

O K L A H O M A

Barren Fork Creek

This fishery is east & south of Tahlequah. Best flow is about 100-150 cfs. Gauge under 6'. Best with Flow <200 cfs level < 5.6' high. Check at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=07197000. Fall is great fishing. Most of the creek is private land though, and there is limited access. There is a spot at Tahlequah where the Barren Fork flows into the upper Illinois, and you could track up river to get in Barren Fork Creek.

Summer, 2015, Headed out early this morning with friends Kelly Bostian and Frank Kohn to fish the Barren Fork. Welling bridge area has changed a lot from the floods this spring with some new snags and deep runs down river from the bridge... fishing was tough there however. I had a few hits and caught one smallie. Frank caught a few black bass, a couple of smallies and a bluegill or two. I believe it's over fished. We moved up river east of Proctor and things got a lot better we all scored some smallmouth. I caught a dozen 10 inchers and about 14 red suckers. Crawfish patterns worked for me.

It's 93 miles from Tulsa to the last point.

Take highway 51/62 east out of Tahlequah. You will cross the Upper Illinois River and in .6 miles turn right at the convenience store onto South Welling Road. Continue through a very small town (just a post office). About a mile after the post office you want to go right at the "Y" at 35.87162 -94.89891 onto E790 Road. Turn left at the first cross road onto S550 Road and go to

1 Boy Scout Hole Access The Scenic River Commission closes (and locks) the gate to the Boy Scout Hole from Oct 1 until April 1 each year. Be prepared to walk. If the gate is closed, park in lot at

35.85783 -94.91410 and make the 1/3 mile walk to Barren Fork, otherwise drive down to the Boy Scout Access parking lot at

35.85321 -94.91064 If school is out there may be kids swimming. You can walk/wade upstream. Water level may not let you go far down but there's plenty of access upstream.

2 Welling Bridge Access is always open. Go across & back to the right, then down to creek at

35.86814 -94.89748

Drive back north on South Welling Road to Hwy 51/62 then go northeast on Hwy 62.

3 Egan Camp & Retreat Call Bonnie/ Josh 918 456-6489 to see if there are kids in camp, otherwise, just ask when you get there. Park at

35.95842 -94.81195

4 Proctor Go 1.5 miles south of Hwy 62 on N4620 Road South to Barren Fork at

35.96560 -94.77942 Need 4-wheel drive for this road or walk 250 yards to Barren Fork.

Tyner / Barren Confluence dirt road is washed out at the creek. Go south of Hwy 62 at

35.96598 -94.77730

This area was flooded pretty good in 2015 and is rough access.

5 Christie 4670 Rd goes south to Barren Fork off Hwy 62 at

35.95557 -94.69268

Drive down to the Creek to

35.94753 -94.69023

Scott Hoods, Kelly Bostian and Frank Kohn caught smallmouth & red suckers with Crawfish patterns.