

High Knob and Pounds Hollow Loop

Shawnee National Forest

2020

Description: This loop is a total hike of approximately 17 miles and would be ideal for a 2-3 day weekend hike. The hike is designed to start from the High Knob trailhead and proceed clockwise. The information in this brochure is based on this route. An alternative is also identified that can add 2 miles if a longer hike is desired.

High Knob is a ideal starting point for a multi-day hike, offering a great way to explore Thacker, Clayton and Pounds Hollows. The numerous trails in these hollows allow for lots of flexibility for the hiker to lengthen or shorten the hike to meet abilities and needs. One alternative has been identified but other options exist such as taking trail 153 at the start instead of 180.

Along the River to River Trail (R2R) near High Knob is an old abandoned homestead with several buildings that should be explored along with the Javelina at the beginning of the hike. This map also shows trails 164 and 146 which lead into Grindstaff Hollow on shorter routes.

The trails associated with this hike are characterized by long hikes along the hillsides through the forest with occasional rock outcrops. There are some bluffs along Tanner Hill. The hike also features two very nice natural arches / windows; however, if the alternate route is not hiked, you will have to

hike a short distance down trail 183 to see Pounds Hollow Arch.

There is also a quarter mile section of excellent bluffs to explore east of the Initial Tree on trail 005, so allow some time for this short detour.

If there is a desire to make the hike longer, one could continue on trail 150 and return on trail 185. This would be 2.6 miles rather than 0.9 miles along the R2R trail. The section of R2R trail hiked on this loop is very wide because it is a part of the Wagon Trail between the High Knob and Double M equestrian camps. The Wagon trail along FS road 1683 is crossed two more times on the hike.

One final recommendation is to hike the one-mile loop around High Knob.

Travel Time: This depends entirely on how fast you hike and how much exploring you do but is recommended as a 2-3 day adventure.

Surface Type: Dirt and rock



Trail Markings:

General Forest Trails marked by white diamonds with trail numbers written onto them.

River to River Trail (R2R) features white diamonds with a blue "i" displayed.

Safety: Personal safety-make sure someone knows your route and establish a check in time. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear depending on the weather and terrain. Carry plenty of water, food, compass and a first aid kit. This hike is remote cell phone coverage could be spotty.

Extra caution should be used where the trail is near the bluffs and when traveling on wet slippery rocks. Beware of poison ivy and oak. Various insects including ticks and mosquitoes are present here during spring, summer and fall. Venomous snakes are also present here including timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

Emergencies: The nearest hospital is Harrisburg Medical Center. Cell phone service along the trail can be spotty so be prepared and know where your closest outlet is when dialing 911.

Camping: There are no designated camping areas along the trail but numerous ideal trail side camping areas. Note camping is prohibited in Natural Areas. Use existing campsites, don't create new ones. Use portable camp stove for cooking. If a campfire is needed, keep it small and use existing fire rings. Protect water quality by washing and

camping 200 feet from any water sources. Leave the campsite cleaner than you found it.

Trail Ethics: "Please practice Leave No Trace principles" Pack It In, Pack It Out. Some rare and endangered species of plants are located in the area so please stay on the designated trails and leave the rocks and plants for others to enjoy. Equestrians frequent this trail system: hikers should yield to horses.

Facilities: There are no facilities along this entire trail. Bury human waste and toilet tissue in a 6 inch deep "cat hole" at least 200 feet from water.

Avenza: The map included with this brochure is available in the Avenza Map Store for downloading to your smart phone. The Avenza App can be downloaded by searching the app store on your phone for this:



Once the app is downloaded access the map store and search for the following map:

Shawnee NF Multi-Day Hikes

This brochure will still be a helpful handy reference to know what the points of interest might be.



#	Directions (The numbers show on the map)	Miles
1	Start at the High Knob overlook parking lot. Begin by walking back down the road 0.1 miles to turn left/east on the R2R trail.	0.0
2	After about 0.5 miles on the R2R, turn left/north on trail 180.	0.6
3	When approaching the stream crossing make sure to stay on trail 180 to the left instead of taking trail 180C.	1.9
4	When reaching the bottom of the hill, turn left/east on trail 185 before the creek.	2.7
5	Continue on 185 until reaching the Thacker Hollow Window Arch, shortly thereafter turn left on trail 184 to hike uphill out of Thacker Hollow. Continue across Black Ridge Road and further east.	5.4
A	An alternate (Orange Path) that would add 2.0 miles to the hike takes off from trail 184 turning left/east on trail 188.	8.6
B	On the add-on alternate, turn right/west onto trail 006 when trail 186 ends.	10.2
C	Right after trail 006 crosses Robinette Creek below Pounds Hollow Dam, veer left/SW onto trail 183 along the north side of Pounds Hollow Lake. 183 will turn sharply left/south at the intersection with TR 184 - returning you to the original route at point 6.	11
6	At point 6 trail 184 ends. Continue straight onto trail 183. Continue on 183 across Black Ridge Road and back into Thacker Hollow.	11.5
7	At the bottom of the hill near the creek, trail 183 dead ends into trail 185. Turn left and follow trail 185 south.	12.5
8	After a short distance on trail 185, continue straight onto trail 182 while trail 185 turns back north.	12.7
9	Trail 182 is very short and ends where trail 160 turns right. Continue straight onto trail 005 heading south.	12.9
10	When trail 005 gets to a large clearing at the Initial Tree, look for and follow trail 150 to the right/SE.	13.2
11	Continue on trail 150 to the intersection with trail 151. Follow trail 151 a very short distance to the R2R trail. Follow the R2R to return to High Knob.	14.8
1	When the R2R trail crosses the road to High Knob turn right heading back up the hill to the parking lot.	16.8
		18.8



