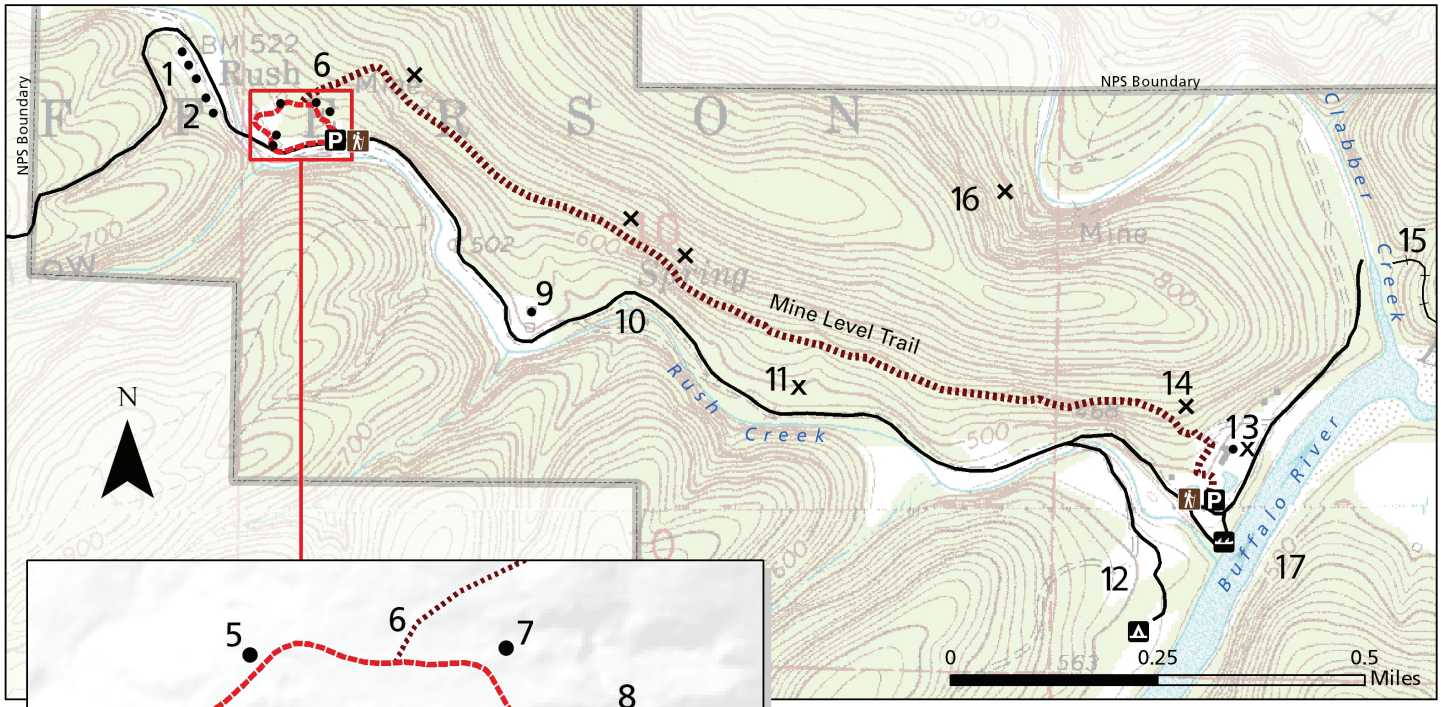
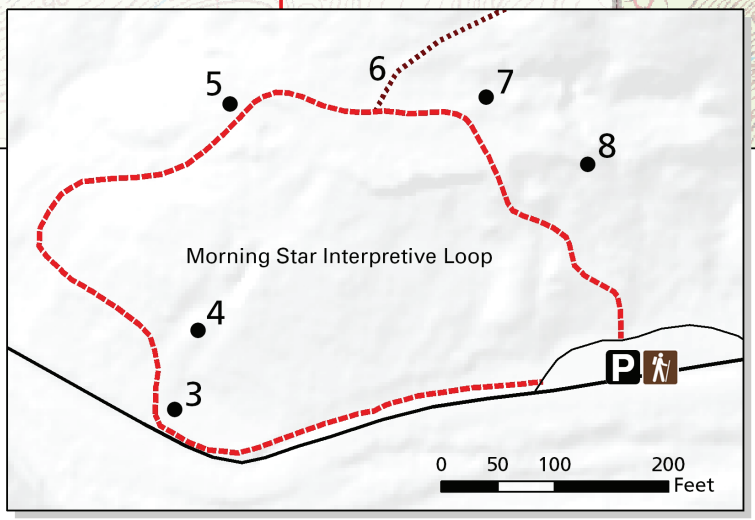
Buffalo National River
Rush Valley

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior





Legend

- Interpreted Features
- Mine
- ***Trails-Hiking Only***
- Morning Star Interpretive Loop
- Mine Level Trail
- Trailhead
- Park Boundary
- Road
- Campground
- Parking
- River Access

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In the 1880s, farmers on Rush Creek discovered zinc ore, and soon the rush to Rush began. Claims were staked out along the Rush Valley and neighboring Clabber Creek. A mining boom was well underway by the 1890s as miners, investors and service industries arrived from all over the country. The most famous of the Rush mines was the Morning Star Mine, which awed observers with its modern quarry production of ore. A community of homes and businesses developed along Rush Creek and endured until the 1960s.

