

# Brown Mountain OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA

Brown Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area, on the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest, offers 34 miles of rugged, mountainous trails with lots of challenges.

The trails range in difficulty from “easy” to “difficult.” Note that the trails are color coded on the map to show their difficulty.

The map also has vehicle symbols to show which trails are open to trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s), 4-wheel drive vehicles, or all three. Mountain bikers may use trails at their own risk; the same fee is required. The Brown Mountain OHV map

and the list of trails on the next page will help you decide which trails are best for you and your level of experience. You can purchase the map at these locations:

National Forests in North Carolina  
160A Zillicoa Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-257-4200

Grandfather Ranger District  
108 East Lawing Lane  
Nebo, NC 28761  
828-652-2144

## When can you ride?

Brown Mountain OHV Area is open annually from **March 16 through January 1.**

## Where can you ride?

All 34 miles of trails are open to trail bikes, while over 14 miles are open to ATV’s. Jeeps and other 4-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicles may use trail 8 and part of trail 1. Trails 1a and 1b are only open to trail bikes and ATV’s. OHV’s may not be ridden on the access road, 299, from the highway.

Most trails are not wide enough for two-way traffic, so a one-way system is provided. The trail numbers can only be seen when traveling in the correct direction. Please observe the one-way signs, but be alert for people who may accidentally travel the wrong way. Brown Mountain OHV Area is the only place in Pisgah National Forest where ATV’s and unlicensed trail bikes may be ridden. On forest roads outside this area, only licensed, street-legal vehicles may be ridden. State vehicle laws are enforced on forest roads.



# Brown Mountain OHV Trails

Trail No.	Length (miles)	Difficulty Level	One Way	OHV Allowed
1	5.5	Easy	No	Trail bike, ATV, 4WD
1a	4.5	Difficult	Yes	Trail bike, ATV
1b	2.6	Easy	Yes	Trail bike, ATV
2	5.8	Moderate	Yes	Trail bike, ATV
3	2.1	Difficult	Yes	Trail bike
4	1.1	Easy	No	Trail bike, ATV
5	1.6	Difficult	Yes	Trail bike
6	0.8	Moderate	No	Trail bike, ATV
7	2.3	Difficult	Yes	Trail bike
8	0.6	Easy	No	Trail bike, ATV, 4WD
9	4.8	Difficult	Yes	Trail bike, ATV
10	1.8	Easy	Yes	Trail bike, ATV

## Safety First!

Brown Mountain trails provide an exciting challenge for OHV enthusiasts, but an accident will ruin your day. For your safety and enjoyment, follow these safety tips:

- Learn and practice your riding skills before you head for unfamiliar country.
- Wear your helmet and protect your eyes and face.
- Be prepared to walk out in case of a breakdown.
- Carry no passengers on trail bikes or ATV's.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Ride with others—never alone.
- Stop when you encounter hikers, bikes, and horses, and determine the best way to pass. Yield to everyone.
- Many trails are dangerous to unskilled riders. Don't exceed your ability and experience.



## Primitive camping

Primitive camping is permitted in the OHV area. Designated sites are located along the entrance road. Each site has a table, grill, and lantern post. A picnic shelter, water hydrant, and "sweet-smelling" vault toilet are located at the trailhead. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the OHV area, including in campsites or on trails.

Please take your trash with you. When you are away from the toilet, be sure to bury everything, including toilet paper, at least 200 feet away from the creek. Don't drink untreated creek water.

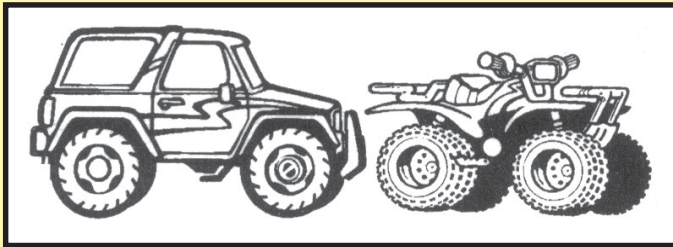
## Brown Mountain: cloaked in mystery

This off-highway vehicle area is at the base of Brown Mountain, a place cloaked in mystery. Some say that on dark, moonless midsummer nights lights appear to dance and whirl along the crest of Brown Mountain. The mysterious “Brown Mountain lights” have long been the subject of folklore, song, and study. The lights’ origin is still the center of much controversy. The best places to try to catch a glimpse of the Brown Mountain lights are at Brown Mountain Overlook on NC 181 and Wisemans View on Kistler Memorial Highway.

## Volunteers needed

For over 20 years the Forest Service has worked with the Unifour Trail Bike Club from Hudson to provide a safe, enjoyable OHV experience.

