

BMTA Annual Walk-thru Report

Section(s) Evaluated: _____Mud Gap to Farr Gap sections 17d 18a 18b _____

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

Evaluator(s) Name(s) _____Dick Evans _____

Evaluation Date: _____JUNE 24-25, 2009_____

Work hours: ____32 (BACKPACK TRIP_ Travel Hours: _____2.25_____

Reporting Evaluator's phone #: _____

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) ____4____

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):

I checked Sections 17d, 18a and 18b for the walkthrough.

On 17d, the major issue is the mini grand canyon just off the Cherohala, and this was discussed at the USFS Meeting Friday. The District Ranger was going to check on it and I offered to meet him there (he's in Robbinsville one day a week). I'll follow up with him in a couple of weeks to see where it is going. Regarding the bridge, the District Ranger, Steve Lohr, said he would look into it, and I told him we would be glad to meet him up there sometime. I'll follow up with him in a couple of weeks. Let's see what they come up with, as, as far as I know, the bridge was their work, not ours (I might be wrong, but I don't remember our building it). [That is correct, the NNF people built the bridge]

On Section 18a-b, I would rate the entire trail a 4 for all assessments. Great wilderness trail. Since it is a wilderness area, blazes are not allowed, but the 4x6 posts at the trail junctions are fine, despite some bear damage, but all are clear and readable. No problem following the trail at all, and no confusion. Fodderstack is fully passable and really needs no brushing nor logging. It is a fine wilderness trail, at least to me. I hiked it in shorts with no scratches. I hand cut a few briars, but nothing worth a trip.

Regarding the databook, I have a few comments or observations, but they do need to be reviewed before they are considered corrections for the next edition.

<u>Databook Notation</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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Beech Gap	35'20.902n, 84'02.287w. Follow Trail #2 to Farr Gap. (Delete reference to Trail 95, as #2 is now posted)
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Strawberry Gap	Old road indiscernible in foliage. Just delete mention of it, as there are several other old road crossings, but they present no confusion.
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164.4 Cold Spring Gap	(Name is not on current TI map) Junction with Trails 105 (South Fork Citico Trail) & 54A (Bob Bald ConnectorTrail)
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165.8 Cold Spring Gap	(Again, name not on map) Junction with Trail #149 (Cold Springs Gap Trail)
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167.3 Cherry Log Gap	Junction with Trail # 98 (North Fork Citico Trail) and unmarked side trail to Bob Bald.
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170.6 Pine Ridge	Junction with Trail #99 (Pine Ridge Trail)
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173.4 Big Stack Gap	Junction with Trail # 96, Mill Branch Trail.
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Unnamed Gap	Junction with Trail # 139 (Big Stack Gap Trail). Camping. Water 0.1 down Trail 139.
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173.5 Crowder Branch	Junction with Trail #84 (Crowder Branch Trail). Camping and water 0.2 down Trail 84.
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