



# Mark Branch & Gobbler's Arch Trails

STEARNS DISTRICT • DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST • KY.



## Stearns District

3320 Hwy. 27 North  
Whitley City, KY  
42653  
(606) 376-5323



## Directions to Trails

From US 27 in Whitley City, take KY 92 west. After crossing the Yamacraw Bridge over the Big South Fork River, turn south (left) on 1363. Follow the signs for Great Meadow Campground. At the intersection of Forest Road 562 and 139, go left, following 139 to Forest Road 569. Turn right onto 569. Go about 1/2 mile to Forest Road 6105 on your right.

## Rock Creek

Rock Creek is a beautiful stream, with magnificent boulders, riffles, glides, and pools. Flowing through southeastern Kentucky, it is both a Blue Ribbon trout fishery and a Kentucky Wild River. Portions of the creek suffered damage due to acid drainage from abandoned mines. Restoration work has begun on these portions of Rock Creek.

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## Mark Branch Trail #635

The trail begins by following Forest Road 6105 for the first mile before entering the woods. A trailhead sign to the right of the road will mark the trail. The trail will go from ridgetop to streamside, through laurel thickets and beside rock cliffs. After hiking 1.3 miles from the road, you will reach Mark Branch and the connection to the Sheltoewe Trace.

<b>Begins:</b>	Forest Road 6105
<b>Ends:</b>	Sheltoewe Trace
<b>Length:</b>	2.4 miles
<b>USGS Quad:</b>	Bell Farm, Barthell SW
<b>Parking:</b>	Forest Road 6105
<b>Hiking Difficulty:</b>	Easy - Moderate
<b>County:</b>	McCreary
<b>Connections:</b>	Sheltoewe Trace NRT, Gobblers Arch Trail
<b>Trail Surface:</b>	Dirt
<b>Trail Use Allowed:</b>	Hiking

## Gobblers Arch Trail #636

The trail ascends from Rock Creek until reaching the cliffline. The trail will then follow the ridgetop. Gobblers Arch is a sandstone arch with a height of 11'9" and a base of 50 feet. The trail then continues on the ridgetop to the turn around on Forest Road 6105.

<b>Begins:</b>	Sheltoewe Trace NRT near Hemlock Grove
<b>Ends:</b>	Forest Road 6105
<b>Length:</b>	2.2 miles
<b>USGS Quad:</b>	Bell Farm
<b>Parking:</b>	Hemlock Grove, turnaround on Forest Road 610
<b>Hiking Difficulty:</b>	Moderate - Difficult
<b>County:</b>	McCreary
<b>Connections:</b>	Sheltoewe Trace NRT, Mark Branch Trail
<b>Trail Surface:</b>	Dirt
<b>Trail Use Allowed:</b>	Hiking

## Loop Trail Opportunity

These two trails form a nice 5.1 mile loop. Begin at Forest Road 6105 and follow Gobbler's Arch Trail until it intersects with the Sheltoewe Trace. Follow the signs for the Sheltoewe Trace that point toward Peters Mountain. You will hike through an old field that is now a wildlife opening. Follow the Sheltoewe until it intersects with Mark Branch Trail which will be on your right. Follow Mark Branch Trail to Forest Road 6105. Turn left and follow Forest Road 6105 to Forest Road 569.

