

Backpack Ohio.com eTrailsOhio



© 2008 Digital Cartographics
Revised May 2015

Wayne National Forest - Wildcat Hollow Trail

PLEASE NOTE: This document is no longer being revised. The information contained within is still useful, but expect that you could find discrepancies in the field versus what you read in the text. The End-User Warranty and License Agreement still applies.



End-User Warranty and License Agreement

1. Digital Cartographics (owner of BackpackOhio.com) has authorized download by you of one copy of this eTrailsOhio PDF document. Digital Cartographics grants you a nonexclusive, nontransferable license to use the document according to the terms and conditions herein. This License Agreement permits you to install this document for your use only.
2. You shall not: (1) resell, rent, assign, timeshare, distribute, or transfer all or part of the document or any rights granted hereunder to any other person; (2) duplicate the document in electronic form, except for a single backup or archival copy; (3) remove any proprietary notices, labels, or marks from the document; (4) transfer or sublicense title to any other party. There is no limit imposed on the number of hardcopy prints used for personal use by the licensee.
3. The eTrailsOhio is owned by Digital Cartographics and is protected by United States and international copyright and other intellectual property laws. Digital Cartographics reserves all rights in the document not expressly granted herein. This license and your right to use the document terminate automatically if you violate any part of this Agreement. In the event of termination, you must destroy the original and all copies of the document.
4. Digital Cartographics warrants that the files containing the eTrailsOhio, a copy of which you authorized to download, are free from defects in the operational sense that they can be read by a PDF Reader. EXCEPT FOR THIS EXPRESS LIMITED WARRANTY, DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHICS MAKES AND YOU RECEIVE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED, STATUTORY OR IN ANY COMMUNICATION WITH YOU, AND DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHICS SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY OTHER WARRANTY INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS OR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHICS DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE OPERATION OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR FREE. If the eTrailsOhio was purchased in the United States, the above exclusions may not apply to you as some states do not allow the exclusion of implied warranties. In addition to the above warranty rights, you may also have other rights that vary from state to state.
5. IN NO EVENT WILL DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHICS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES, WHETHER ARISING FOR TORT OR CONTRACT, INCLUDING LOSS OF DATA, LOST PROFITS, OR OTHER SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR INDIRECT DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THE ETRAILSOHIO
6. All information in this document was verified and believed to be accurate at time of publication. Digital Cartographics is not responsible for changes that occur after publication. Digital Cartographics is not responsible for damages as a result of the misuse of the data contained herein.

Wayne National Forest – Wildcat Hollow Trail

County: Perry, Morgan

Nearest town: Corning or Glouster

Total distance: 14.7-mile loop; a day hike cutoff trail creates a 4.9-mile loop for day hikers

Hiking time: 3 hours for the short loop, 8 to 10 hours or 2 days for the entire trail

Trail conditions: Well established

Blazes: White diamonds

Water: None along the trail. Water must be carried or cached at road crossings. There are few reliable sources along the trail; streams become dry in the absence of wet weather.

Highlights: Pleasant forest hiking, excellent wildflowers, majestic pine plantations

Maps: USGS 7.5': Pedro, Sherritts, Ironton & Kitts Hill; Wayne National Forest Hiking and Backpacking Trails map; BackpackOhio.com eTrailsOhio

Contact info: Wayne National Forest – Athens Ranger District, phone: 740-753-0101

Internet: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/

Getting there: From State Route 13 heading north, 4.5 miles north of Glouster, or 3.5 miles south of Corning, turn right (east) onto Irish Ridge Road (County Road 16). In 0.1 mile, Irish Ridge Road will make a sharp left, continue to follow it for another 1.8 miles and turn right onto Dew Road (County Road 69). After turning onto Dew Road, the distance to the trailhead is 1.6 miles. Halfway to the trailhead, Dew Road will turn into Sunday Creek Road at the Morgan County line. Unless vandalized, signs will guide you to the trailhead from SR 13.

Trailhead coordinates: 39.5719°N, 82.0330°W (WGS84); UTM 17 411259E 4380538N (NAD27); UTM 17 411273E 4380755N (NAD83)

Background

The same gentle hills that create the picturesque backdrop for nearby Burr Oak Lake provide the landscape for the Wildcat Hollow Trail. This calm and scenic section of Wayne National Forest sits in quiet contrast to a tumultuous past. Early coal, oil and iron ore extraction, which largely ended in the 1920s, took a heavy toll on the region's environment. Although forests now cover many of the scars left behind by the early mining and population boom, signs of the region's mineral and human history are still visible in the form of old wells, tanks, pipelines and homesteads, just to name a few. Some oil, gas and coal continues to be extracted from the region today.