Trail Distance: Mine Level Trail (1.5 miles one way); Morning Star Interpretive Loop (.25 mile round trip)

Location: Take Hwy. 14 south out of Yellville and travel approximately 10 miles to the intersection of County Road 6032. Go left and travel 5 miles.

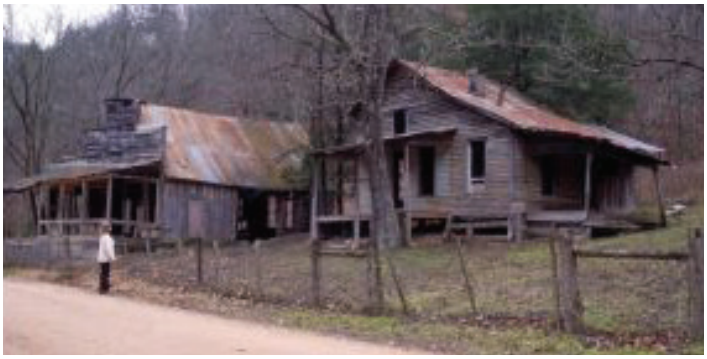
Information Contact: Buffalo Point Visitor Contact Station: 870-449-4311

Emergency Contact: MROCC Emergency Dispatch: 1-888-692-1162

Trailhead Coordinates: Interpretive Loop: 36N 7.53’ 77” 92W 34.05’ 56”; Mine Level Trail: 36N 7.30’ 75” 92W 32.57’ 56”

Safety: During a 1984 mine safety inspection, several hazards were identified in the existing mine shafts at Rush. As a result of this inspection and typical deterioration, gates were placed on the Morning Star, Capps, and McIntosh mines between 1998 and 2012 to keep people out while allowing bats unrestricted access to breed and roost. Cell phone service is very spotty within the Buffalo River; visitors should not depend on cell service in case of emergency.

1. **Houses** – The houses in this row date back from about 1899. They were originally sided with a simple "board and batten" design and a more modern "clapboard" siding was added to some at a later time.
2. **Taylor-Medley Store** – Bill Taylor, and later Lee Medley sold goods, distributed mail and performed marriages out of the store until the early 1950s.
3. **Livery Barn** – Built in the 1890s, this structure was burned by arsonists in 1998.



4. **Smelter** – This stone structure is the oldest in Rush. The claim holders of the Morning Star Mine built it for silver extraction. The test firing of the smelter showed zinc instead of silver in the collected ore and was never used again.
5. **Blacksmith Shop** – This structure was built in 1925 during the mining revival. A part of the forge still remains.
6. **Mine Level** – Climb the trail from the parking lot up to mine level and across to Rush Landing; past several mine entrances. The gates were installed in 2012 to protect the bats and for your safety.
7. **Morning Star Processing Mill** – Built in 1898, it was the first mill in the valley. The gravity tram system moved the ore from mine level to the mill for crushing. The remaining piers are from a remodeling in 1911. Imagine the sound of the rock crushers echoing through the valley, day in and day out.
8. **Mine Tailings** – Tailings were the final residue from the milling process. Follow the trail down to the remains of the tailing mound near the parking area.
9. **Hick's Store** – This once two-story, rock walled store was built in 1916 and reflected the prosperity of the period. It was remodeled into a residence in the 1960's and was even used as Ranger housing. The record flood of 1982 rendered the structure uninhabitable.
10. **Boiling Springs** – Before the mining era, a grist mill operated on Rush Creek and was powered by this spring. The output volume varies with rainfall, but is always a nice place for a cool break.
11. **McIntosh Mine** – Several buildings once stood in this area, including a fancy hotel with a porch that faced the river; all were owned by the McIntosh mining Company.
12. **New Town** – During World War I the area from the low water crossing to the present campground was a community brimming with activity and prosperity. The decline of the zinc market after the war left the town virtually deserted. This was the site of the Edith and Yellow Rose Processing Mills.
13. **White Eagle Mill** – One of the earliest mining ventures was at the mouth of Rush Creek in the 1880s. The mill ruins are visible from the edge of the current parking area near the trail that leads to Clabber Creek.
14. **Mining Revival** – A processing mill brought in from Missouri in the late 1950s for ore from several of the existing mine openings. The venture was short-lived.
15. **Ore Wagon Road** – Ore was transported by wagon to the White River for loading onto barges. Freight cars carried the ore after the railroad reached Buffalo City in 1903.
16. **Monte Cristo Mine** – This mine was first active in the early 1900s. The old engine in front dates from the 1960s mine reopening. This mine contains dangerous hidden shafts and pools of water. **Do not enter!**
17. **Red Cloud Mine** – This was a large room and pillar mine which also had its own processing mill and company buildings. The mill piers remain.

The Rush area can be explored along a driving route or by walking the designated interpretive trails. The Rush Landing is a major river access point with heavy seasonal use. Use caution when driving or walking the main access road. Since before recorded time, people have inhabited the Rush Valley to find shelter in a storm, form tools out of chert, find water, hunt for meat to feed a family or mine for zinc to sell to the highest bidder. There are many signs of people's presence which enables us to hear their stories of struggle, success and survival. If those signs are disturbed or collected, then that story is lost forever.