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- [Sipsey Canoe Map](#)
- [Flint Creek Multiple Use Trail Map](#)
- [Owl Creek Non-motorized Trail Map](#)

**Recreation**

Below is an overview of the activities offered at Bankhead National Forest. You will find additional information in the [Recreation Activities](#) section.

**Recreational Areas**

There are six recreation areas scattered about the Bankhead National Forest, each offering a unique experience of its own. Facilities for camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, and swimming are abundant. All facilities are designed with forest users in mind and provide varying challenges for everyone from the novice to the expert. Forest users will find that each area has its own personality and with the changing seasons, even that personality will change.

**Campgrounds**

Corinth and Clear Creek Campgrounds are located in the Bankhead National Forest. Campgrounds are open April through October and offer camping units with electrical and water hookups.

**Hiking**

The Bankhead National Forest offers over 90 miles of recreational trails. You can enjoy hiking, bicycle and horseback riding, and a trail for your all-terrain vehicle.

**Horseback Riding**

Riders have a choice of horseback riding at Owl Creek Trail in the Sipsey Wilderness. There are 13.3 miles of trails in the wilderness designated for horses.

In the northeastern portion of the Bankhead National Forest, the 25-mile Owl Creek Non-Motorized Trail provides an opportunity to see beautiful waterfalls, sandstone cliffs, deep gorges, majestic hardwood trees, wildflowers, and an abundance of birds and animals.

**Sipsey Wilderness**

Sipsey is the largest national forest wilderness area east of the Mississippi and offers outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing. Horseback riding is allowed on trails specifically designated for horses. Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed inside the Sipsey Wilderness boundaries.

**Primitive Camping During Hunting Season**

Camping is allowed during hunting season in the Bankhead National Forest. However, **hunters** must camp in designated hunter's camps and do not require camping permits. **Non-hunters** may camp in the general forest and wilderness but must obtain a permit from the Bankhead Ranger District Office. Primitive camping permits are required from November 15 to January 31 annually.

For your safety, plan to wear hunter orange when sharing a primitive environment with hunters.

Note: Users of the Hurricane Creek Shooting Range should bring their own paper targets.

**Forest History**

The National Forests in Alabama began with the Alabama Purchase Unit, established by the National Forest Commission in Fiscal Year 1914. The area was proclaimed the Alabama National Forest by President Woodrow Wilson on January 15, 1918.

The first forest was located in Franklin, Lawrence and Winston Counties. Land acquisition files show that much of the ridge tops had been cut-over and approximately 40-percent of the land was cut-over, cultivated and vacated farmland. The virgin timber must have been located in the deep gorges and on public domain land.

On June 19, 1936, by proclamation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Alabama National Forest was renamed the Black Warrior National Forest. About six years later on June 17, 1942, the name was changed, by an Act of Congress, to the William B. Bankhead National Forest.

