Early loggers used springboards inserted into a notch of the tree trunk as a platform on which to stand as they wielded their long crosscut saw. The springboards elevated loggers above the shrubby undergrowth, gave them a level place to stand, and allowed them to cut above the widest part of the tree's trunk. These notches are visible today in old, large stumps.

Dooley Spur Loop (0.5 mile)

A portion of the upper loop follows an old railroad grade, which was used to haul logs out of the forest prior to the 1913 Wolf Creek Fire. The trail crosses a small stream and drops back down near Rock Creek before climbing a series of stairs. After a gentle ascent, the trail levels off under the planted forest canopy. Cross another small stream, and keep right to return to Springboard Loop.

**CAUTION**

Use extra caution when driving on single-lane gravel roads in the forest. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic. Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock.
Vanilla Leaf

back into the forest at the top of the hill. To finish out the day, continue down the road to the Sunset Rest Area and hike the Steam Donkey interpretive trail.

Steam Donkey Trail

The Steam Donkey Trail is made up of two short loops in the form of a figure eight: Springboard Loop and Dooley Spur Loop.

Springboard Loop (0.3 mile)

Walk along this easy interpretive trail and take a trip back in time, when steam power was in full swing. Begin this walk by crossing the bridge over South Fork Rock Creek. Stay right and follow the trail as it meanders into the forest. A sign explains the operation...