

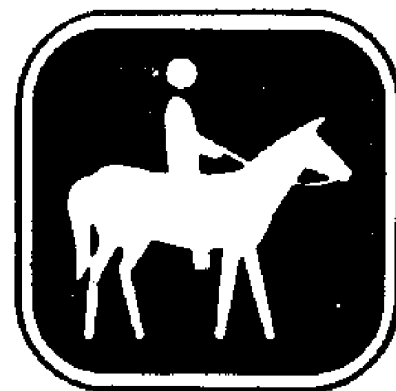
# GUIDE TO THE PINHOTI TRAIL IN GEORGIA

ELEVENTH EDITION, JANUARY 2018

Covers Sections 14 through 31

Alabama State Line to Benton MacKaye Trail

Conasauga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest  
Simms Mountain Trail



by the Georgia Pinhoti Trail Association



THIS GUIDE IS NOT FOR SALE OR RESALE  
Guide To The Pinhoti Trail in Georgia  
Eleventh Edition, 1<sup>st</sup> Printing  
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## INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to give basic locations and mileages for the Pinhoti Trail in Georgia. It does not cover sections of the Pinhoti Trail in the Talladega National Forest of Alabama nor does it cover trail over private property and Alabama Forever Wild Land on Davis and Indian Mountains. The length of the Pinhoti Trail covered by this guide is 166.4 miles.

Most of Pinhoti Trail covered by this guide is multi-use trail. Hikers are allowed on all sections. Non-motorized mountain bikes are allowed on all sections except from Bear Creek Loop to Mountaintown Creek Trail. Horses are allowed on all sections except from the Hurricane Trail junction to Dug Gap, and from Tatum Lead Road to Forest Road 64. Horse and bike traffic must use the northern route around Keown Falls and Pilcher Pond. Motorized traffic is not allowed on the Pinhoti Trail with the exception of those segments where the trail follows public roads.

Camping is allowed on any Forest Service lands unless there is a specific posted prohibition. Be aware that the trail passes along roads through private property. No camping is allowed on private property. In Section 20, the trail passes along the boundary of Sloppy Floyd State Park. Camping in the state park is allowed only in established campgrounds near the lakes. There are two side trails leading 2.0 miles into the developed portion of the park.

Long sections of the Pinhoti Trail follow ridgelines where there is no water. Carry plenty of water when on day hikes. When water sources are encountered along the trail, consider the water to need either boiling or chemical treatment before it is fit for human consumption. Many larger streams are downstream from livestock and agricultural enterprises. Water sources that are available in winter may be dry in summer and fall.

The only overnight trail shelter along this part of the Pinhoti Trail is the Spring Branch Shelter, 0.8 mile from the Alabama state line. Few opportunities are available for emergency shelter along the trail. Numerous stores can be found along the road walk sections of the trail between Cave Spring and Coosa, and between Dalton and Chatsworth. The hours of operation vary. Stores within five miles of the trail operate in the communities of Coosa, Summerville, Gore, Subligna, and Villanow. A wide range of services, including medical services, are available in Rome, Summerville, Dalton, and Chatsworth.

A portion of the Pinhoti Trail in Georgia is also designated as the Great Eastern Trail. This is a long trail that is under development to link numerous existing trails such as the Pinhoti Trail in Alabama and Georgia, the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee, the Pine Mountain Trail in Kentucky and Virginia, the Allegheny Trail in West Virginia, the Tuscarora Trail in West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, the Standing Stone Trail in Pennsylvania, the Mid State Trail in Pennsylvania, and the Finger Lakes Trail in New York. When complete, the trail will run from a spur of the Florida Trail at the Alabama state line to the North Country National Scenic Trail in New York. The Great Eastern Trail designation applies to Sections 14 through 18 and a portion of Section 19. Marking is limited to four inch by four inch diamonds at trailheads and road crossings.



There are large parking areas at Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136), at the High Point trailhead (Georgia Highway 100), and at Buddy Cove Gap (Forest Service Road 64). Each of these areas can accommodate numerous horse trailers. Smaller parking areas are located at Mack White Gap (U.S. Highway 27), old Narrows Picnic Area, West Armuchee Creek (Manning Mill Road), and Hurricane Creek. Generally these hold anywhere from three to fifteen cars but only two or three horse trailers at most. Other smaller parking areas are roadside at East Armuchee Road, Johns Mountain Overlook, Keown Falls Recreation Area, Pilcher Pond parking area on Pocket Road, Dug Gap, Bear Creek, and West Fork Jacks River. These also hold anywhere from three to fifteen cars but are not appropriate for horse trailers.

### **Driving Directions To Trailheads**

From Cave Spring, GA (Junction of U.S. Highway 411 and Georgia Highway 100 in Cave Spring):

To Old Jackson Chapel Road (Sections 13 & 14): Follow Georgia Highway 100 south for 4.0 miles. Turn right on Esom Hill Road continue 0.5 mile to Old Jackson Chapel Road. Turn right and proceed 1.2 miles to trailhead (5.7 miles total). Limited parking.

To Santa Claus Road (Section 14): Follow Georgia Highway 100 south for 4.2 miles. Turn left on dirt Santa Claus Road and proceed 0.5 miles to trailhead (4.7 miles total). Limited parking.

To Old Cave Spring Road (Section 14): Follow U.S. Highway 411 (Alabama Street) east for 0.3 miles. Turn right on Cedartown Street and proceed 2.6 miles to trailhead (2.9 miles total).

From Rome, GA (Junction of Georgia Highway 20 and Georgia Highway 53 in downtown Rome):

To Simms Mountain Trail (Section 18): Follow Georgia Highway 20 west for 10.8 miles. Turn right on Huffaker Road and proceed 2.6 miles to trailhead (13.4 miles total).

To Georgia Highway 100 (Sections 18 & 19): Follow Georgia Highway 20 west for 14.5 miles. Turn right on Georgia Highway 100 and proceed 1.8 miles to trailhead (16.3 miles total).

To High Point (Sections 19 & 20): Follow Georgia Highway 20 west for 14.5 miles. Turn right on Georgia Highway 100 and proceed 9.6 miles to trailhead (25.1 miles total).

To Mack White Gap (Sections 20 & 21): Follow U.S. Highway 27 north 19.9 miles.

To West Armuchee Road (Sections 21 & 22): Follow U.S. Highway 27 north 18.3 miles. Turn right on Subligna Road and proceed 10.2 miles (28.5 miles total).

To Manning Mill Road (Section 22): Follow U.S. Highway 27 north 18.3 miles. Turn right on Subligna Road and proceed 8.2 miles. Turn right on East Armuchee Road and proceed 3.6 miles. Turn left on Manning Mill Road and proceed 0.8 mile. Turn left on Forest Service Road 227 and ford West Armuchee Creek. Parking is on left beyond creek (30.9 miles total).