The name Wildcat Hollow is derived from a mile-long hollow located north of the trailhead along the Morgan-Perry County line. Perhaps that name reflects the historic presence of bobcat, or some other cat, in these woods. The woods of Wildcat Hollow consist mainly of oak, hickory and beech trees. Many lovely pine plantations are present in this section of the Wayne as well. Elevation relief in these rolling foothills struggles to reach 300 feet, averaging more in the range of 200 to 250 feet.

In 2008 and 2009, this part of Wayne National Forest was hit hard by multiple windstorms and at least one major ice storm. Because of their softer wood, many of the area's lovely pine plantations sustained heavy damage, with some nearly leveled to the ground.

The Trail

The Wildcat Hollow Trail offers two trip options: a 14.7-mile loop and a shorter 4.9-mile loop for day hikers created by a 0.4-mile cutoff trail. The Wildcat Hollow Trail is a scenic trail winding along ridgetops and through stream bottoms, allowing those who walk it to venture through grand deciduous forests and pine plantations, open meadows, quiet streams and down old roads. In fact, the numerous pine plantations visited by the trail add a pleasant touch of

variety to what would otherwise be a typical hike through typical southern Ohio deciduous forest. Wildflowers are at their peak in the spring. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful. For those interested in a multi-night trip, a short connector trail goes south from the trailhead to link with the nearby Burr Oak State Park backpack trail.

This white diamond marked trail is one of the most popular in Wayne National Forest. It is well worn and easy to follow. Opportunities to stray unintentionally from the main trail do exist, but they are small in number. The trail is well engineered, with gentle slopes and switchbacks as needed. The trail appears to be better marked for a clockwise direction of travel. Although the trail stays on federal land, private land is often nearby, especially along the trail's northern stretches. Care should be taken when camping or trekking away from the trail. The close proximity to private land means barking dogs, farmyard animals and the roaring engines of off-road vehicles are often heard. The drone of heavy machinery operating at the large Buckingham Coal Mine #7 located just off State Route 13 to the west is audible on parts of the trail as well. This all said, if your timing is right, this trip can also be very peaceful.



Trailhead parking

Since this is a Wayne National Forest trail, camping is allowed anywhere. No permit is required and no forest service improvements are located at any camp or along the trail, other than a pit toilet at the trailhead. You will find that campers, hunters and backpackers before you have established numerous campsites all along the length of the trail. Established campsite locations are included on the enclosed maps. Many sites are located in beautiful pine groves. Fire rings have been constructed from rocks at most sites. Several sites have been established just a few hundred yards up the trail from the trailhead. These sites are popular with car campers and others wishing to take a few luxury items into camp.

Of the existing campsite established by those before you, only about three are located near the halfway point of the trail. Many are clustered along the middle of both the east and west sides of the loop. This could mean a lengthy hike the first day if you are not able to snag one of the sites at the north end of the loop. The option does exist to pitch camp in a non-established area, however; finding a suitable flat and vegetation-free spot could be a little difficult, especially in summer. For those desiring an overnight hike of shorter distance, consider making one of the campsites near either end of the day hike cutoff trail your destination, using the opposite leg of the day hike loop on the return trip for variety.

Most streams in this part of Wayne National Forest dry up quickly, so your water plans should include carrying or caching. The two largest streams in the vicinity of the trail, Eels Run and Cedar Run, hold water longer than other streams but are located far from most of the more remote campsites. Eels Run passes through the camps clustered near the trailhead. Caching water prior to hitting the trail is a reasonable option because the trail crosses several roads, including four around the halfway point. The most reliable cache points are along Chapel Hill Road (County Road 50) at the 5.1-mile mark or along the northernmost road crossing of Irish Ridge Road (County Road 16) at 6.8 miles. Other roads in the area are narrow and lightly used township or forest roads, which may not always be maintained.

The trail starts out paralleling Eels Run and passes several campsites along a 0.25-mile section of two-way trail between the trailhead and a junction where the trail starts its loop. To hike clockwise, take the left fork at this junction and continue up the valley of Eels Run, crossing the stream a small number of times. A nice campsite next to Eels Run is passed at the 0.8-mile mark and then another at the 1.0-mile mark. Soon after, the trail heads uphill for some ridge walking, past a nice campsite at 2.1 miles, before emerging into a powerline right-of-way on the east side of Irish Ridge Road, across from a private residence.

