

# Ouachita National Forest

Arkansas - Oklahoma • Mena Ranger District

## Shut-In Mountain Walk-In Turkey Hunting Area



### Hunting Information

Hunters will find several quality walk-in turkey hunting areas within the 1.8 million acres on the Ouachita National Forest. These areas are the result of hunters requesting opportunities to hunt on public lands managed by the USDA Forest Service in a place free of disturbance from motor vehicles.

The Ouachita (pronounced Wash-I-tah) Mountains, with the highest turkey population in the state of Arkansas, have seen the number of hunters increase dramatically during the last 20 years, making it challenging for serious turkey hunters to find an area to hunt away from traffic and noise.

All maintained roads leading into each area are closed to motor vehicle traffic from early spring to late summer. In some areas, road segments and primitive forest roads are permanently closed and re-vegetated to improve turkey habitat and to control erosion. Signs are posted along the boundaries of each area to inform the public about motor vehicle restrictions. Restricting vehicle traffic protects turkeys during the critical nesting and brood rearing seasons. Other habitat improvements include prescribed burning and establishing water holes and food plots for the turkeys. These same projects will improve the habitat for more than 100 other species of wildlife.

The Ouachita National Forest Walk-In Turkey Hunting Areas are a joint partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Wild Turkey Federation as a part of the Making Tracks program. It began in 1989 as a way to improve wild turkey habitat on national forest lands. It is also designed to provide a surplus of wild turkeys for stocking and introducing into suitable areas throughout the nation.

### State Regulations

Hunting is permitted anywhere on the Ouachita National Forest except within developed recreation sites or otherwise posted areas. All state hunting and fishing regulations, fees, and seasons apply on national forest land. For more information, contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, No. 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205, 1-800-364-4263 or at [www.afgc.com](http://www.afgc.com).

**SHUT-IN MOUNTAIN WALK-IN TURKEY HUNTING AREA** is 8,400 acres and located about 9 miles north of Mena, Arkansas in Scott County.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(a) and (b), forest roads M31, M1A, M-22, and portions of 49A and M24 are closed to motor vehicle traffic year-round, except during timber sales and other administrative activities. The development plan for this area specifies that the majority of these roads will be seeded into wildlife food plots and will remain closed. Foot and horse travel are allowed throughout the walk-in area.

For your safety, the Ouachita National Forest prohibits off-road vehicle use in the area and also has implemented penalties for violations of the regulations. Violation of the prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(e), persons with a permit from the U.S. Forest Service specifically authorizing an otherwise prohibited act are exempt from the order, along with federal, state or local law enforcement, firefighting or rescue officers acting in an official capacity.

For a more detailed topographic map of this area, please send \$6.00 per each USGS Quad map (Numbers - D6 & D7) plus a 4#.50 handling charge to: USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902, (501) 321-5202 or TDD (501) 321-5307. For additional information, contact the Mena Ranger District, 1603 Highway 71 North, Mena, AR 71953, telephone (479) 394-2382.

### SOUTHERN REGION NATIONAL FORESTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SHUT-IN MOUNTAIN WALK-IN TURKEY HUNTING AREA



# Shut-In Mountain Walk-In Turkey Hunting Area

Ouachita National Forest • Mena Ranger District • Arkansas