If you would like to help, please contact the Grandfather Ranger District.

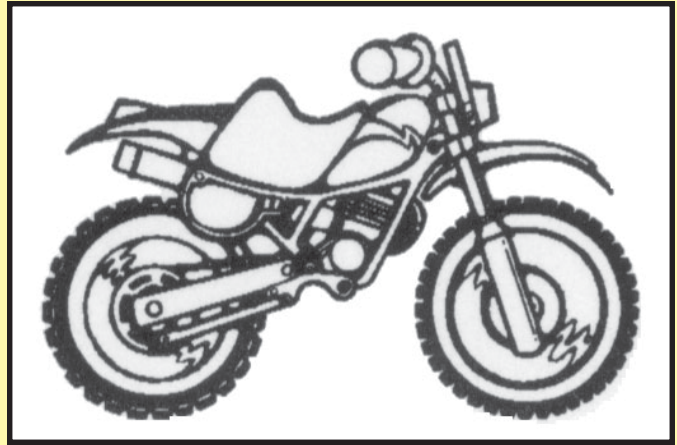


## Grandfather district: land of scenic beauty

The Grandfather Ranger District, in Pisgah National Forest, is the largest district in the National Forests in North Carolina. Bordered by the Blue Ridge Parkway to the northwest, the district extends from Ridgecrest to Blowing Rock.

The district is known for its scenic beauty, especially in the Linville Gorge Wilderness.

The Curtis Creek area, acquired by the Forest Service in 1912, was the first land in the nation purchased to create a national forest. Pisgah National Forest, established in 1916, was the first national forest in the East.



## Small fee charged

A fee is charged for each user at the self-service fee station located at the entrance to the trail system. **All operators must carry a dated fee stub or season pass while on the trails.** A season pass may be purchased at the Grandfather District Office at 109 East Lawning Lane, Nebo, NC 28761. You can get a permit by mail or in person. The office is at exit 90 just off U.S. 40 and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The funds are used to maintain the trails and make improvements in the area.

## Difficulty Levels

The difficulty level indicates the degree of skill needed to ride that trail. The rating is based on steepness, roughness, and the type of obstacles:



**EASY: (Easiest)** Gentle grades (15% maximum pitch), sweeping turns, and fairly smooth treads with few obstacles.



**MODERATE: (More difficult)** Moderate grades (30% maximum pitch), more and tighter curves, climbing turns, sections of rough tread.



**DIFFICULT: (Most difficult)** Requires high degree of skill to travel. Moderate to steep grades (50% maximum pitch), numerous turns, tight curves, switchbacks, rough surfaces throughout, and frequent obstacles.

## Tread Lightly

Off-Highway Vehicle trails are designed to minimize impact on the environment. National forest laws are enacted and enforced to protect land, water, and wildlife. Please follow these rules:

- Stay on designated routes marked with symbols that show the type of OHV you have. Cross-country travel and shortcuts are not allowed.
- Stay off trails that are closed for restoration. Avoid wet trails and wheel spins.
- Be sure your spark arrester works properly. Remember: you are responsible for any fire you start.
- Keep noise levels low. Many people go to the forest to get away from noise. Get the quietest machine you can, and then make it quieter.
- Don't harass wildlife.

## Directions

### From Lenoir:

Take Highway 90 west to Collettesville. Turn left on Adako Road (SR 1337) just beyond the elementary school and grocery store. Travel 4.4 miles to the Brown Mountain OHV Area entrance on the right at the sign.

### From Morganton:

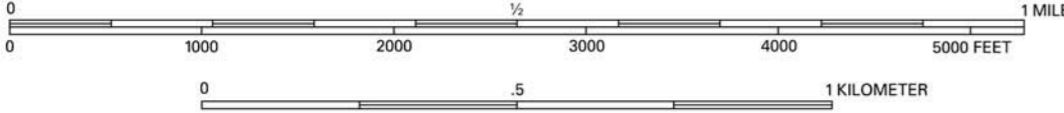
Take Highway 181 north about 11 miles toward Linville. Turn right on Brown Mountain Beach Road (SR 1405) at a small wooden church on the right. Travel 3.5 miles east to the Brown Mountain OHV Area entrance on the left at sign.

- Carry a litterbag and pack out all trash. Learn and use no-trace camping techniques.
- Carry a trowel and bury human waste and paper 6 inches deep and 200 feet from water.
- Ride straight: no alcohol or drugs.