The trail follows Irish Ridge Road north for a short distance and reaches the intersection with the day hike cutoff trail just past the 2.4-mile mark. The day hike cutoff trail forks to the right on a gravel road chained off to motor vehicles. Continue walking straight along Irish Ridge Road to stay on the backpack trail. An old schoolhouse will be in view directly ahead on the opposite side of the road. The trail swings in front of the old schoolhouse, crossing Irish Ridge Road at an intersection with Waterworks Road (County Road 70). The trail very briefly travels along the right side of Waterworks Road before heading north and immediately across another powerline right-of-way, on its way to circling behind the old schoolhouse.



Scenic pine plantation

After the old schoolhouse, the trail drops into a valley and arrives in an open valley containing oil wells and other oil works. Some care will be needed to stay on course in this small valley and the following ridge ascent. After a brief walk on a narrow dirt access road serving the wells, the trail heads uphill again for some pleasant ridge walking, past a couple of secluded campsites, en route to a road crossing of Chapel Hill Road (County Road 50) at the 5.1 mile mark. The trail follows Chapel Hill Road for 100 yards in an easterly direction, making this a good stretch of trail to cache water.

North of Chapel Hill Rd., the trail drops into a valley and past two more campsites. The climb out of this valley to the top of the next ridge and another crossing of Irish Ridge Road takes honors as the largest elevation gain on the trail, approximately 260 feet in 0.75 mile.

The northernmost point of the trail is reached when you reach the second road crossing of Irish Ridge Road. At this point, you will have hiked nearly 7.0 miles. This crossing of Irish Ridge Road is also another excellent point to cache water, do so in the dense vegetation adjacent to the road. In 0.2 mile after crossing the road, a large campsite is passed on the right. On busy weekends, this may be a tough one to get unless you start early. Because of its large size, don't be surprised if you end up sharing it.

The next campsite--one of the nicest along the trail--sits approximately 0.9 mile down the trail from the previous one. It is situated in a scenic pine grove just above lightly traveled Township Road 455. Past camp, the trail crosses the township road, and then Forest Road 736 in 0.25 mile. A 2.0-mile stretch paralleling FR-736 just below the top of the ridgeline follows. Wet spots are frequent. Two small camps are passed along the way and eventually a crossing of Cedar Run at the 11.2 mile mark. Care needs to be taken immediately after crossing Cedar Run in order to stay on the trail (see trail notes below).



Wildcat Hollow

Just after crossing Cedar Run, the trail goes through a nice campsite guarded by pines in Cedar Run's floodplain before rising quickly to the top of an adjacent ridge. After a short ridge walk, the trail begins a steady drop into a side hollow of the namesake Wildcat Hollow. The descent into this side hollow is one of the most picturesque sections of the trail. Narrow Township Road 300 is soon crossed in Wildcat Hollow. At the crossing of TR-300, you will have laid to rest approximately 12.0 miles of trail.

Your visit in Wildcat Hollow is brief as the trail soon ascends the next ridge. A nice vista into Wildcat Hollow on the way up reveals a pond and more oil works. At the top of the ridge, the trail arrives at the eastern junction of the day hike cutoff trail. A nice campsite in a pine plantation is located just before this junction. The trail stays on top of the ridge for the next 1.3 miles, past five additional campsites--two set in the pines, and

then drops into the valley of Eels Run just before arriving at the junction with the outward heading loop and the short section of two-way trail back to the trailhead.

Wildcat Hollow Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start from the back of the trailhead parking area. You'll pass several campsites in this first section of two-way trail.

0.25 Arrive at a fork where the trail starts and ends its loop. For clockwise travel, take the left fork and cross Eels Run.

0.8 Pass a scenic campsite in the pines adjacent to Eels Run. Cross Eels Run just past camp.

1.0 Pass a nice campsite on the left.

1.2 Pass a campsite on the left.

1.7 Pass a campsite in deciduous trees on the left.

2.1 Pass a nice ridgetop campsite in the pines.

2.3 Emerge into a powerline right-of-way on the east side of Irish Ridge Road (County Road 16) and go right.

2.4 Arrive at the western junction of the day hike cutoff trail. Go straight.

2.5 The trail crosses Irish Ridge Road in front of an old schoolhouse at the intersection of Irish Ridge Road and Waterworks Road (County Road 70). The trail travels very briefly along the right side of Waterworks Rd. and then takes a right, leaving the road and crossing a powerline right-of-way.