## **Driving Directions To Trailheads (continued)**

To East Armuchee Road (Sections 22 & 23): Follow U.S. Highway 27 north 18.3 miles. Turn right on Subligna Road and proceed 8.2 miles. Turn right on East Armuchee Road and proceed 3.9 miles to parking area on right side of road (30.4 miles total).

From Resaca, GA (Junction of Interstate 75 and Georgia Highway 136):

To Johns Mountain Overlook (Section 23): Proceed west on Highway 136. Go 6.6 miles to the intersection with Georgia Highway 136 Connector. Turn right to continue on Highway 136 and proceed 5.8 miles. Turn left on Furnace Creek Road. Follow this road 1.9 miles to stop sign. Turn left on Pocket Road and proceed 1.7 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 208 and proceed 2.1 miles to Overlook (18.1 miles total). Road 208 is usually closed in winter.

To Keown Falls (Section 23): Proceed west on Highway 136. Go 6.6 miles to the intersection with Georgia Highway 136 Connector. Turn right to continue on Highway 136 and proceed 5.8 miles. Turn left on Furnace Creek Road. Follow this road 1.9 miles to stop sign. Turn left on Pocket Road and proceed 2.7 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 702 and proceed 0.6 miles to picnic area (17.6 miles total). Road 702 is usually closed in winter.

To Pilcher Pond Parking Area on Pocket Road (Sections 23 & 24): Proceed west on Highway 136. Go 6.6 miles to the intersection with Georgia Highway 136 Connector. Turn right to continue on Highway 136 and proceed 5.8 miles. Turn left on Furnace Creek Road. Follow this road 1.9 miles to stop sign. Turn left on Pocket Road and proceed 2.6 miles to parking area on left side of road (16.9 miles total).

To Snake Creek Gap (Sections 24 & 25): Proceed west on Highway 136. Go 6.6 miles to the intersection with Georgia Highway 136 Connector. Turn right to continue on Highway 136 and proceed 4.0 miles to Snake Creek Gap (10.6 miles total). The parking area is on the right just past the crest.

From Dalton, GA (Junction of Interstate 75 and Georgia Highway 52):

To Hurricane Creek (Section 25): Exit I-75, go west 3.1 miles. Turn left on Hurricane Road and proceed 1.4 miles. Turn left on Franklin Hill Road and proceed 0.2 miles. Turn left on dirt Forest Service Road 246 and proceed 0.5 mile to trailhead at end of road (5.2 miles total).

To Dug Gap (Section 25): Exit I-75, go west 1.9 miles to Dug Gap.

From Chatsworth, GA (Junction of U.S. Highway 76 and 411 and Georgia Highway 52 and 2):

To Dennis Mill Road Trailhead (Section 28): Go east on Highway 52 and 2 for 1.0 mile, turn right (south) on Old Federal Road and proceed 5.0 miles. Turn left on Dennis Mill Road and proceed 1.3 miles to the large parking area on the left (7.3 miles total). The Pinhoti Trail departs from the north end of the parking area.

## **Driving Directions To Trailheads (continued)**

To Baker Branch Road (Section 28): Go east on Highway 52 and 2 for 1.0 mile, turn right (south) on Old Federal Road and proceed 3.8 miles. Turn left on Peeples Lake Road (Forest Service Road 3) and proceed 3.3 miles to beginning of marked Pinhoti Trail on left. The Pinhoti follows a four-wheel-drive road for a short distance. Better parking is at the ford over Bearpen Branch, 0.5 mile down this road.

To Cohutta Overlook (Sections 28 and 29): Go east on Highway 52 and 2 for 11.9 miles. Pinhoti Trail for Section 28 leaves highway 0.6 mile east of here at county line sign. There is very limited roadside parking at the county line. For Section 29 continue another 0.8 miles and turn left into Cohutta Overlook. Section 29 begins 800 feet west of the overlook exit.

From Ellijay, GA (Georgia Highway 52 and 2 in front of courthouse)

To Forest Service Road 90 trailhead (Sections 29 & 30): Go west on Highway 52 and 2 for 5.2 miles. Turn right on Gates Chapel Road and continue 5.4 miles to end of pavement. Keep right on Forest Service Road 90 and continue 1.1 mile to trailhead on right (11.7 miles total). To reach the Forest Service parking area in Section 29, follow Forest Service Road 90 from the end of the pavement. Continue 0.9 mile and turn left on Forest Service Road 90B. Follow Road 90B for 0.5 to the parking area (12.1 miles from Ellijay).

To Bear Creek trailhead (Section 30): Go west on Highway 52 and 2 for 5.2 miles. Turn right on Gates Chapel Road and continue 5.0 miles to Forest Service Road 241. Turn right and follow this dirt road. Take left fork after 1.1 mile and reach trailhead at end of road 0.7 mile later (12.0 miles total).

To Buddy Cove Gap (Sections 30 & 31): Go west on Highway 52 and 2 for 5.2 miles. Turn right on Gates Chapel Road and continue 5.4 miles to end of pavement. Keep right on Forest Service Road 90 and continue 1.6 mile to Holly Creek Gap. Turn right on Forest Service Road 68 and proceed 3.3 miles to the intersection with Forest Service Road 64. Turn right and proceed on Road 64 another 6.8 miles to Buddy Cove Gap (22.3 miles total). Road to large parking area is to left, uphill. Pinhoti Trail leading north (Section 31) leads along gated road to left, downhill. The Pinhoti Trail and Mountaintown Creek Trail leading south (Section 30) leads right 150 feet beyond the gap.

From Blue Ridge, GA (Junction of U.S. Highway 76 and Georgia Highway 5)

To Buddy Cove Gap (Sections 30 and 31): Go north of Georgia Highway 5 for 3.8 miles. Turn left at top of hill on Old Highway 2. Continue for 10.3 miles to Watson Gap. Follow road to left in gap, Forest Service Road 64. Reach Dyer Gap 3.3 miles later. Access to the Benton MacKaye Trail is at Watson Gap and Dyer Gap. Continue to cross South Fork Jacks River in another 0.7 mile. Jacks River Field Campground is here. Proceed on Road 64 another 2.5 miles to Buddy Cove Gap (20.6 miles total). Mountaintown Creek Trail (Section 30) leads left just before gap. Road 64 swings to left in gap. Road to large parking area is straight ahead, uphill. Pinhoti Trail leading north (Section 31) leads along gated road to right, downhill. Please note that Road 64 may be subject to closure in the winter.

## **Driving Directions To Trailheads (continued)**

To Jacks River trailhead (Section 31): Go north of Georgia Highway 5 for 3.8 miles. Turn left at top of hill on Old Highway 2. Continue for 10.3 miles to Watson Gap. Follow road straight ahead, downhill. Cross Jacks River. 1.4 miles from Watson Gap, take left fork, downhill, to reach trailhead for South Fork trail at a ford over the West Fork Jacks River (15.5 miles total). There is parking for several vehicles here. The trailhead is frequently used as a campsite. The Pinhoti Trail is 0.4 mile from the trailhead on the South Fork Trail.

