

**FOR DETAILED MAPS OF COMPLETE TRAIL SECTIONS
AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
OZARK TRAIL, YOU MAY CONTACT:**



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Ozark Trail Coordinator
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
(573) 751-5359 or 1-800-334-6946
www.mostateparks.com



Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
(573) 751-4115
www.conservations.state.mo.us



U. S. Forest Service
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd.
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 364-4621
www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/



National Park Service
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965
(573) 323-4236
www.nps.gov/ozar/

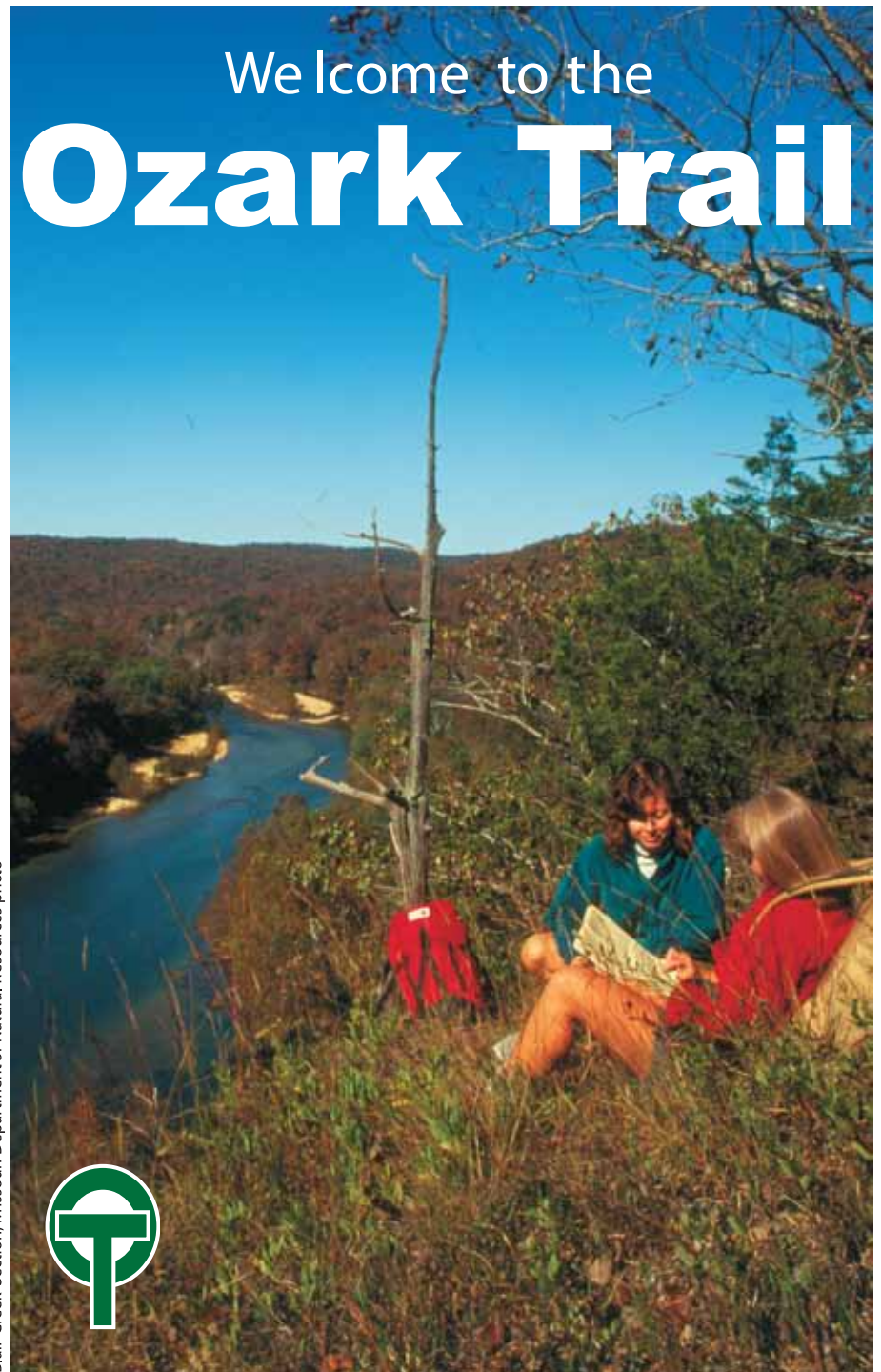
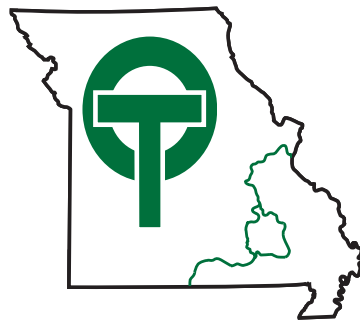