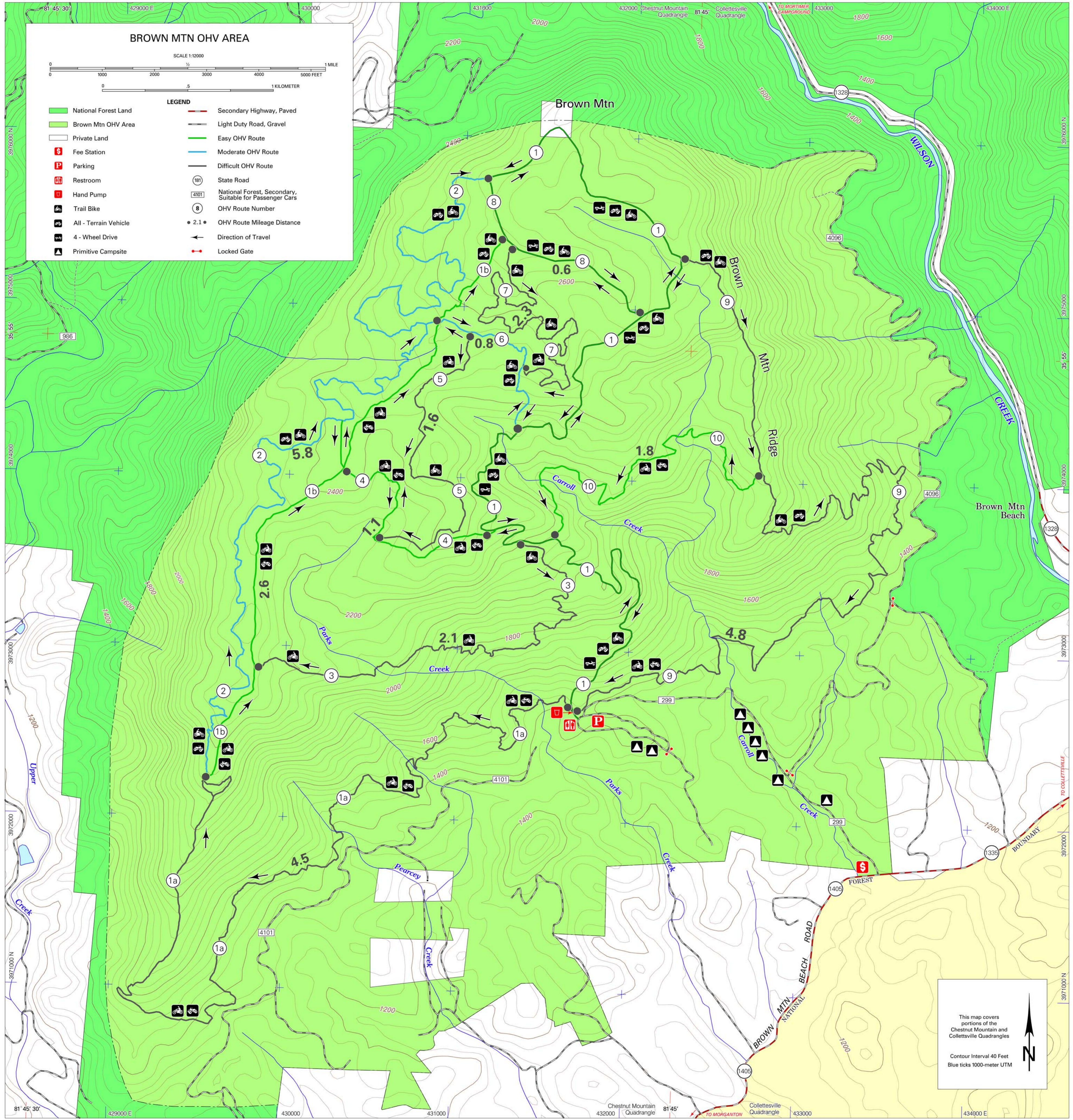


# BROWN MTN OHV AREA

SCALE 1:12000



- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| National Forest Land | Secondary Highway, Paved                                |
| Brown Mtn OHV Area   | Light Duty Road, Gravel                                 |
| Private Land         | Easy OHV Route  |
| Fee Station          | Moderate OHV Route                                      |
| Parking              | Difficult OHV Route                                     |
| Restroom             | State Road  |
| Hand Pump            | National Forest, Secondary, Suitable for Passenger Cars |
| Trail Bike           | OHV Route Number  |
| All-Terrain Vehicle  | OHV Route Mileage Distance                              |
| 4-Wheel Drive        | Direction of Travel                                     |
| Primitive Campsite   | Locked Gate   |



This map covers portions of the Chestnut Mountain and Collettsville Quadrangles

Contour Interval 40 Feet  
Blue ticks 1000-meter UTM