- The view from High Knob Overlook



- Tanner Hill



- Initial Tree Rock Wall



- Old Homestead



- Pounds Hollow Arch



- Thacker Hollow Window Arch



- Javelina



- Old Homestead

Points of Interest:

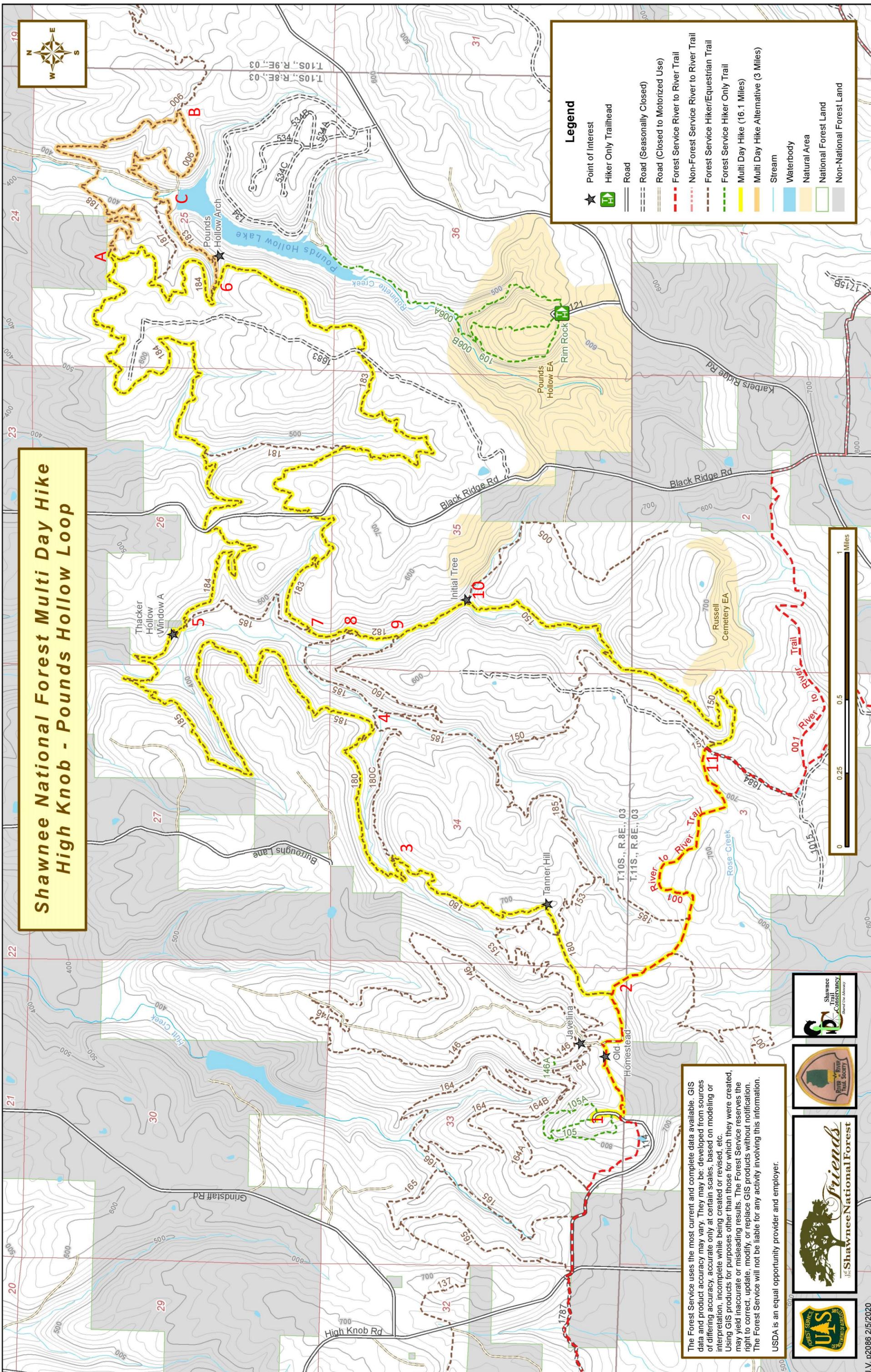
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Shawnee National Forest Multi Day Hike High Knob - Pounds Hollow Loop



Legend

- ★ Point of Interest
- 🏠 Hiker Only Trailhead
- Road
- - - Road (Seasonally Closed)
- Road (Closed to Motorized Use)
- Forest Service River to River Trail
- Non-Forest Service River to River Trail
- Forest Service Hiker/Equestrian Trail
- Forest Service Hiker Only Trail
- Multi Day Hike (16.1 Miles)
- Multi Day Hike Alternative (3 Miles)
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Natural Area
- National Forest Land
- Non-National Forest Land



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