## **Where To Get Maps**

If you have time before your visit, order the Chattahoochee National Forest Map from [www.nationalforeststore.com](http://www.nationalforeststore.com). The price of this map is \$14.00. The old Armuchee District (now part of the Conasauga Ranger District) is shown on the back of the Chattahoochee Map. This map shows Forest Service ownership but does not show topography.

If you don't have time to order a map before your visit, you can pick one up at the District Ranger office of the Forest Service located 4 miles west of Chatsworth, GA on U.S. Highway 76 between the hours 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM and between the hours of 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Other District Ranger offices are 1 mile west of Blairsville on U.S. Highway 76 and 0.5 mile south of Clayton on U.S. Highway 441. Hours of operation for these offices may vary slightly. Maps may also be acquired from the Visitor Centers at Anna Ruby Falls near Helen and at Brasstown Bald near Hiawassee.

Maps for National Forests in Alabama can be obtained at the same web site as above (Price: \$14.00). They also feature a map for the Pinhoti Trail in Alabama (Price: \$10.00).

A good atlas to have for general backroad travel in either Alabama or Georgia is the Delorme Atlas and Gazetteer for each state. The Atlas runs about \$20 per state plus \$5 for shipping and handling. You can view their products at <https://buy.garmin.com/en-US/US/p/575993>. Any property ownerships shown on these maps are not necessarily accurate.

<https://store.usgs.gov> is an online source for USGS topographic maps. Use the link for "Map Locator" to acquire .pdf versions of maps or to order paper maps. However, the versions depicted at this site do not show the trail route.

## **Acknowledgements**

This guide was compiled and edited by Marty Dominy from field notes and Forest Service documents generated between 1997 and 2018. The following retired or active USDA Forest Service personnel provided guidance in the development of the Pinhoti Trail, checked facts, and suggested improvements to the guide: Joe King, Michele Jones, Tom Fearington, Scott Layfield, Larry Thomas, and Mike Davis.

Thank you to Mr. Tim Banks, formerly of the Rome - Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority, for information on the Simms Mountain Trail (Sections 18 & 19).

## MILEAGE SUMMARY

Section 13	Alabama – Georgia state line to Old Jackson Chapel Road 2.6 miles (mileage for Georgia portion of Section 13)
Section 14	Old Jackson Chapel Road to Cave Spring, GA (U.S. Highway 411) 7.9 miles
Section 15	Cave Spring, GA (U.S. Highway 411) to Coosa River near Lock & Dam Park 10.8 miles
Section 16	Coosa River near Lock and Dam Park to Georgia Highway 20 at West Rome Bypass 5.0 miles
Section 17	Georgia Highway 20 at West Rome Bypass to Simms Mountain Trail at Huffaker Road 4.1 miles
Section 18	Simms Mountain Trail at Huffaker Road to Georgia Highway 100 4.0 miles
Section 19	Georgia Highway 100 at Floyd-Chattooga County line to High Point trailhead 8.2 miles
Section 20	High Point trailhead (Georgia Highway 100) to Mack White Gap (U.S. Highway 27) 9.1 miles
Section 21	Mack White Gap (U.S. Highway 27) to West Armuchee Road at Narrows Road 11.2 miles
Section 22	West Armuchee Road at Narrows Road to East Armuchee Road 5.8 miles
Section 23	East Armuchee Road to Pocket Road at Pilcher's Pond parking area 9.8 miles (via South Route) 9.3 miles (via North Route)
Section 24	Pocket Road at Pilcher's Pond to Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136) 6.2 miles (via South Route) 5.3 miles (via North Route)
Section 25	Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136) to Dug Gap 15.8 miles
Section 26	Dug Gap to Conasauga River at Tibbs Bridge 11.9 miles
Section 27	Conasuga River at Tibbs Bridge to Ramhurst, Georgia (U.S. Highway 411) 12.1 miles
Section 28	Ramhurst, Georgia (U.S. Highway 411) to Cohutta Overlook 18.2 miles
Section 29	Cohutta Overlook to Forest Service Road 90 near Holly Creek Gap 9.6 miles



Section 30	Forest Service Road 90 near Holly Creek Gap to Buddy Cove Gap (Forest Service Road 64) 11.0 miles
Section 31	Buddy Cove Gap (Forest Service Road 64) to Benton MacKaye Trail 3.1 miles
Total Mileage:	166.4 miles

## CHANGES FROM THE TENTH EDITION

There is a new relocation in Section 14. It begins at the upper end of Hematite Lake (Section Mile 0.8 / 7.1), passes north of Hematite Lake, intersects an old railbed, crosses Hematite Branch and Old Jackson Chapel Road, leaves the railbed, crosses Little Cedar Creek, and reaches Esom Hill Road opposite the existing trail. The new route is 0.8 miles long, replacing 0.4 miles of walking on public roads and 0.3 mile of trail at Hematite Lake. The bridge over Hematite Branch was completed in April of 2017 while additional clearing along the railbed near Little Cedar Creek was conducted in August of 2017. This eliminates all of the road walk along public roads south of Old Cedartown – Cave Spring Road.

A permanent route between Santa Claus Road and Old Cedartown – Cave Spring Road will be constructed in the latter part of 2018 or early 2019. In the meantime, the route in this area remains along woods roads except for the 0.4 mile immediately north of Santa Claus Road. This area has been the subject of a Longleaf Pine Restoration project throughout 2017. As a result, much of the timber has cut and both signs and markers are temporarily displaced. Follow the map and trail description carefully when travelling through the area. The permanent route is not the subject of the timber removal.

The description for the lower part of the Mountaintown Creek Trail has been deleted. The old roadbed to Hill Lake no longer has public access outside the National Forest property boundary. There is no change to the Pinhoti Trail route in this section.

Section number references to the old section numbering system (i.e.: Section 15, formerly Section GA2) have been deleted.

**Section 13 (in part) and Section 14**  
**Alabama - Georgia state line to Cave Spring, GA (U.S. Highway 411)**  
**10.5 miles**  
**2.6 miles in Section 13, 7.9 miles in Section 14**

**Note:** The northern 2.8 miles of this section is road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 State line at elevation 1570' on northeast ridge of Indian Mountain. Leave Alabama Forever Wild Lands and enter lands owned by The Conservation Fund. Descend on ridgeline and then by switchbacks to the southeast side of ridge.
- 0.8 Spring Branch Shelter. Cross Spring Branch on footbridge. Areas suitable for camping are on either side of the stream.
- 0.9 Cross abandoned Jackson Chapel – Salem Church Road. Ascend along graded trail.
- 1.3 Cross ridgeline and woods road. Enter stand of young pines with little change in elevation.
- 1.7 Leave pines. Cross woods road. Trail follows ridge, then descends into cove.
- 2.6 Reach dirt Old Jackson Chapel Road (Polk County Road 44). End Section 13.
  
