Loop and High Mountain Loop is marked blue if you are headed east and yellow if you are traveling west. In addition to marking on the trees, many junctions are marked with brown posts indicating the direction of the trail with colored arrows.

SITE AMENITIES

There are seventeen graveled parking spurs at the camp available on a "first-come" basis. Each spur is provided with a tether post and a fire ring for cooking. There are toilets, trash receptacles and a well to provide drinking water for horses. (The water has not been tested for human consumption.) Groceries, gas and showers are available at Mack's Pines, located east of Highway 7.

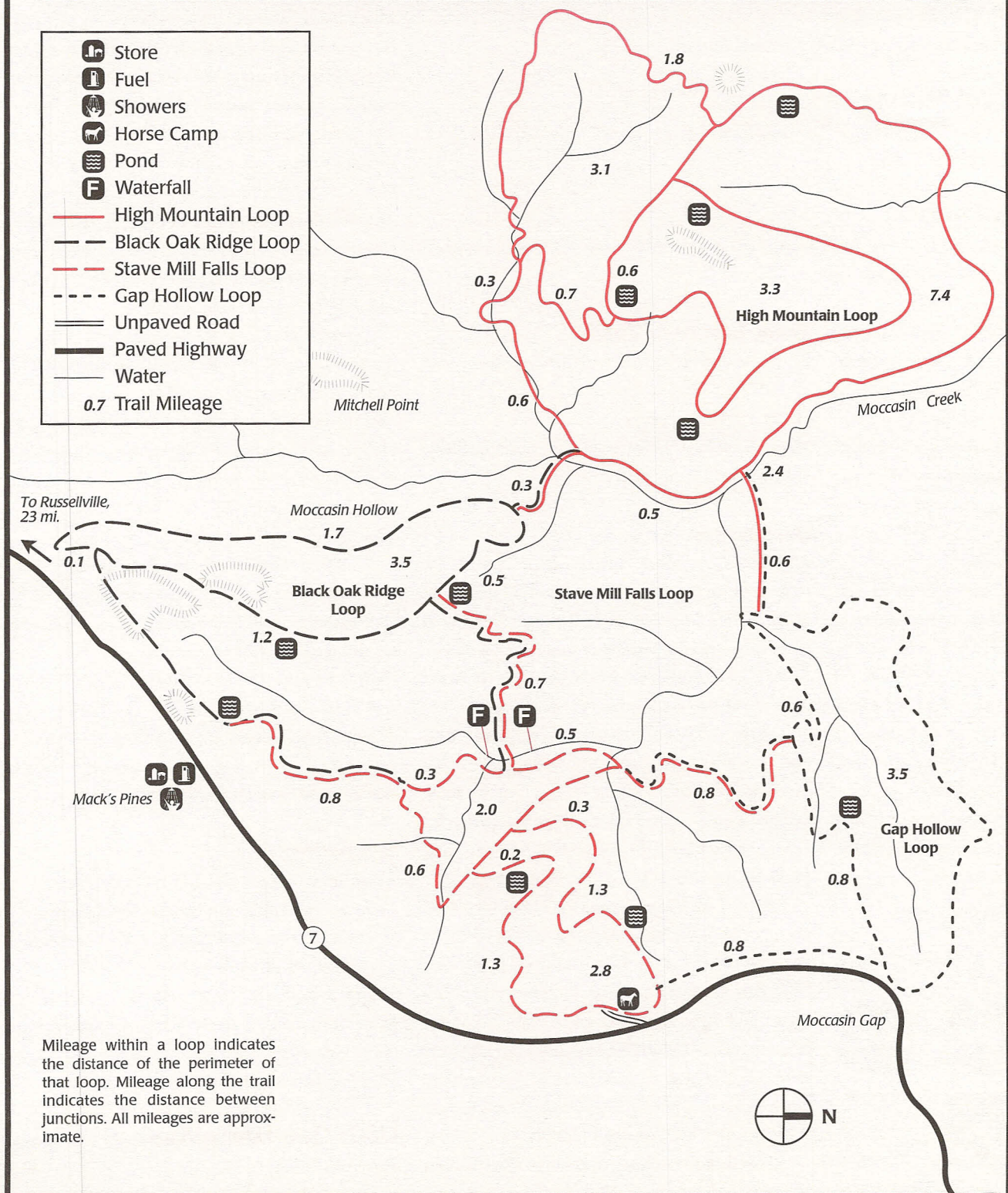
USGS QUADRANGLE MAPS

Simpson, Treat



MOCCASIN GAP HORSE TRAIL

- Store
 - Fuel
 - Showers
 - Horse Camp
 - Pond
 - Waterfall
 - High Mountain Loop
 - Black Oak Ridge Loop
 - Stave Mill Falls Loop
 - Gap Hollow Loop
 - Unpaved Road
 - Paved Highway
 - Water
- 0.7 Trail Mileage



Mileage within a loop indicates the distance of the perimeter of that loop. Mileage along the trail indicates the distance between junctions. All mileages are approximate.