

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OAKMULGEE FOREST RECREATION AREA, ALABAMA

LOCATION: The Oakmulgee Forest recreation area is located in west-central Alabama. Most of it is under the administration of the Oakmulgee District of Talladega National Forest. The District has somewhat of a dumbbell shape, with the northwestern segment (containing Payne Lake) lying mostly in the drainage of the Black Warrior River; while the southeastern segment lies mostly in the drainage of the Cahaba River. The District HQ is at Brent. Elevations are within a few hundred feet of sea level. The area is popular for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and picnicking—plus water sports at Payne Lake.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:15	11:00	11:58	12:59	13:51	14:18	14:06	13:23	12:25	11:24	10:31	10:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:44	5:40	6:55	8:23	9:16	9:36	8:45	8:40	8:03	7:40	6:07	4:37
AREA OF BLUE SKY	37%	39%	42%	47%	47%	46%	41%	46%	50%	58%	50%	39%
LOW FOR MONTH	16°	20°	27°	38°	45°	53°	60°	60°	48°	37°	25°	18°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	33°	36°	41°	50°	58°	66°	69°	68°	63°	50°	39°	35°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57°	61°	68°	77°	84°	91°	93°	93°	88°	79°	67°	59°
HIGH FOR MONTH	70°	74°	79°	86°	91°	98°	101°	101°	100°	90°	78°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	56%	48%	26%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	32%	50%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	26%	62%	74%	74%	43%	6%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	52%	48%	46%	50%	52%	57%	55%	53%	48%	50%	55%
DRY DAYS	66%	63%	66%	73%	70%	69%	61%	67%	78%	80%	73%	64%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	75%	74%	78%	82%	82%	76%	82%	82%	87%	80%	76%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.87	0.97	1.04	0.87	0.64	0.70	0.83	0.67	0.56	0.43	0.60	0.86
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	7%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	4%	8%	14%	17%	21%	31%	39%	31%	16%	5%	5%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 60% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 46% in December and January, to a high of 67% in May, June, and October. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 14° on some clear and cold January sunrise, and the highest should be near 103° on some hot and windless summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 3° cooler than actual ones during winter afternoons, and up to 7° hotter than actual ones during summer afternoons. The area has a standard mid-latitude four-season year. Summers are long, fairly sunny, very hot and humid. Summer afternoon and early evening thunderstorms are common. Morning dews and light mists are the rule. Winter days are short, moderately sunny, and mild to cool—occasionally cold. About one day a year will have temperatures below freezing all day long. Although July is the wettest month (thunderstorms), winter is the wettest season, with measurable rain on more than one day in three. Snow flurries are common during the winter, but snow rarely stays on the ground past noon of the next day. The ground does not stay frozen for more than a day or so at a time.