2.6 Pass a small campsite on the right.

3.1 Pass a campsite in the pines on the left.

3.3 Emerge onto an unimproved dirt road serving a small number of oil wells in a small but open valley. After 200 yards on the dirt road, the trail goes left and starts an uphill climb.

3.4 Arrive at a T intersection with an unofficial trail. Go left.

3.6 The trail intersects an old road heading uphill from the left. Go right and follow the old road.

4.0 Pass a secluded campsite in the pines positioned 50 yards off the trail to the left.

4.1 Pass an old homestead on the right.

4.25 Pass a campsite situated on a small rise 20 yards off the trail to the left.

4.6 The trail forks at an old road. Take the left fork, following the trail marker.

4.75 Cross a powerline right-of-way.

5.1 Emerge onto Chapel Hill Road (County Road 50). The trail takes a right onto the road and follows it for 100 yards. At a marked 4" x 4" post, the trail leaves the road to the left.

5.5 Cross a gas pipeline swath.

5.8 Pass a nice campsite in the pines on the left.

6.0 Pass a large but not completely level campsite on the left.

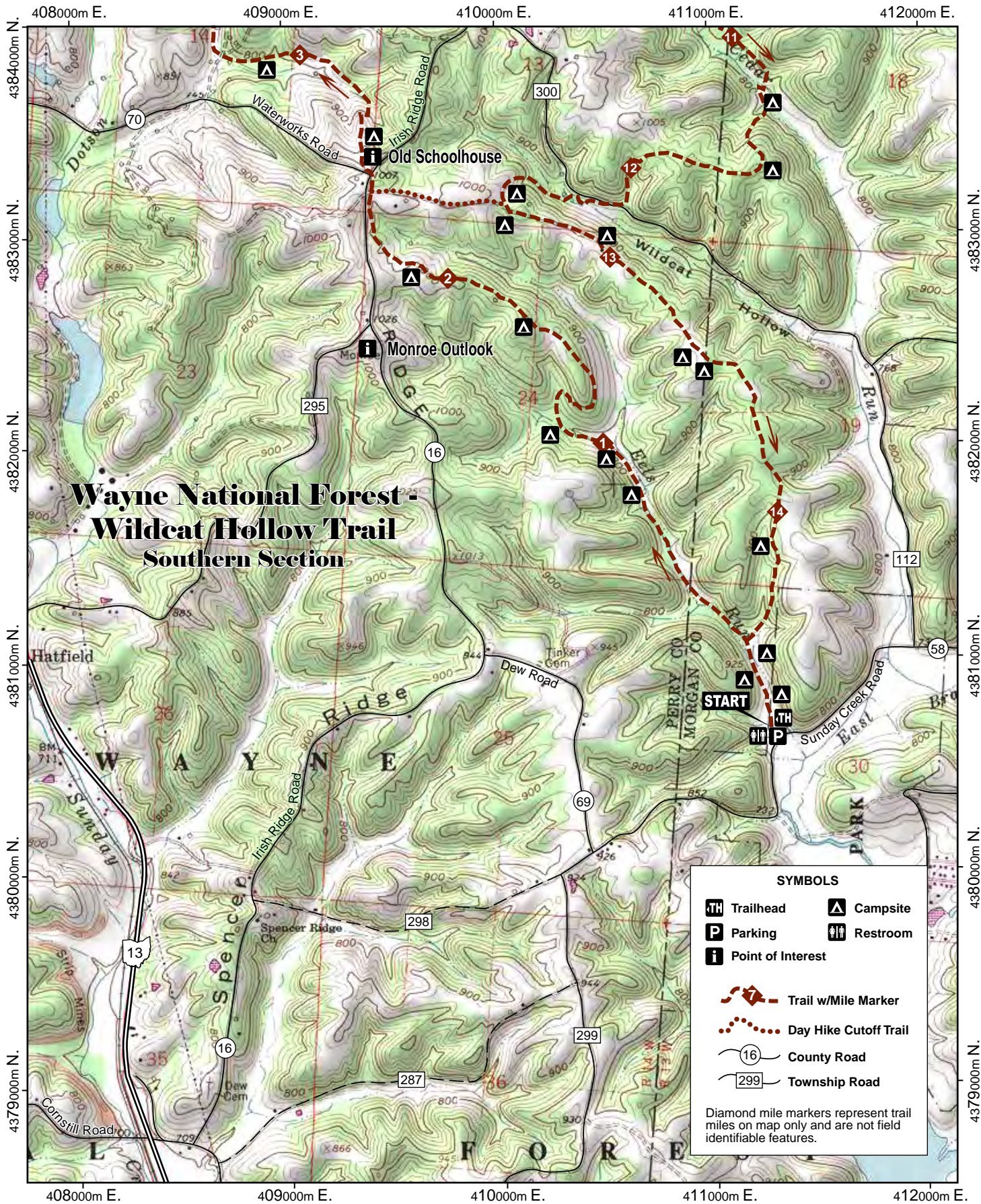
- 6.8 Arrive at the second crossing of Irish Ridge Road. The trail continues straight across the road.
- 7.0 Pass a large campsite on right situated in deciduous trees.
- 7.9 Pass a pond on the left and then shortly pass a very nice campsite in the pines also on the left.
- 8.0 Cross Township Road 455. Trail continues straight across road.
- 8.2 Cross Forest Road 736. Do not follow the old road that intersects FR 736 at the crossing location. The trail continues just to the left of this old road. Pass a silty pond ahead on the right.
- 9.0 Pass a small campsite in the pines on the left.
- 9.4 Cross a narrow access road.
- 10.5 Cross another narrow access road.
- 10.6 Pass a campsite in deciduous trees.
- 11.2 Arrive at the stream crossing of Cedar Run. On the opposite bank, the trail turns right and parallels the stream for a few yards before heading across the floodplain towards a pine plantation. Do not cross the stream and go left as a faint trail indicates others have done.
- 11.3 Pass through a nice campsite in a pine grove on the western side of the Cedar Run floodplain.
- 11.5 Pass a nice campsite on the left.
- 12.1 Cross Township Road 300. The trail continues straight across the road.
- 12.5 Pass a nice campsite in the pines on the left.
- 12.6 Arrive at the eastern junction of the day hike cutoff trail. The backpack trail swings left and follows an old road for 100 yards and then forks right from the road. A small, lightly used campsite is located on the right. In 100 yards past the campsite the trail arrives at another fork. Go left.
- 12.9 Pass a small campsite in the pines on the left.
- 13.3 Pass a very nice campsite in the pines on the right.
- 13.4 Pass a campsite in deciduous on the right.
- 14.1 Pass a campsite in deciduous trees on the right.
- 14.4 Arrive back at the junction with the start of the loop and the two-way trail back to the trailhead.
- 14.7 Arrive back at the trailhead.

