

OMH Trail Data / History

Bear Creek Trail

Ouachita National Forest (AR)

This USFS trail is a complex of four loops with a total of 45 miles of trail. It is predominantly on old forest roads in various condition from drivable to fully overgrown. Built for equestrians, the trail is open to hikers as well. There are at least two good hikes of 7 and 9 miles which include only single track trail. There are several creeks running through the area, but usually do not require waders. The highlight is the overlook at Powell Mountain tower site, which offers great views of Lake Ouachita. Trail is marked in yellow.

Planning notes: Trail is approximately 15 miles west of hwy 7 off FR 11. Plan an hour drive because of the extent of forest road driving. Nine mile route on Tower Loop has been used as Thursday hike. Start at end of FR 225; go to Powell Mt and then continue down to J40. This route has a good lunch spot near a bubbling creek with lots of good rocks. A seven mile route starts off of FR 772. (See Phil Simpson for details)
Trail is not heavily utilized and therefore is best used in winter; Trail maintenance would have to precede a warm weather hike.

Access Notes: Take FR 11 west from Hwy 7 for 10.4 miles. Go past the Deckard Mt Walk-in-Turkey area for a few more miles to FR 225 (next one past fr 22). Turn right and go to end of road (4.9 miles). Trail proceeds SW from end of road. [Note: This is slow going on forest roads. The five miles on 225 is particularly rough.]

For additional info: USFS, Jessierville District (map TR-22)
OMH member Phil Simpson

Recent Hikes:

Feb 26, 2009 **Leader:** Anita Moore **7 Hikers** *OMH Thursday*

Route: Tower loop from FR 255 to Powell Mountain Peak overlook , then down to J40

9.0 miles

Difficulty Rating 2

Scenic Rating 3

Phil Simpson was lead hiker for Anita, as she was on "injured reserve". Anita and Ken shuttled cars and walked a couple of miles to meet group at end.

sss: Powell Mountain Tower (view of Lake Ouachita)
Bubbling creek with large rocks (lunch site)

Waterfall un-named / near trailhead

Feb 28, 2008 **Leader:** Phil Simpson **11 Hikers** *OMH Thursday*

Route: Tower loop from FR 255 to Powell Mountain Peak overlook , then down to J40

9.0 miles

Difficulty Rating 2

Scenic Rating 3

First time for club use of this trail. Hiked up to overlook for views of Lake Ouachita, but hazy day prevented full appreciation.

Lunch by a bubbling creek, with large rocks that served as tables.

One shy dog accompanied the group of eleven hikers.

sss: View of Lake Ouachita from Powell Mt overlook