U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
10992 Hwy. T
Wappapello, MO 63966-9603
(573) 222-8562
www.usace.army.mil/



Ozark Trail Association
www.ozarktrail.com

For more information
on the Ozark Highlands Trail, contact
Arkansas Trails Council
One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201
www.arkansastrailscouncil.com



Blair Creek Section, Missouri Department of Natural Resources photo



Trails have laced the earth's surface for countless centuries. Early human beings followed game trails, and eventually wore trails of their own as they migrated and searched for food and water. Later, trails were developed between villages to allow for increased trade and cultural interchange. Trails also, of course, led to areas of special beauty and areas having spiritual significance.

Trails such as the Independence, the Oregon, and the Santa Fe, on which settlers moved westward across America, are legendary. Most of these trails, however, fell into disuse as roads and then paved highways lured people to speedier forms of locomotion. For many people, speed has lost at least some of its appeal and non-motorized travel again has gained importance.

Modern-day travelers are not settling new frontiers; instead, they usually seek quiet contrast to their often-hectic lives. They explore autumn-colored hills, rushing spring-fed rivers and quiet hollows. They find revitalization, inspiration and adventure in meeting the natural world on its own terms; sometimes, too, they relive at least a little of the original pioneer experience.

All of these scenic features and wilderness qualities that trail enthusiasts seek can be found in the Ozarks. These natural attractions, coupled with the sizable amount of public-owned property in the Ozarks, have prompted many trail users and land-managing agencies to envision a trail that would someday traverse the Ozarks extending from St. Louis through western Arkansas. Now, through a unique cooperative effort between state and federal agencies, private landowners and trail users, this vision of a 500-mile trail across the Missouri Ozarks is becoming a reality.

HOW WAS THE OZARK TRAIL ESTABLISHED AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION?

In 1977, a group of public land managers, trail users and private landowners met to discuss the concept of a long-distance trail that would traverse the Missouri Ozarks. The concept was met with great enthusiasm and resulted in a commitment to work toward the development of such a trail and to establish the Ozark Trail Council. As plans for the Ozark Trail in Missouri were being formulated, a similar movement was taking place in Arkansas. The result was a commitment to develop a trail through the Ozarks of northwest Arkansas to be known as the Ozark Highlands Trail. The goal of both states is now to connect the Ozark Trail and the Ozark Highlands Trail, which will provide the opportunity to travel more than 800 miles through some of the most scenic country in the Midwest.

WHERE IS THE OZARK TRAIL LOCATED AND WHEN WILL IT BE COMPLETE?

The Ozark Trail follows a scenic and varied route from the St. Louis metropolitan area southwestward through the Ozarks of southern Missouri to the Arkansas border where it will join the Ozark Highlands Trail. It also includes an eastern loop that traverses the scenic St. Francois Mountains region. Although much of the trail development to this point has taken place on public land, future development will be dependent upon the ability to negotiate trail easements with private landowners. The Ozark Trail is now more than 25 years old and it is hoped that the entire Ozark Trail will be complete in 10-15 years. The map in this brochure shows more than 300 miles of completed trail, as well as the entire proposed route.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL AND WHO ARE ITS MEMBERS?

The purpose of the Ozark Trail Council is to promote the Ozark Trail; to establish guidelines for its construction, maintenance, marking and mapping; to publicize the trail; and generally to provide an organizational framework within which all matters relating to the Ozark Trail in Missouri can be discussed and resolved.

Landowners, land managers and trail users are all represented on the council. Key members include: Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Pioneer Forest, Sierra Club, Ozark Trail Association, Ozark Trail Club, Hostelling International, the Missouri Equine Council, the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).



Rocky Falls, accessed via the Current River Section, Missouri Department of Natural Resources photo

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Greer Spring, accessed via the Eleven Point River Section, Mark Twain National Forest

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DOES THE OZARK TRAIL CROSS PRIVATE LAND?

Much of the Ozark Trail is located on state and federal land, but some sections cross private property. Crossings occur only where voluntary consent of the landowner has been obtained. Landowners retain all rights of ownership to their property and grant use for trail purposes only and not for public access to their land for such activities as hunting, fishing and camping. Such use may be terminated at any time by the landowner. Thus, it is especially important that trail users respect the private landowner's land and right to privacy. Close all gates; stay on the path; and stay away from cattle, timber and mining operations, homes, etc. All risk and responsibility when crossing private land is that of the trail user, not that of the landowner.

