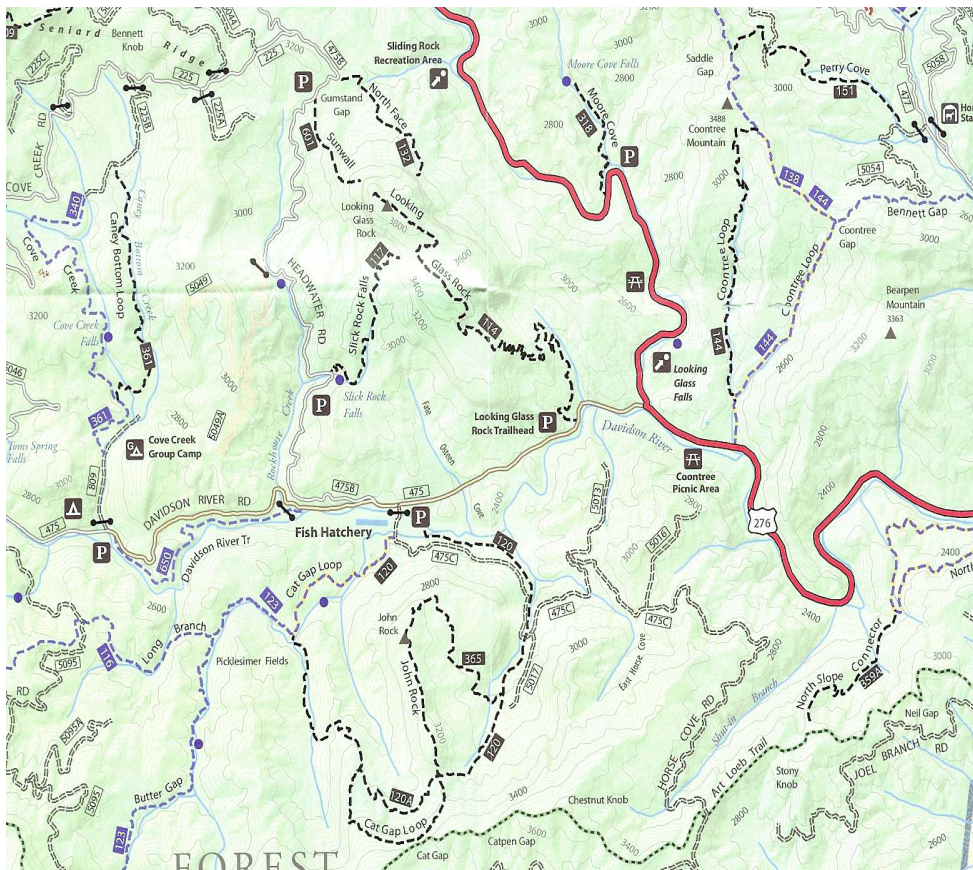


LOOKING GLASS Looking Glass Rock in Pisgah National Forest



DESCRIPTION: This 6.4 mile hike starts at the Looking Glass Trailhead on FR475 and gains about 1700ft to the top of Looking Glass Rock (3,969 feet). Outbound the hike is moderate to difficult; easy on the return. Start uphill beside a small stream and follow it generally all the way to the summit. Gradual and foot friendly at first, the trail climbs to a cove where the stream is larger with small cascades. The woods then thin. Many switchbacks moderate the now steeper climb. About 1/3 of the way to the top, note a left-hand switchback with a large hemlock anchoring the tip, and a 30ft drop-off with partial views of cliffs on the north side of the mountain. Beyond, the trail becomes steeper, rougher, and surrounded by Carolina Hemlock. Continue on to and past the summit a short distance to a beautiful overlook with grand vistas. Lunch there and return on the same trail.



Before or after, view Looking Glass Falls just north of FR475 on US276 and/or visit the Pisgah Ranger Station...about 3 miles south on US276. The Station has excellent displays and helpful rangers. Sliding Rock Recreation Area, about 3 miles north, also on 276 is another optional add-on...best when warm weather attracts sliders. (The water is always cold.)

DIRECTIONS: (GPS:35.290986, -82.776464)
Gather, pool, and depart from KKEPA at 830AM. Go N on SC130/NC281 to US64. Go right and continue through Brevard. Go left on US276 for 5.2 miles, then left on FR475 for 0.4 mi to the trailhead on the right. (an 80 minute drive). There are facilities at the Pisgah Ranger Station; none at the trailhead, and no fees. Expect to return about 330PM.

UPDATED Jul 2017