

Green Ridge SF-North Circuit Directions and Trail Notes

Description: This is a moderate "spoon-shaped" circuit utilizing the Pine Lick and Twin Oaks Trails. Since the Pine Lick Trail starts at the Visitor Center off of M.V. Smith Rd, the length of the outing can be varied by changing the length of the spoon's handle. Starting at the Visitor Center (P-1) provides the hiker with a challenging 12 mile day hike or a somewhat leisurely over-night backpacking trip. Starting at the parking area on the north side of the bridge on Fifteen Mile Creek Rd (P-2) creates a hike with a total mileage of approximately 8 miles. If you park on Fifteen Mile Creek Rd just north of the U.S.40 split (P-3) knock about 0.5 miles off of the last starting point. Starting at the single lane bridge (P-4/ this hike) provides a round trip of about 7 miles. Beginning the hike at the convergence of Pine Lick and Fifteen Mile Creek (Look for a rope swing over a nice swimming hole on the right side of Fifteen Mile Creek Rd) produces a modest 5.6 mile loop hike. Finally, starting the hike at the school house and just doing the loop portion provides one with a four mile hike.

This circuit uses a mixture of footpaths and woods roads. Pine Lick Trail descends from the Visitor Center and follows Fifteen Mile Creek and then Pine Lick north before climbing a short ridge and ending at the northern terminus of Twin Oaks Trail. Just north of the south junction of Pine Lick and Twin Oaks, on Pine Lick itself, is a recently constructed Adirondack style shelter, a nice break spot. Twin Oaks Trail gets its name from a one room schoolhouse still standing a short distance for the northern junction of the two trails on Old Cumberland Rd. From there you can see the mountains of PA. The trail descends and climbs out of a couple of small hollows taking the hiker through mature hardwoods, Stands of White Pine and a recovering clear-cut area. From the high point of the trail views of the eastern ridges in the forest can be had.

Directions to the starting point of this hike from the intersection of I-68 and Fifteen Mile Creek Rd:

1. Take Fifteen Mile Creek Rd North.
2. Cross Fifteen Mile Creek on a bridge and pass P-2 on the right.
3. At the U.S.40 split (40 goes to the right.) go straight onto now gravel Fifteen Mile Creek Rd.
4. Immediately pass P-3 on the left.
5. Come to a signed "Single Lane Bridge" with a brown marker stake on the right for primitive campsite #1. This is the step-off point for this hike. On either side of the bridge are pull offs for launching canoes and tube trips. Park here but allow room for vehicles to back down to the water's edge.

Trail Notes: All trails are blazed with hard to distinguish light beige diamonds ranging in size from 2X2 to 8X8 inches. They really blend in well and are hard to pick up. Major trail intersections are signed.

Begin at the brown stake marking Campsite #1 at the south-east corner of the bridge. Walk down the driveway. Pine Lick trail loops around the campsite and crosses the driveway close to the base of a hill. There is no sign. The trail climbs part way up the hill on a very narrow foot path. You'll

pass through a nice stand of Hemlocks and descend to the creek for a bit. You'll traverse a lesser hill and at 0.7 miles from the start cross the creek on a foot bridge and come out on Fifteen Mile Creek Rd.

Turn right onto the road and cross over a bridge/culvert. There will be a rope swing over a swimming hole in the creek to the right. After crossing the bridge/culvert turn left to regain Pine Lick Trail. There is no sign.

You'll cross Pine Lick several times. In 0.59 miles arrive at the southern junction with Twin Oaks Trail. (You'll descend on this trail later.) Continue up Pine Lick for another 0.3 miles to a shelter on your right.

In about 0.4 miles from the shelter you'll leave the valley, climbing steeply over a short distance to gain a ridge. In another 0.3 miles, come to an unsigned fork in the trail. Stay to the left, following the blazes.

In 0.25 miles arrive at the back of Campsite #5. The trail turns left here and parallels Double Pine Road. At 0.17 miles a trail continues straight down the hill to Old Cumberland Road. Do not follow this trail but turn right onto a blazed trail for a short distance and arrive at Double Pine Rd. The old schoolhouse is to your left on Old Cumberland Rd with a view into PA. Twin Oaks Trail continues on an old woods road on the other side of Double Pine Rd. There is a sign.

Take care! Although I believe this old road later links up with the trail again, Twin Oaks Tr quickly turns left onto a foot path, leaving the road behind. The trail follows an un-named hollow for a bit, eventually descending to the stream before climbing to the ridge and rejoining the old woods road at a wildlife clearing and pine grove 0.69 miles after originally leaving the road. As you leave the pine grove the road eventually breaks down into a foot path and climbs over a ridge with a nice view of more easterly mountains. The hollow below you seems to be struggling to recover either from a fire or a long ago clear cut.

Descend to the bottom of the hollow. Blazes are scarce here due to a shortage of standing timber to paint on. Cross two streams steeping up onto a wide woods road after the last. As you reach the crest of the hill there will be 2 "hiker posts" guiding you to make a hard right turn onto yet another woods road. This junction is approximately 0.62 from the last wildlife clearing.

As you approach yet another crest at 0.42 miles from the previous woods road junction, the trail leaves the road on a foot path on the right marked with a "hiker post". Gradually climb for 0.25 miles and cross Double Pine Road again.

In a few yards, come out onto a woods road. To the right is a yellow forest gate and campsite #10. Turn left onto the forest road. There are two options at this point. You can either stay on the forest road which switchbacks down to the shelter you visited earlier or, in a few yards, turn left onto a blazed foot path and follow it down to the previously passed southern junction with Pine Lick Trail. Whichever you choose, once you've reached the Pine Lick Trail, turn south and retrace your earlier route back to the cars. If you're

hot and sweaty you may want to consider visiting that swimming hole you passed on the starting leg of the hike!