WHO BUILDS AND MAINTAINS THE OZARK TRAIL? HOW CAN I HELP?

The land manager whose land the trail traverses is responsible for constructing and maintaining the trail. In the case of private property, the agency or organization having the trail easement holds these responsibilities. Those responsible for these tasks often seek the assistance of volunteers to help construct the trail and then assume some of the maintenance duties. In 1998, the Ozark Trail Team concept was formed by the Conservation Federation of



Photo by Bruce Linders

BE TRAIL WISE

Low impact use of the Ozark Trail and backcountry is one way you can show that you care for both the natural environment and other visitors who follow. In order for you to be “trail wise” concerning low impact use of the Ozark Trail and backcountry, follow these trail recommendations:

- Small groups are less likely to damage the environment. It is suggested that you travel and camp in groups of 10 or less. Some areas require permits for large groups.
- Where a trail is provided, it should always be used, even if it is wet and muddy. The trail has been laid out to minimize destruction of surrounding vegetation and to prevent erosion.
- Shortcutting a trail switchback may seem like the thing to do, but it will cause unnecessary and unsightly erosion.
- Carry out what you carry in. For low impact users, this may mean carrying out what someone else has left behind. It also means carrying out things like peanut shells and orange peels, which take a long time to decompose and are eyesores to other trail users. Nothing should be left behind.

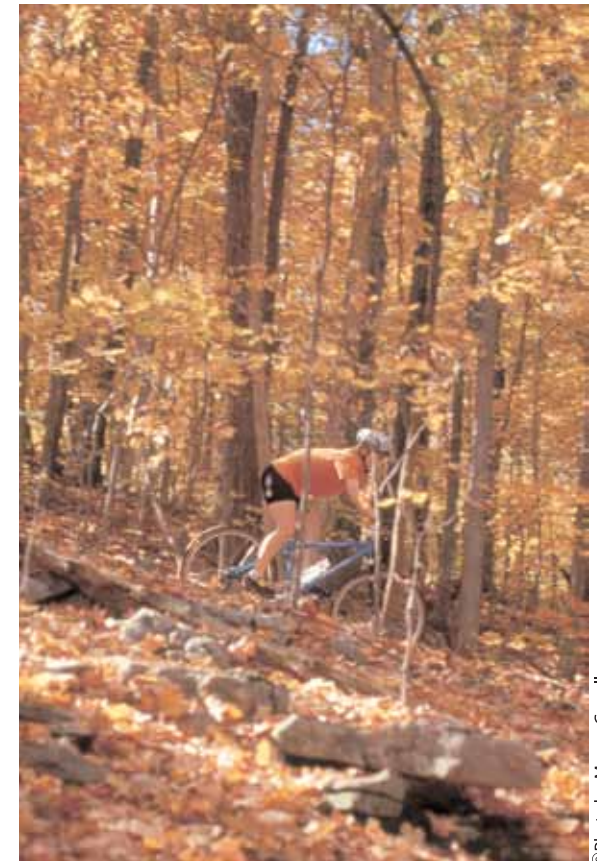
Courtois Creek Section, photo by Patrick O'Brien



- It is recommended that all drinking water be treated before use.

- When provided, sanitary facilities should be used. In the backcountry, such facilities do not usually exist. Fortunately, the top six or eight inches of soil provide a system of biologic disposers. Trail users should select a spot at least 200 feet from any water; dig a small hole no deeper than six to eight inches. After use, fill hole with loose soil and tramp in the sod. Nature will do the rest.
- Building a campfire is part of the traditional camping experience. The impact of wood gathering and fire ring building has caused fire building in the backcountry of state parks to be prohibited and to be discouraged along the rest of the Ozark Trail. Using a backpacking stove for cooking leaves no trace, is dependable and is the low impact alternative.
- Primitive camping is permitted along most sections of the Ozark Trail. To prevent water and visual pollution, trail users should camp at least 100 feet from water sources, trails, public use areas and scenic areas.
- Camping may not be permitted along some sections of the Ozark Trail. Be responsible for knowing where these areas are located by reading your map and any signs that are posted on the trail.

- If possible, use an existing campsite rather than impacting another area. Please clean up the area if it is a mess. Try to pick an area that is well drained and where vegetation will be least damaged. Although once a common practice, digging a drainage trench around a tent is no longer acceptable. Never camp directly on a glade.
- Last but not least, be considerate of other trail users. Solitude is important and a resource to be protected.








