

## OMH Trail Data / History

### Ouachita National Recreation Trail / Sect 4

#### Ouachita National Forest (AR)

Section 4 of the OT stretches from US 71 (Foran Gap) on the west end to Big Brushy Campground on the east. In between is Fourche Mountain, one of the more intimidating challenges on the trail. The section is 26.4 miles (68.1 - 94.5) and has vertical range of 1500', with a high point near 2500'. Between Lori Creek and Turner Gap, it goes up and down 1000' in 5 miles.

**Planning notes:**

1. Pencil Bluff is a good rendezvous spot, about one hour from HSV or HS. Leave cars at Brushy Creek campground.
2. Use 100 miles round trip for carpool estimate for east (Big Brushy) end; or 15 miles round trip for west (Hwy 71) end
3. There is a beautiful lunch spot near mile 93. A rock outcropping on south side of trail, with open views of mountain ridges and valleys.

**Access Notes:**

1. Access to either end is easy, well-marked, with parking. Access to the three middle points is off of poor forest roads with no amenities.
2. Brushy Creek (OT Mile 91.4) is a well marked turn off of US 270; about 5 miles west of Pencil Bluff. Large parking lot; easy access. Use 100 mile round trip for carpool estimate
3. FR 76 East (OT mile 87.7). About 2 1/2 miles off US270 to near end; trail follows 76 for 2.6 mi. No parking.
4. FR 76 West (OT Mile 85.0). Another 2.7 miles down the forest road. Small parking lot (3 cars max) as trail goes back into the woods.
5. Turner Creek Gap (OT mile 79.9): FR 76 about 3 miles west of where the trail leaves 76. Turn North onto FR 7172; go about 1 mile to end. Limited parking. Hike about a mile up the creek line to OT mile 79.9. This should probably be used for maintenance only.
6. Lori Creek/ Tan-a-Hill Gap (OT mile 74.2): FR 76 to M43. Go about 1.5 mi north to end of M43. Parking for four or five cars. Hike up old logging road to trail at mile 74.1 (1.3 mile walk-in from end of M43 to OT). Can come in from either end of FR 76 (M43 is 15 mi from hwy 270; 3 mi from hwy 71). From Hwy 71, turn is about a mile south of trail, marked Polk County road 70; Forest service sign to Irons Fork lake
7. Hwy 71 TH well marked; large parking area. OT mile 68.1. Use 150 miles for carpool estimate.

**For additional info:** Tim Ernst: "Ouachita Trail Guide" (p. 58 - 66; in v 4)  
USFS detailed map of Ouachita Trail [map TR-1 (det); free download at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita/maps/> Ben Glazer

#### Recent Hikes:

**Jan 3, 2008** Leader: Jim Gifford **15 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** M43 to Tan-a-Hill Gap / Lori Creek ( mile 74.1) to Hwy 71 TH (m 68.1)

**7.3 miles** Difficulty Rating **3** Scenic Rating **3**

*Very cold morning with bitter wind on ridge. Saw snow, ice, and frost flowers. Hikers bundled up and kept moving. Water froze in most drinking bottles. Kept a steady pace to complete in 3 hours.*

*Followed with lunch at Chopping Block in Mena.*

**sss:** Views from ridge lines; rock formations

**Dec 6, 2007** Leader: Jim Gifford **18 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** FR 76 (west) to Lori Creek / M43 [85.1 - 74.1] + walkout (1.3)

**12.3 miles** Difficulty Rating **4** Scenic Rating **3**

*Good crowd on a cool clear morning.*

*Lunch on a rock outcrop at top of ridge (about mile 78) with great view.*

*Ben and Glenn shuttled cars from 76 to M43.*

*Young visitor named Damion ran the hike and finished in less than two hours.*

**sss:** Winter vistas; rock formations

**Nov 1, 2007** Leader: Jim Gifford **17 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** FR 76 W to Big Brushy campground [85.5 - 94.5]

**9.5 miles** Difficulty Rating **3** Scenic Rating **3**

*We all hiked downhill most of the day, from west eend of FR 76 to Brushy Creek, while Ben, Glenn, Ken shuttled cars.*

*Lunch on a rock pile on Brushy Mountain.*

**sss:** Rock outcrop/vista on Brushy Mountain (about mile 93)

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<b>Feb 3, 2005</b>	Leader: Jim Gifford	<b>17 Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> FR 76 (West) to Lori Creek/M43 (85 - 74.1) + 1 mile walkout [and vice versa]				
<b>12.0 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 4</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		
<i>Cold and foggy in morning; sunny warm in afternoon. Ice covered ground and trees near high point (2500' on Fourche Mt). Split hike: Jim + 8 went east to west; Kris/Billy + 7 went west to east. West to East group hiked in ice all morning, but most had melted by afternoon.</i>				
<i>Got stuck in mud at FR76 TH</i>				
<i>sss:</i> several views; rock formations				
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<b>Jan 6, 2005</b>	Leader: Jim Gifford	<b>22 Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> Big Brushy CG to FR 76 (west end) (94.5 - 85.0)				
<b>9.5 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 3</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		
<i>Cold hike (low twenties throughout plus wind). Top of mountain along FR 76 was completed "frosted"; sun came out and it was beautiful. "Driving snowstorm" (well, a few flurries, anyway).</i>				
<i>Loretta finished OT.</i>				
<i>Ben shuttled cars, with Ernie, Billy, Marv help so we could all hike the same direction (uphill).</i>				
<i>sss:</i> Buck Knob with "frosting" Views all along ridge line				
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<b>Nov 27, 2002</b>	Leader: Mike Zeller	<b>7 Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> Lori Creek to Turner Creek Gap [74.5 - 79.9]; plus hike in / out				
<b>7.8 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 4</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		
<i>Frosty morning; very steep; reroute around Lori Creek is complete.</i>				
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<b>Nov 7, 2002</b>	Leader: Mike Zeller	<b>11 Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> Hwy 71 to Lori Creek [68.1 - 74.5]; 1 mile hike out at Lori Creek				
<b>7.0 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 3</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		
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<b>May 2, 2002</b>	Leader: Mike Zeller	<b>? Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> FR76 E - Turner Creek Gap [87.7 - 79.9]				
<b>7.8 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 3</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		
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<b>Mar 28, 2002</b>	Leader: Mike Zeller	<b>? Hikers</b>		<b>OMH Thursday</b>
<i>Route:</i> FR 76 E to Big Brushy campground to FR 33 [87.7 - 96.0]				
<b>8.3 miles</b>	<b>Difficulty Rating 3</b>	<b>Scenic Rating 3</b>		