Day Hikes



A 0.4-mile day hike cutoff trail between the western and eastern sides of the backpack loop creates a day hike loop with a roundtrip distance of 4.9 miles. The cutoff trail is located 2.4 miles from the trailhead, if hiking in a clockwise direction, or 2.0 miles from the trailhead in the counterclockwise direction. The cutoff trail shares part of its length with a forest access road. On its western side, the cutoff trail begins on this road, which is chained off at the road's intersection with Irish Ridge Road. The backpack trail sections used for the day loop stay high and dry for most of the way. The only valley walking is along Eels Run from the trailhead to approximately the 1.0-mile mark, if hiking clockwise. The day loop visits many lovely pine plantations and passes several campsites.

Located at the junction of Irish Ridge Road (County Road 16) and Township Road 295, Monroe Outlook offers a short trail leading to a highpoint with a nearly 360-degree vista of the surrounding area. This site is maintained as a small wildlife area and also provides wildlife viewing opportunities.



Wayne National Forest - Wildcat Hollow Trail Southern Section

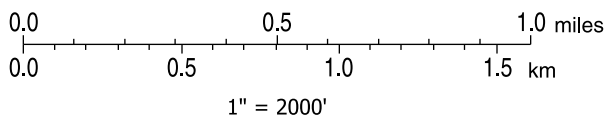
SYMBOLS

	Trailhead		Campsite
	Parking		Restroom
	Point of Interest		
	Trail w/Mile Marker		
	Day Hike Cutoff Trail		
	County Road		
	Township Road		

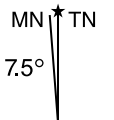
Diamond mile markers represent trail miles on map only and are not field identifiable features.