- 0.0 Begin Section 14. Cross road and follow trail through pine grove. Trail continues into hardwoods on the north side of Hematite Branch.
- 0.8 Pass along north side of Hematite Lake.
- 1.2 Turn right onto old railbed. Cross Hematite Branch on a bridge.
- 1.3 Cross Old Jackson Chapel Road (Polk County Road 44). Turn left here if there is high water in Little Cedar Creek. Turn right on Esom Hill Road to complete the detour.
- 1.4 Turn left from old railbed. Ford Little Cedar Creek.
- 1.5 Cross Esom Hill Road (Polk County Road 45). Follow graded trail along west slope of mountain.
- 2.3 Cross Georgia Highway 100. Trail continues to left side of highway cut behind Highway 100 sign.
- 2.8 Cross Santa Claus Road (Polk County Road 42). Trail continues diagonally across road to right of gate.
- 3.2 Enter woods road and continue straight ahead. Follow ridgeline road avoiding roads to left and right.
- 3.6 Turn right on woods road at crossroads.
- 4.4 Cross intermittent stream. Turn left on woods road.
- 4.6 Continue straight ahead where woods road enters from left. Campsite. Intermittent stream to left.
- 5.1 Reach gate on old road where Pinhoti Trail intersects Old Cedartown – Cave Spring Road. Continue straight (north) on road walk along Old Cedartown – Cave Spring Road.
- 5.7 Enter Floyd County.
- 7.3 Enter Cave Spring, passing Park Street on the left. Use sidewalk on right side of street.
- 7.5 Turn right on entrance road to Rolater Park. Pass picnic shelters on left and right and Hearn Inn on left. Restrooms and parking for the cave spring are on the right.
- 7.6 Cross bridge over stream. Curve left with large swimming pool on the left.
- 7.7 Pass Cave Spring City Hall on the right. Turn left onto Georgia Street.
- 7.8 Cross bridge over Little Cedar Creek.
- 7.9 U.S. Highway 411 at traffic light in downtown Cave Spring. Turn right and cross Georgia Street with the signal to reach end of section.

**Section 14 and Section 13 (in part)**  
**Cave Spring, GA (U.S. Highway 411) to Alabama - Georgia state line**  
**10.5 miles**  
**2.6 miles in Section 13, 7.9 miles in Section 14**

**Note:** The northern 2.8 miles of this section are road walk.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 U.S. Highway 411 at traffic light in downtown Cave Spring. Cross to south side of Georgia Street with the signal and turn left, following Georgia Street.
- 0.1 Cross bridge over Little Cedar Creek.
- 0.2 Turn right in driveway. Cave Spring City Hall is on the left. Large swimming pool is on the right.
- 0.3 Curve right and cross bridge over stream. Restrooms and parking for the cave spring are on the left. Pass Hearn Inn on the right. Picnic shelters are to the left and right.
- 0.4 Turn left on Cedartown Street at entrance to Rolater Park. Follow sidewalk on left side of street.
- 0.6 Sidewalk ends where Park Street intersects from right. Follow Cedartown Street to south.
- 2.2 Enter Polk County.
- 2.8 Turn right from paved road onto woods road. Pass behind gate. From here to the state line, the trail passes through lands owned by The Conservation Fund.
- 3.3 Take left fork, continuing on woods road. Campsite. Intermittent stream to right.
- 3.5 Turn right on woods road. Cross intermittent stream.
- 4.3 Turn left at crossroads onto woods road along ridgeline. Avoid other roads to left and right.
- 4.7 Take right fork onto trail, leaving woods road.
- 5.1 Cross Santa Claus Road (Polk County Road 42). Trail continues diagonally across road to right of woods road.
- 5.6 Cross Georgia Highway 100. Cross bridge and climb east slope of mountain.
- 6.4 Cross Esom Hill Road (Polk County Road 45). Ford Little Cedar Creek.
- 6.5 Turn right onto old raibed.
- 6.6 Cross Old Jackson Chapel Road (Polk County Road 44).
- 6.7 Cross bridge over Hematite Branch. Turn left from old railbed.
- 6.9 Pass along the north side of Hematite Lake.
- 7.9 Old Jackson Chapel Road (Polk County Road 44). End Section 14.
  
- 0.0 Begin Section 13. Follow trail up steps of road bank.
- 0.9 Veer left across woods road and ascend to stand of young pines.
- 1.3 Leave pines. Cross ridgeline and woods road. Descend along graded trail.
- 1.7 Cross abandoned Jackson Chapel – Salem Church Road.
- 1.8 Cross Spring Branch on footbridge. Spring Branch Shelter. Areas suitable for camping are on either side of the stream.
- 2.6 State line at elevation 1570' on northeast ridge of Indian Mountain. Enter Alabama Forever Wild Lands. The Pinhoti Trail continues over Indian Mountain, reaching Salem Church Road in 5.1 miles and U.S. Highway 278 in 9.8 miles.



Mountain bike travel is prohibited south of Old Jackson Chapel Road (Section 13).



Horse travel is prohibited south of Old Jackson Chapel Road (Section 13).

## **Section 14 and Section 15 Cave Spring, GA Services and Accommodations**

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** Campsite and shelter at Spring Branch (Mile 0.8 / 1.8 of Section 13). Primitive campsite at Mile 4.6 / 3.3 of Section 14.

**Water:** Spring Branch (Section 13 Mile 0.8 / 1.8). Boil, filter, or treat water from this source. Intermittent stream 100 feet to west at Section 14 Mile 4.6 / 3.3. On road walk, acquire water from stores in Cave Spring. Do not use water from Hematite Branch, Little Cedar Creek, or the stream along Highway 100.

**Stores:** Town Square Convenience Store (Cedartown Street), KC's Food Store (U.S. Highway 411 North), Cave Spring Market (U.S. Highway 411 North), Dollar General (U.S. Highway 411 North), and Marathon (Alabama Street at Highway 100 North). Cline Pharmacy is on Alabama Street one block west of the traffic light.

**Post Office:** 5 Mill Street SW, Cave Spring, GA 30124. This is three blocks west and two blocks south of the north end of Section 14. Open 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Open 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern Time, Saturday. Closed on Sunday. Operating hours are subject to change without prior notice.

**Restaurants:** Southern Flavor (Alabama Street); Linde Marie's Steakhouse (Broad Street at Alabama Street); Tumlin House (bed & breakfast on Alabama Street); La Cabana (Alabama Street at Highway 100 North); Local Joe's (Broad Street north of Alabama Street).

**Lodging:** Creekside Inn (Georgia Avenue); Tumlin House (bed and breakfast on Alabama Street); Hearn Inn (on Cedartown Street in Rolater Park; ideal for groups; reservations required).

