

BMTA Annual Walk-thru Report

Section(s) Evaluated: _____ Sections 17d Beech Gap to Mud Gap _____

Direction walked (circle one): -northbound- -southbound-

Evaluator(s) Name(s) ____ Rick Harris _____

Evaluation Date: ____ June 7, 2009 _____

Work hours: ____ 4 _____ Travel Hours: ____ 2 _____

Reporting Evaluator's phone #: ____ 423-253-6358 _____

Please see the reverse side (or below, if online) for evaluator suggestions and for a quick review of BMTA standards to use as a basis for your evaluation.

Overall assessments: Rate each category 1-5, with 3 being "ok" and 5 being "excellent."

Treadway (1-5) ____ 5 ____

Corridor Clearance (1-5) ____ 4 ____

Blazes, Signs and Trailmarkers (1-5) ____ 4 ____

Overall rating for the section (1-5) ____ 4 ____

Comments on problem areas (be as specific as you can on location):

Section 17d – Beech Gap to Mud Gap

This 2.98 mile section needs brushing out very soon due to high weeds in many sections, especially where the trail follows wildlife roads or comes close to the skyway. The bad sections are south of the skyway at mile 0.36 as the trail enters the woods, then in a wildlife clearing at mile 0.90, then another wildlife clearing at mile 1.25, then through the old skyway quarry area and the road on south of there to the skyway. Also, we should put nice signs where the trail leaves Beech Gap and Mud Gap as well as the spot where the trail crosses the skyway and where it crosses North River Road. The bridge at mile 0.21 is still down in the gully and needs to be pulled up and repositioned a little upstream with a minor trail reroute. There are a few logs across the trail, as below listed from Beech Gap south:

- Mile 0.14 – log across trail
- Mile 0.18 – small log across trail
- Mile 0.21 – bridge in gully
- Mile 0.24 – log across trail
- Mile 0.27 – trail enters parking lot on Skyway
- Mile 0.36 – trail leaves Skyway, badly needs brushing for a couple hundred feet

or so

- Mile 0.49 – tree across trail
- Mile 0.59 – tree across trail
- Mile 0.70 – few small rhodo trees across trail
- Mile 0.96 – several small trees blocking trail
- Mile 1.01 – small tree across trail
- Mile 1.22 – tree across trail
- Mile 1.38 – North River Road crossing, need signs
- Mile 1.57 –big tree lengthwise along trail blocking it and another tree a few feet further down the trail
- Mile 2.01 – several small trees across trail
- Mile 2.04 – big tree blocking trail with major walkaround
- Mile 2.17 – several logs in trail tread
- Mile 2.40 – Quarry field needs brushing
- Mile 2.81 – grave of person killed by Kirkland Bushwackers, stone says “Here lies an unknown man killed by the Kirkland Bushwackers”
- Mile 2.97 – Mud Gap

Additional comments by another hiker:

The trail is in good condition. The upper half has weeds along side the trail about knee high but the trail is not grown over anywhere. There are two small trees leaning across the trail near Mud Gap that require walkers to bend over to get under. Another small tree is leaning across the trail near Whigg Meadow.

The meadow has been mowed recently and flame azalea is in bloom on the few bushes around the woods at the edge of the meadow.