© Photo by Margo Carroll

THE SECTIONS STORY

Missouri's Ozark Trail is divided into sections of trail roughly between 20 and 30 miles in length. Each section has been named for a natural or historical feature of the area. The one exception is the Karkaghne Section. Although the origins of this word are unknown, stories abound of a mythical forest creature. The northernmost sections of the Ozark Trail, incomplete at this time, will eventually become a part of the Meramec Greenway, a 108-mile corridor connecting the St. Louis metropolitan area to the rural and backcountry areas for which the Ozark Trail is best known. Shuttle services vary, but local canoe liveries may give you a lift.

LEGEND

- SP/SHS**  Missouri State Park / State Historic Site (Missouri Department of Natural Resources)
- CA**  Conservation Area (Missouri Department of Conservation)
-  Federal Land (National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Forest Service)
-  LAD Foundation Land (Access provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources)
-  St. Louis Area



Hiking /Backpacking



Mountain Bicycling



Horseback Riding

 Hiking /Backpacking Only Section

 Multi-use Section

 Proposed Trail Section

 To be completed 2005



55 Interstate Marker



61 U. S. Marker



21 State Route Marker



COURTOIS CREEK SECTION *



Length: 35 miles

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation and private lands

If St. Louis is the gateway to the West, then the Courtois Creek Section of the Ozark Trail is Missouri's gateway to the Ozarks. Before setting off on the trail, visit one of the cave state's most famous caves at Onondaga Cave State Park. On the trail, you'll encounter densely forested terrain, a great setting in which to view wildlife. This section of trail approaches the Southeast Missouri Lead District, the world's largest ore-producing area. Four trailheads are available: Huzzah Conservation Area, Harmon Springs, Hwy. 8 and Hazel Creek Recreation Area. The trail uses the western part of the Berryman Trail, a National Recreation Trail, and designated campsites are available at all trailheads except Hwy. 8. At this time, the trail currently has a five-mile gap at the north end.

*Only foot traffic is permitted in the Huzzah Conservation Area.

TRACE CREEK SECTION



Length: 24 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

In addition to crossing Trace Creek, this section traverses many small streams on its route through a widely varying landscape. Near the section midpoint, the trail passes the headwaters of the Big River, the beginning of its 138-mile journey northward to the Meramec River. A portion of this trail exists as the original Trace Creek Trail, built in 1968. Just south of Hwy. DD, a spur trail leads to 440-acre Council Bluff Lake, where designated campsites, a beach and ample fishing opportunities are available. Hazel Creek Recreation Area and Hwy. A are the trailheads for this section.

TAUM SAUK SECTION



Length: 33 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Immerse yourself in the beauty and solitude of the Missouri Ozarks. Nowhere else in Missouri can you experience the Ozarks in such an intimate way. Features such as the Devil's Tollgate, Bell Mountain Wilderness, two state parks, and the state's highest point and waterfall beg to be explored. Known as the St. Francois Mountains region, rocky glades are a prominent reminder of this area's volcanic past, and contain a unique blend of plants and animals. The trail may be accessed at Hwy. A, Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, Taum Sauk Mountain State Park and Hwy. 21. Both state parks offer designated campsites and unique spur trail opportunities. Take this trail slowly to enjoy its numerous vistas and negotiate its rugged terrain.

MARBLE CREEK SECTION



Length: 8 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

Marble Creek was named for colorful deposits of dolomite (commonly known as Taum Sauk Marble) formerly mined there. The trailhead at Marble Creek Campground displays the remnants of a gristmill, operated until 1935. From this area, the trail leads to a loop around 100-acre Crane Lake, which features a dam, shut-ins and picnic area. The trail may also be accessed at the Crane Lake picnic area. At this time, this section does not join any other section of the Ozark Trail. When complete, it will be approximately 21 miles long.

WAPPAPELLO LAKE SECTION



Length: 33 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, private lands and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wappapello Lake was created in 1938 with the construction of a rolled earth fill dam to control flooding of the St. Francois River. The trail's proximity to water lends itself to an abundance of waterfowl. A hike of any desired length is feasible on this section due to numerous trail access points. The two primary trailheads, Sam A. Baker State Park and Hwy. 172, are also the section ending points. Many portions of the trail are prone to flooding, making trail use during wet periods undesirable. The midpoint of the trail offers a scenic loop, while the southern section links to more than 100 miles of trail open to hiking and equestrian use. A connector trail permits access to Lake Wappapello State Park.