**Section 15**  
**Cave Spring, GA (U.S. Highway 411) to Coosa River near Lock and Dam Park**  
**10.8 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 U.S. Highway 411 at traffic light in downtown Cave Spring. Starting from northeast corner of intersection (Rome Street and Georgia Street), cross Rome Street with the signal. Follow Alabama Street west.
- 0.2 Cross Church Street. Tumlin House Bed and Breakfast is on right beyond intersection.
- 0.3 Junction of U.S. Highway 411 and Georgia Highway 100 South. Turn right and follow Mill Road north. The Post Office is two blocks south from this intersection along Highway 100.
- 0.4 Cave Spring Park is on the right.
- 1.1 Cross abandoned railroad.
- 2.7 Turn left at stop sign onto Spout Spring Road.
- 3.1 Cross bridge over Big Cedar Creek.
- 5.1 Turn right at stop sign onto Blacks Bluff Road.
- 9.9 Turn left at stop sign to continue on West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop). (Follow road straight ahead 0.8 mile to reach entrance to Lock and Dam Park. Park office is 0.2 mile from entrance. Store and campground are in park.)
- 10.8 South end of bridge over Coosa River.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Bridge over Coosa River. Follow West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop) south and east.
- 0.9 Turn right on Blacks Bluff Road. (Turn left and follow Blacks Bluff Road 0.8 mile to reach entrance to Lock and Dam Park. Park office is 0.2 mile from entrance. Store and campground are in park.)
- 5.7 Turn left onto Spout Spring Road.
- 7.7 Cross bridge over Big Cedar Creek.
- 8.2 Take right fork onto Mill Road.
- 9.7 Cross abandoned railroad.
- 10.4 Cave Spring Park is on the left.
- 10.5 Junction of U.S. Highway 411 and Georgia Highway 100 South. The Post Office is straight ahead two blocks on Highway 100. Turn left and follow Alabama Street (Highway 411), passing Tumlin House Bed and Breakfast.
- 10.6 Cross Church Street.
- 10.8 U.S. Highway 411 at traffic light in downtown Cave Spring. Cross Rome Street with the signal to reach end of section.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** Campground at Lock and Dam Park (1.0 mile east of Mile 9.9 / 0.9). The park has picnic shelters but no shelter for overnight use. There is a fee of \$14 per tent per night.

**Water:** At Lock and Dam Park.

**Section 16**  
**Coosa River near Lock and Dam Park to Georgia Highway 20 at West Rome Bypass**  
**5.0 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0** Bridge over Coosa River. Continue north along West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop).
- 0.2** Intersection with Horseleg Creek Road (Floyd County Road 268). Continue straight ahead.
- 0.8** Cross bridge at upper end of Mountain End Lake.
- 1.6** Cross Ausburn Road (County Road 267).
- 2.4** Cross bridge over Beech Creek.
- 3.3** Cross bridge.
- 4.4** Intersect Turner Bend Road (Floyd County Road 261). Turn right.
- 4.7** Cross railroad.
- 5.0** Intersect Georgia Highway 20. Turn left to continue on Pinhoti Section 17.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0** Junction of Georgia Highway 20 and West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop). Follow the southbound entrance ramp.
- 0.3** Cross bridge over railroad.
- 0.6** Cross Turner Bend Road (Floyd County Road 261).
- 1.7** Cross bridge.
- 2.6** Cross bridge over Beech Creek.
- 3.4** Cross Ausburn Road (County Road 267) .
- 4.2** Cross bridge at upper end of Mountain End Lake.
- 4.8** Intersection with Horseleg Creek Road (Floyd County Road 268). Continue straight ahead.
- 5.0** South end of bridge over Coosa River. Pinhoti Trail continues on West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop). Entrance to Lock and Dam Park is 1.7 miles ahead via West Rome Bypass and Blacks Bluff Road.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** Camping at Lock and Dam Park (fee).

**Water:** At Lock and Dam Park.

**Section 17**  
**Georgia Highway 20 at West Rome Bypass to Simms Mountain Trail at Huffaker Road**  
**4.1 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0** Georgia Highway 20 at West Rome Bypass (GA 1 Loop) southbound ramp. Follow Highway 20 west.
- 1.1** Cross railroad.
- 1.5** Turn right between stores on Huffaker Road (Floyd County Road 249).
- 3.9** Junction (left) with Big Texas Valley Road. Continue ahead.
- 4.1** Simms Mountain Rail-Trail (Pinhoti Trail). Turn left. This is the beginning of Section 18.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0** Simms Mountain Rail-Trail (Pinhoti Trail) at the beginning of Section 18. Turn right to follow Huffaker Road south.
- 0.2** Junction (right) with Big Texas Valley Road. Continue ahead.
- 2.6** Turn left on Georgia Highway 20. Cross this multi-lane highway when it is safe to do so.
- 3.0** Cross railroad.
- 4.1** Junction of Georgia Highway 20 and West Rome Bypass. Turn right on the southbound entrance ramp to continue on Section 16.

**Note:** Georgia Highway 20 is a busy five lane highway. A safer means of crossing this highway is to use the northbound West Rome Bypass exit loop ramp to the bridge over Highway 20. However, this adds 0.5 mile to length of the section.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** None

**Water:** At stores located at the corner of Highway 20 and Huffaker Road.

**Stores:** Evans Store and Citgo gas station and convenience store are located at the corner of Highway 20 and Huffaker Road (Mile 1.5 / 2.6).

**Section 18**  
**Simms Mountain Trail at Huffaker Road to Georgia Highway 100**  
**4.0 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is on the abandoned Central of Georgia railbed. It has been rehabilitated for use as a bike, hike, and horse trail.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0** Junction of Huffaker Road and Simms Mountain Trail. Proceed west on Simms Mountain Trail (Pinhoti Trail).
- 0.6** Cross trestle over Cabin Creek.
- 0.7** Cross Big Texas Valley Road.
- 2.3** Cross Friday Road.
- 4.0** Junction of Simms Mountain Trail and Georgia Highway 100 near Floyd-Chattooga County line.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0** Junction of Simms Mountain Trail and Georgia Highway 100 near Floyd-Chattooga County line.
- 1.7** Cross Friday Road.
- 3.3** Cross Big Texas Valley Road.
- 3.4** Cross trestle over Cabin Creek.
- 4.0** Junction of Huffaker Road and Simms Mountain Trail.

Private property is adjacent to the trail for the entire length of this section. Please stay on the trail.



Mountain bike travel is allowed on the Simms Mountain Trail.



Horse travel is allowed on the Simms Mountain Trail.



## Section 19

### Simms Mountain Trail at Georgia Highway 100 to High Point Trailhead (Georgia Highway 100) 8.2 miles

**Note:** This entire section is on the abandoned Central of Georgia railbed. It has been rehabilitated for use as a bike, hike, and horse trail.

#### Trail Description: South to North

- 0.0 Junction of Simms Mountain Trail and Georgia Highway 100. Proceed north on trail along west side of highway.
- 1.6 Cross Old Holland Road (Chattooga County Road 51).
- 5.0 Holland, GA. Cross Holland - Chattoogaville Road.
- 6.4 Cross trestle over Clarks Creek.
- 7.0 Cross Starling Mill Road.
- 7.2 Cross trestle over Taliaferro Creek. Immediately turn right along creek. Simms Mountain Trail and Great Eastern Trail continue ahead on railbed.
- 7.5 Ford stream (10 feet wide under normal circumstances). Continue with little change in elevation through pine forest, crossing several watercourses.
- 7.9 Cross under power transmission line.
- 8.2 Reach Georgia Highway 100 at end of the section. A large parking area at High Point trailhead is directly across the highway. The Pinhoti Trail continues from the south side of the parking area.