Base map created with TOPO!
© National Geographic Maps

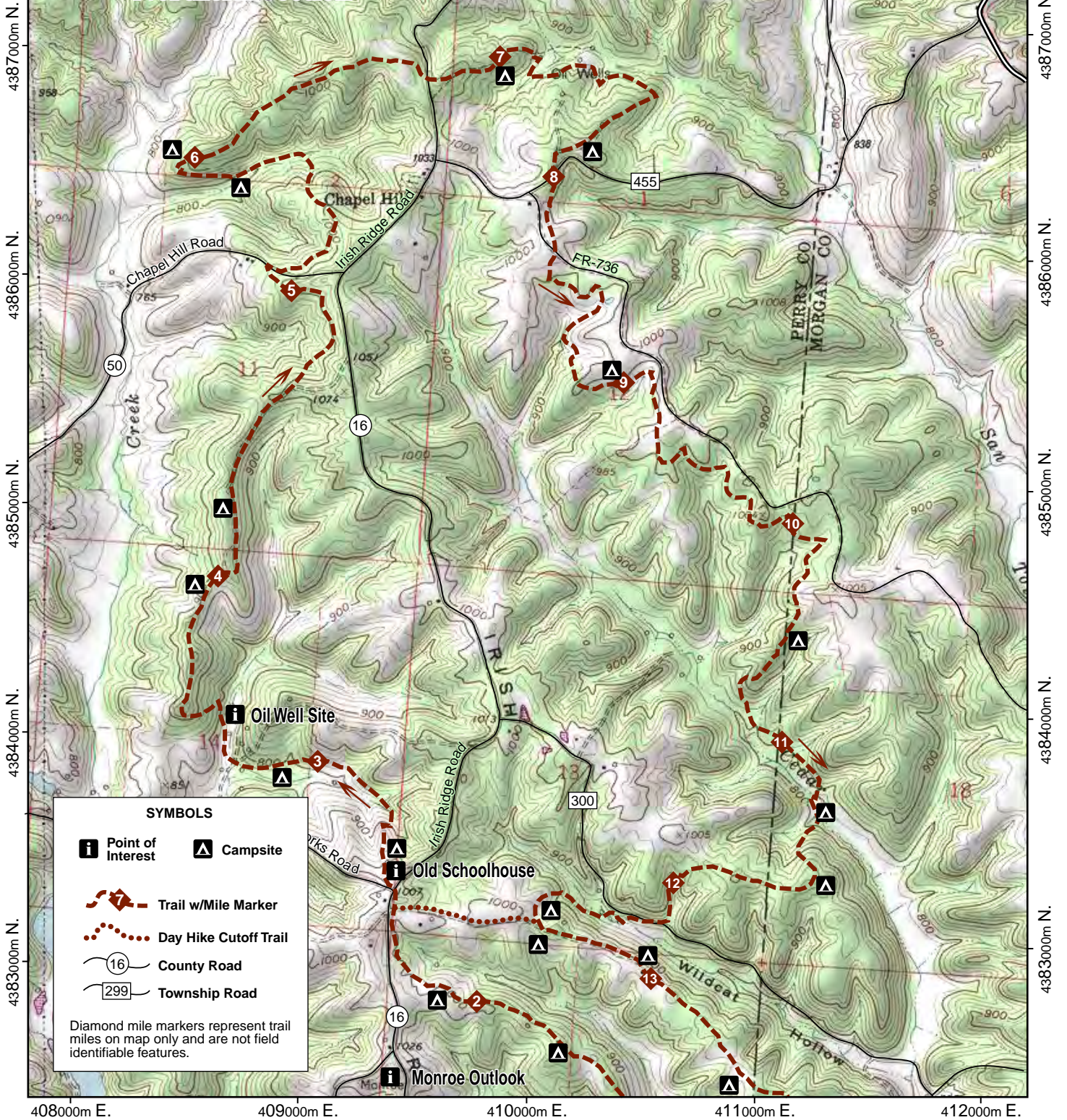


1000-Meter UTM 17 Grid
NAD 27
contour interval 20'



408000m E. 409000m E. 410000m E. 411000m E. 412000m E.

Wayne National Forest - Wildcat Hollow Trail Northern Section



SYMBOLS

i Point of Interest **▲** Campsite

7 Trail w/Mile Marker

... Day Hike Cutoff Trail

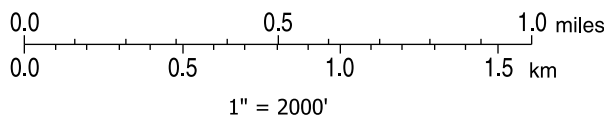
16 County Road

299 Township Road

Diamond mile markers represent trail miles on map only and are not field identifiable features.



Base map created with TOPO!
© National Geographic Maps



1000-Meter UTM 17 Grid
NAD 27
contour interval 20'