VICTORY SECTION



Length: 24 miles

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

Named after the one-room schoolhouse that formerly stood near the trailhead, this isolated trail section is separated from the Wappapello Lake Section's southern terminus by the Black River and three miles of rugged terrain. When complete, this trail will total approximately 30 miles. Currently, this section's northern terminus and trailhead is at Hwy. 172, and the trail continues almost to the Black River, where the gap begins. Four trailheads offer access to the larger section of completed trail: Wrangler, Upalika Pond, Walton Chapel and Brushy Creek. Access to the adjoining Victory Horse Trail is located near the Wrangler Trailhead.

MIDDLE FORK SECTION



Length: 8 miles

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

The Ozark Trail's newest section is growing quickly and is expected to reach its final length of 25 miles in 2006. The northern trail terminus can be found on the Trace Creek Section approximately 2.5 miles north of its intersection with Hwy. 32. From here the trail extends eight miles to an intersection with Iron County Road 73. The completion of this section will allow trail users to travel more than 200 continuous miles from the Courtois Creek Section through the Eleven Point River Section.

KARKAGHNE SECTION



Length: 25 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

Winding through valleys and over ridgetops, this section offers more than just a trail. The Sutton Bluff Recreation Area, also a trailhead, offers designated campsites near the Black River. A spur trail east of Hwy. TT leads to Grasshopper Hollow, the largest fen complex in unglaciated North America. A fen is formed when upwelling groundwater creates saturated soil conditions that support distinct plant and animal communities. The area near Grasshopper Hollow is home to many rare and endangered species, and is great for birdwatching.

BLAIR CREEK SECTION *



Length: 26.5 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation and Pioneer Forest

One of the first completed sections of the Ozark Trail, Blair Creek brims with Ozark flavor. Privately owned Pioneer Forest offers more than 150,000 acres of mature old growth oak-hickory-pine forest, which has been conservatively managed for more than 50 years. A spur trail up quiet Laxton Hollow leads to the Himont Trailhead, providing access to the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry (access provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources), a 60,000-acre area devoted to primitive outdoor recreation. Upon reaching Owls Bend, the cool waters of the Current River await exploration as do the caves and historical features of the area. Nearby Cove Spring is just up Powder Mill Creek, one of more than 65 springs that feed the Current River, this one gushing up to 32 million gallons of water a day. This section's trailheads are at Hwy. P, FS 2220 and Powder Mill.

* Equestrian use permitted only on the northern 8.5 miles of this section.

CURRENT RIVER SECTION



Length: 30 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation, Ozark National Scenic Riverways (National Park Service), and private lands

This section passes through a myriad of publicly owned lands, best viewed from the trail atop Stegall Mountain, the highest point in the area. The trail wanders through Peck Ranch, a 23,000-acre area named after a wealthy businessman who, ironically, purchased this forestland to provide fuel for his iron smelter. High bluffs, shut-ins and igneous glades provide attractive scenery. Catch a glimpse of the pink and purple porphyry (crystals) by taking a side trip to Rocky Falls, or step back in history at Klepzig Mill, located on Rocky Creek. This section can be accessed at Powder Mill, Shannon County Road 533, Peck Ranch Road and Hwy. 60.

BETWEEN THE RIVERS SECTION



Length: 30 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

This section provides the necessary connection between the Current and Eleven Point rivers. In addition to traversing impressive stands of white oak, shortleaf pine, and scarlet oak, the trail offers pleasant views of the surrounding countryside. Take a look into the past when nearing Bristol Cemetery, or explore the lichen-covered boulder field at Devil's Run. Access to the trail is at Hwy. 60, Sinking Creek Lookout Tower and FS 3152.

ELEVEN POINT RIVER SECTION



Length: 30 miles

MAP AVAILABLE

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

This section offers much in the way of intriguing trail diversions, most notably the Eleven Point River. View the river from atop high bluffs at Leffer Look. Discover the karst features of Devil's Backbone, the history of Bockman Spring House and the cool waters of Hurricane Creek. Trail may be accessed at FS 3152, Greer Recreation Area, McCormack Lake (via a spur trail) and FS 4155. Developed campsites are available at the Greer area and McCormack Lake.

NORTH FORK RIVER SECTION *



Length: 28.5 miles

Lands Crossed: Mark Twain National Forest

The newest completed section of the Ozark Trail, this segment of the trail travels through the area east of the North Fork of the White River. It shares a portion of the existing Ridgerunner Trail and traverses the Devil's Backbone Wilderness, a 6,595-acre expanse through which the trail winds over ridges and down through hollows. The trail is especially beautiful in the spring, when flowering trees and wildflowers provide welcome splashes of color. This section's trailheads include Pomona (FS835), Hwy. AP, Hwy. CC and near Hwy. KK (on County Road CO).

*Bicycles are not permitted in the Devil's Backbone Wilderness.