#### Trail Description: North to South

- 0.0 Entrance to large parking area at High Point trailhead on Georgia Highway 100. Cross highway when it is safe to do so and follow old roadbed through open area.
- 0.3 Cross under power transmission line. Cross several watercourses in pine forest.
- 0.7 Ford stream (10 feet wide under normal circumstances).
- 1.0 Turn left onto Simms Mountain Trail (a rails-to-trails conversion). Simms Mountain Trail and Great Eastern Trail continue to right on railbed. Immediately cross trestle over Taliaferro Creek.
- 1.2 Cross Starling Mill Road.
- 1.8 Cross trestle over Clarks Creek.
- 3.2 Holland, GA. Cross Holland - Chattoogaville Road.
- 6.6 Cross Old Holland Road (Chattooga County Road 51).
- 8.2 Junction of Simms Mountain Trail and Georgia Highway 100 near Floyd-Chattooga County line.

Private property is adjacent to the trail for the entire length of this section. Please stay on the trail.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** There are no shelters along this section of the trail. However, the land along the Pinhoti Trail between Taliaferro Creek and the High Point trailhead on Highway 100 is owned by The Conservation Fund. Camping is permitted here. Avoid using campfires. Campstove use is permitted.

**Water:** Most streams in this section are downstream from livestock, roads, and houses. The tributaries of Taliaferro Creek on lands of The Conservation Fund can be used as a source of water, but water from these sources must be boiled, filtered, or treated before use. Bottled water is available at Shan's Corner in Holland, Georgia.



Mountain bike travel is allowed on the Simms Mountain Trail.



Horse travel is allowed on the Simms Mountain Trail.

**Section 20**  
**Highpoint Trailhead to Mack White Gap (U.S. Highway 27)**  
**9.1 miles**

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Entrance to large parking area at High Point trailhead on Georgia Highway 100. Proceed from south side of parking area on trail.
- 0.4 Cross intermittent stream.
- 0.6 Swing right at powerline.
- 0.7 Cross intermittent stream.
- 1.4 Cross east ridgeline of Taylors Ridge. Climb becomes less steep.
- 1.9 Enter gravel Forest Service Road. Continue north along road.
- 2.5 Continue on road through private property.
- 2.8 Road comes in from left. (Leads to communication tower.) Continue ahead on main road.
- 2.9 Resume travel through National Forest Lands.
- 4.0 Jenkins Gap. Take left fork off gravel road to follow wide trail along ridgeline.
- 4.2 Boundary for Sloppy Floyd State Park. Park is to left (west) of trail.
- 4.8 Side trail to left leads 2.0 miles to state park office (foot travel only).
- 5.6 Take left fork on narrower trail. Ascend to ridgeline.
- 7.4 Cross old woods road in gap. Ascend, skirting east side of ridge.
- 8.3 Enter Forest Service Road 205A in the midst of numerous communication towers. Descend along road.
- 8.7 Turn left on Forest Service Road 205.
- 9.1 U.S. Highway 27 in Mack White Gap.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 U.S. Highway 27 in Mack White Gap. Follow Forest Service Road 205.
- 0.4 Turn right on Forest Service Road 205A. Pass behind gate.
- 0.8 Turn left off road onto graded trail in the midst of numerous communication towers.
- 1.7 Cross old woods road in gap. Ascend.
- 3.5 Enter wider trail which comes in from behind and left.
- 4.3 Side trail to right leads 2.0 miles to state park office (foot travel only).
- 5.1 Jenkins Gap. Enter gravel Forest Service Road and follow south for the next 2.1 miles.
- 6.2 Continue on road through private property.
- 6.3 Take left fork in road. (Right leads to communication tower.)
- 6.6 Resume travel through National Forest Lands.
- 7.2 Take left fork on graded trail, leaving gravel road.
- 7.7 Cross east ridgeline of Taylors Ridge. Descend along south side of mountain.
- 8.4 Cross intermittent stream.
- 8.5 Swing left at powerline.
- 8.7 Cross intermittent stream.
- 9.1 Reach Georgia Highway 100 at entrance to large parking area. Cross highway to continue along Pinhoti Trail.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** A campground and picnic shelters are located in Sloppy Floyd State Park (2.0 miles off trail).

**Water:** Stream crossing at Mile 0.4 south to north (Mile 8.7 north to south). This stream is frequently dry. Water may also be acquired by taking side trail into Sloppy Floyd State Park.

**Section 21**  
**Mack White Gap (U.S. Highway 27) to West Armuchee Road at Narrows Road**  
**11.2 miles**

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 U.S. Highway 27 in Mack White Gap. Climb bank on trail.
- 0.1 Turn right onto narrow dirt road.
- 0.6 Turn left on gravel Forest Service Road 254.
- 1.7 Follow road leading behind gate.
- 3.0 Continue right on woods road at end of gravel road.
- 3.2 Turn left onto trail, leaving ridgeline. Descend.
- 3.4 Cross stream in cove. If stream is running, this is the only water source south of Narrows Picnic Ground.
- 3.6 Pass small pond. Turn left onto woods road leading along ridge and through small clearing.
- 4.1 Cross ridgeline. Continue on wider, grassed road.
- 4.8 Turn left onto trail, leaving gravel road. (Road ahead leads 0.4 mile to gate on Forest Service Road 259.)
- 5.6 Reach ridgeline of Taylors Ridge.
- 6.7 Turn right onto Forest Service Road 259B at switchback in road.
- 7.6 Continue straight ahead where Forest Service Road 259 comes in from right.
- 7.8 Continue straight ahead where Narrows Road comes in from left.
- 8.3 Hammond Gap. Trail angles left off road 100 feet beyond gap.
- 8.7 Cross small stream in cove.
- 9.2 Cross stream. Enter parking area. Turn left on dirt Narrows Road.
- 9.4 Begin paved road at Forest Service property boundary.
- 11.2 Cross creek on bridge. Junction of Narrows Road and West Armuchee Road.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Junction of Narrows Road and West Armuchee Road. Follow Narrows Road across creek on bridge.
- 1.8 End paved road at Forest Service property boundary.
- 2.0 Turn right from road in old Narrows Picnic Ground. Follow trail through parking area and across stream.
- 2.5 Cross small stream in cove.
- 2.9 Hammond Gap. Turn right on Narrows Road and continue south along road.
- 3.4 Take left fork on Forest Service Road 259.
- 3.6 Take right fork on grassed Forest Service Road 259B. Ascend.
- 4.5 Turn left onto trail where road switchbacks right on ridgeline. Descend along ridgeline of Taylors Ridge.
- 5.6 Follow trail leading left off the ridgeline of Taylors Ridge. Descend along the east side of the ridge.
- 6.4 Turn right onto grassed road. (Road to left leads 0.4 mile to gate on Forest Service Road 259.)
- 7.1 Cross ridgeline. Continue on narrow woods road.
- 7.6 Pass through small clearing. Turn right off ridgeline. Descend on wide trail past small pond.
- 7.8 Cross stream in cove. If stream is running, this is the only water source south of Narrows Picnic Ground.
- 8.0 Turn left onto narrow woods road along ridgeline. Ascend.
- 8.2 Turn left onto gravel logging road.
- 9.5 Pass through gate to follow gravel Forest Service Road 254 along east slope of Taylors Ridge.
- 10.6 Turn right off gravel Forest Service Road 254 onto narrow woods road.
- 11.1 Descend bank on trail.
- 11.2 U.S. Highway 27 in Mack White Gap.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** There are none on this section.