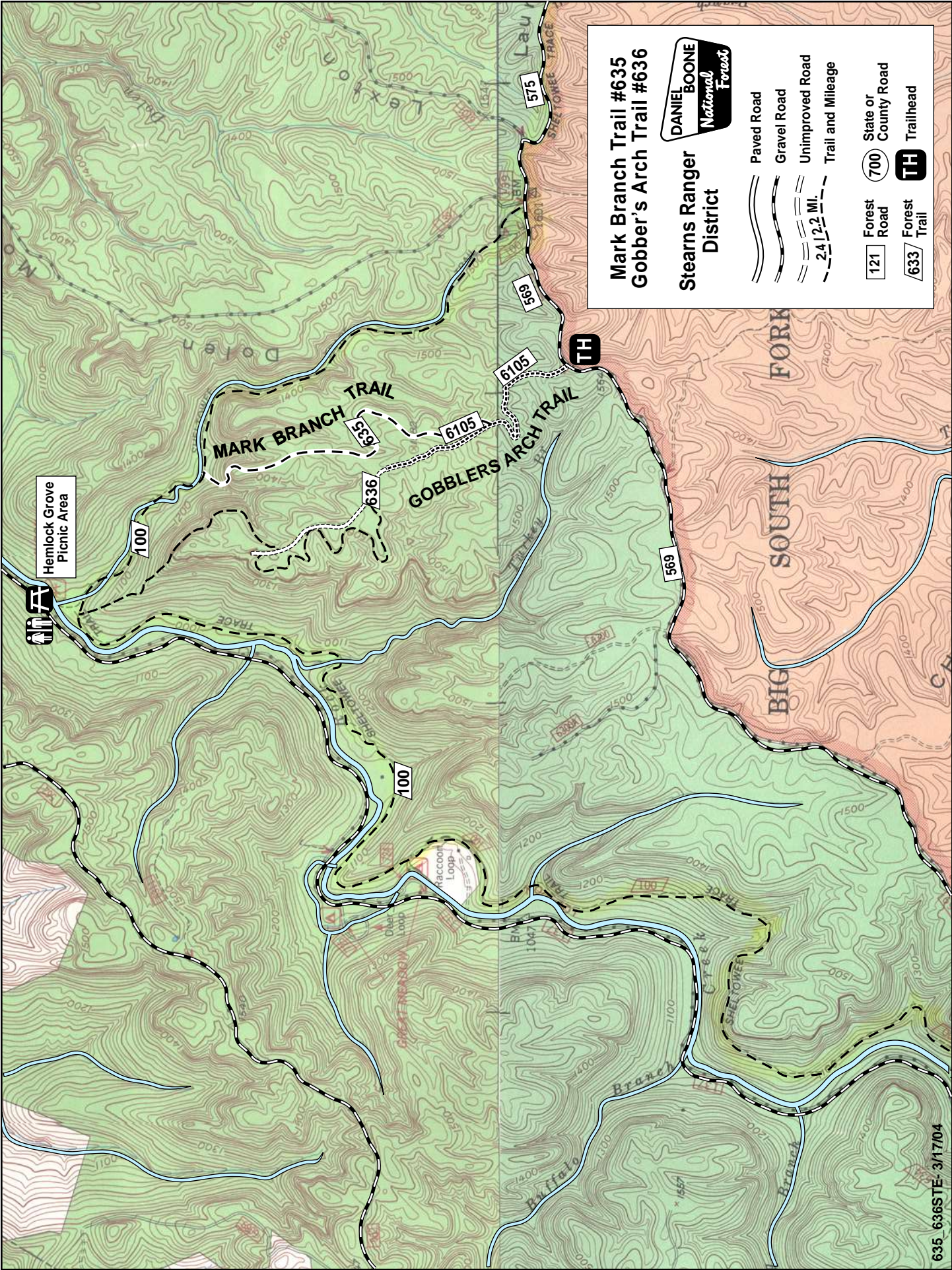


United States Department of Agriculture • Forest Service  
Southern Region • Daniel Boone National Forest

<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone>

Supervisor's Office, 1700 Bypass Rd., Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-745-3100





**Mark Branch Trail #635  
Gobber's Arch Trail #636**



**Stearns Ranger District**

- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trail and Mileage

- Forest Road 121
- State or County Road 700
- Forest Trail 633
- Trailhead TH

Hemlock Grove Picnic Area

**MARK BRANCH TRAIL**

**GOBBLERS ARCH TRAIL**

**BIG SOUTH FORK**