**Water:** Stream crossings at Mile 3.4 south to north (Mile 7.8 north to south) and at Mile 8.7 south to north (Mile 2.5 north to south). Southbound trail users should stock up at crossings due to lack of water in Section 20. Water at streams and creeks outside Forest boundary are not recommended. Use appropriate treatment on water from any stream.

**Section 22**  
**West Armuchee Road at Narrows Road to East Armuchee Road**  
**5.8 miles**

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Junction of West Armuchee Road and Narrows Road. Turn left (north) on West Armuchee Road.
- 0.2 Turn right off West Armuchee Road. Ascend on logging road.
- 0.8 Reach crest of Strawberry Mountain. Continue along road with easy descents and ascents.
- 1.5 Turn left off logging road. Follow trail along broad ridge with little change in elevation.
- 2.8 Cross Forest Service Road 227 after descent via switchbacks. Ascend along old logging road.
- 3.8 Cross knob in timbered area with good views of Armuchee Creek Valleys and Johns Mountain.
- 3.9 Turn right at end of logging road. Follow trail leading along slope to woods.
- 4.2 Turn left onto woods road.
- 4.6 Turn right on Forest Service Road 227. Use care fording West Armuchee Creek.
- 4.7 Turn right on Manning Mill Road. (Some maps show this as West Armuchee Road.)
- 5.5 Turn left on East Armuchee Road.
- 5.8 Turn right off East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Trail continues from east side of parking area.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Turn left (south) and follow East Armuchee Road.
- 0.3 Turn right on dirt Manning Mill Road.
- 1.1 Turn left on Forest Service Road 227. Use care fording West Armuchee Creek.
- 1.2 Turn left off road into open area (parking). Trail proceeds from south side of opening.
- 1.3 Cross pipeline right-of-way.
- 1.5 Recross pipeline right-of-way. Ascend along woods road.
- 1.6 Turn right off road (IMPORTANT TURN). Follow trail along slope and ridgeline.
- 1.9 Turn left onto logging road along ridgeline in timbered area. Good views of Armuchee Creek Valleys and Johns Mountain.
- 3.0 Cross Forest Service Road 227. Ascend along wide trail with switchbacks through grove of young pines.
- 4.3 Turn right on logging road. Continue along road with easy descents and ascents.
- 5.0 Begin gradual descent of Strawberry Mountain
- 5.6 Turn left on paved West Armuchee Road.
- 5.8 Junction of West Armuchee Road and Narrows Road. Turn right and cross creek on bridge to continue.

Private property is located west of West Armuchee Road, on both sides of East Armuchee Road, and along the south end of Manning Mill Road.

**Section 23**  
**East Armuchee Road to Pocket Road at Pilcher's Pond Parking Area**  
**9.8 miles via South Route, 9.3 miles via North Route**

**South Route Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Trail proceeds from east side of parking area.
- 0.2 Cross intermittent stream.
- 1.1 Turn left on woods road adjacent to East Armuchee Creek.
- 1.5 Take right fork on faint woods road.
- 2.3 Ford East Armuchee Creek. Use extreme caution if gauge to left side of road reads more than one foot.
- 3.2 Veer right at end of logging road. Follow trail along west slope of Johns Mountain.
- 6.7 Turn right on Forest Service Road 208. (North Route turns left to follow road. See next page.)
- 7.3 Johns Mountain Overlook. Turn left on downhill leg of Johns Mountain Trail.
- 8.1 Take left fork where Johns Mountain Trail turns right at top of Keown Falls.
- 9.2 Keown Falls Parking Area. Follow entrance road.
- 9.7 Pocket Road. Turn left.
- 9.8 Pilcher Pond Parking Area. Turn right off Pocket Road to continue.

**South Route Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Pilcher Pond Parking Area. Turn left (south) on Pocket Road.
- 0.1 Turn right on gravel Keown Falls Road.
- 0.6 Keown Falls Parking Area.
- 1.7 Keown Falls. Observation platform and junction of Johns Mountain Trail. Take right fork.
- 2.5 Johns Mountain Overlook. Turn right on Forest Service Road 208.
- 3.1 Turn left off Forest Service Road 208 onto graded trail. Circle north end of Johns Mountain.
- 6.6 Enter Forest Service logging road.
- 7.5 Ford East Armuchee Creek. Use extreme caution if gauge to right side of road reads more than one foot.
- 8.3 Woods road comes in from right.
- 8.7 Take right fork off main woods road with East Armuchee Creek nearby on left. Ascend.
- 9.6 Cross intermittent stream.
- 9.8 East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Trail continues by turning left and following road.



Horse travel restricted at Keown Falls. Use North Route of Pinhoti Trail. See next page.



Mountain Bike travel restricted at Keown Falls. Use North Route of Pinhoti Trail. See next page.

**Camping: The Forest Service Pocket Campground is 2.0 miles south of the Pocket Road trailhead.**

## Section 23 (continued)

### North Route Trail Description: South to North

This trail is specifically for horses and bicycles to bypass the trail segments at Keown Falls and Pilchers Pond that are inappropriate for horse and bicycle use. It carries the same Pinhoti marking used for the trail described in this guide.

- 0.0 East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Trail proceeds from east side of parking area.
- 1.1 Turn left on woods road adjacent to East Armuchee Creek.
- 1.5 Take right fork on faint woods road.
- 2.3 Ford East Armuchee Creek. Use extreme caution if gauge to left side of road reads more than one foot.
- 6.7 Turn left on Forest Service Road 208. (South Route turns right to follow road. See previous page.)
- 7.7 Turn left along crest of ridge, leaving Forest Service Road 208.
- 9.3 Reach Pocket Road at a point 0.2 mile north of its intersection with Forest Service Road 208.

### North Route Trail Description: North to South

- 0.0 Pocket Road at a point 0.2 mile north of its intersection with Forest Service Road 208. Alternately follow trail and woods roads to the northwest, west, and southwest.
- 1.6 Turn right onto Forest Service Road 208.
- 2.6 Turn right off Forest Service Road 208 onto graded trail. Circle north end of Johns Mountain.
- 6.1 Enter Forest Service logging road.
- 7.0 Ford East Armuchee Creek. Use extreme caution if gauge to right side of road reads more than one foot.
- 7.8 Woods road comes in from right.
- 8.2 Take right fork off main woods road with East Armuchee Creek nearby on left. Ascend.
- 9.1 Cross intermittent stream.
- 9.3 East Armuchee Road at small parking area. Trail continues by turning left and following road.

**Note:** A series of loop trails are located between East Armuchee Road and Johns Mountain. Collectively, these trails are known as the Dry Creek Trail System. There are several connections of this system to the Pinhoti Trail. See the following page for a list of these trails and their length. A map of the trail system can be found at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5311236.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5311236.pdf).

## SIDE TRAILS OF SECTION 23

### Johns Mountain Trail

Open to foot travel only.

The Pinhoti Trail uses 0.8 mile along the eastern leg of this 3.0 mile loop trail.

- 0.0 Johns Mountain Overlook (1883'). Trail proceeds south along ridge from parking area.
- 0.7 Reach low point on ridgeline of Johns Mountain.
- 1.3 Turn east onto side ridgeline.
- 1.5 Turn north and begin steeper descent.
- 1.8 Trail follows edge of escarpment.
- 2.2 Cross bridge over stream just above Keown Falls (1410'). Intersect Pinhoti Trail. Turn left, uphill. Trail to right passes observation deck and leads 0.7 mile to Keown Falls parking area.
- 3.0 Trail enters east side of parking area at Johns Mountain Overlook.

### Keown Falls Loop Trail

Open to foot travel only.

This trail begins 0.1 mile from Keown Falls parking area. With the Keown Falls Trail / Pinhoti Trail, it forms a 1.4 mile loop and a hike of 1.6 miles round trip from Keown Falls parking area.

- 0.0 Turn left (south) from Keown Falls Trail / Pinhoti Trail at a point 0.1 mile west of Keown Falls parking area.
- 0.3 Begin steeper ascent at switchbacks.
- 0.6 Pass rock outcrop and cross watercourse for wet-weather waterfall.
- 0.7 Pass along base of cliff.
- 0.8 Enter cave and pass behind Keown Falls (when it is flowing). Exit cave and intersect Keown Falls Trail / Pinhoti Trail in 150 feet. Pinhoti Trail to left, up steps leads 0.8 mile to Johns Mountain Overlook. Keown Falls Trail / Pinhoti Trail straight ahead lead 0.7 mile to Keown Falls parking area.

## DRY CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM

The Dry Creek System lies east of East Armuchee Road and west of Johns Mountain. With the exception of the 2.5 mile long Turkey Trail #235, all of the trails in this 26 mile long system are located south and east of the Pinhoti Trail. The trails listed and numbered by the Forest Service are as follows:

Bridle Trail #244	0.2 mile
Creekside Trail #242	0.18 mile
Dry Creek Trail #237	3.4 miles
East Armuchee Trail #240	6.6 miles
Loblolly Trail #238	4.3 miles
Loblolly Spur Trail #241	0.2 mile
Mount Joy Trail #236	3.3 miles
Saddlehorn Trail #243	0.6 mile
Stirrup Trail #245	0.2 mile
Turkey Trail #235	2.5 miles
Wheat Trail #239	5.0 miles
Wheat Connector Trail #239A	0.02 mile

**Section 24**  
**Pocket Road to Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136)**  
**6.2 miles via South Route, 5.3 miles via North Route**

**South Route Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Pocket Road at Pilcher Pond Parking Area. Follow old road behind barricade.
- 0.9 Cross dam of Pilcher's Pond.
- 2.6 Turn right on old FS Road 233.
- 2.7 Turn left off old FS Road 233.
- 3.5 Reach crest of Horn Mountain.
- 4.5 Descend from Horn Mountain.
- 6.2 Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136).

**South Route Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136). Follow trail directly opposite entrance to parking area.
- 1.7 Reach crest of ridgeline. Follow crest of Horn Mountain to south.
- 2.7 Begin descent along west side of mountain.
- 3.4 Turn right on old FS Road 233.
- 3.6 Turn left off old FS Road 233.
- 5.3 Cross dam of Pilcher's Pond. Turn left at end of dam. Turn right shortly thereafter a wide path.
- 6.2 Pocket Road at Pilcher Pond Parking Area. Trail continues to left (south) on Pocket Road.

**North Route Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Pocket Road at a point 0.2 mile north of its intersection with Forest Service Road 208.
- 1.2 Turn left at trail junction. South Route of Pinhoti Trail comes in from right.
- 1.7 Turn right on old FS Road 233.
- 1.9 Turn left off old FS Road 233.
- 2.6 Reach crest of Horn Mountain.
- 3.6 Descend from Horn Mountain.
- 5.3 Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136).

**North Route Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136). Follow trail directly opposite entrance to parking area.
- 1.7 Reach crest of ridgeline. Follow crest of Horn Mountain to south.
- 2.7 Begin descent along west side of mountain.
- 3.4 Turn right on old FS Road 233.
- 3.6 Turn left off old FS Road 233.
- 4.1 Turn right at trail junction. South Route of Pinhoti Trail continues ahead.
- 5.3 Pocket Road at a point 0.2 mile north of its intersection with Forest Service Road 208.



Horse travel is restricted at Pilcher Pond. Use North Route of Pinhoti Trail.



Mountain Bike travel is restricted at Keown Falls in Section 23. Through cyclists should use the North Route of the Pinhoti Trail or bypass Keown Falls via Pocket Road and Forest Service Road 208.



**Section 25**  
**Snake Creek Gap (Georgia Highway 136) to Dug Gap**  
**15.8 miles**

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Trail proceeds from northeast corner of large parking area.
- 1.1 Reach crest of Mill Creek Mountain.
- 1.6 Descend from Mill Creek Mountain
- 4.9 Enter cove.
- 5.2 Cross Swamp Creek.
- 7.3 Reach crest of Middle Mountain. Turn sharply back to left onto trail along ridgeline.
- 9.2 Turn right onto crest of Hurricane Mountain.
- 11.2 Turn left off crest of Hurricane Mountain.
- 11.4 Hurricane Creek Gap.
- 11.8 England Spring Gap. Turn right off old road. Hurricane Creek Trail leads straight ahead 1.7 miles to the Hurricane Creek trailhead. No horses are allowed on the Pinhoti Trail between here and Dug Gap.
- 15.2 Enter dirt Forest Service Road 202 on Dug Mountain.
- 15.8 Dug Gap. Paved county road leads right 2.0 miles to Dalton.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Dug Gap. Follow Forest Service Road 202 uphill behind gate.
- 0.2 Pass outstanding overlook to right (west).
- 0.6 Follow trail straight ahead where roads fork at top of Dug Mountain.
- 4.0 Turn left on old road in England Spring Gap. Hurricane Creek Trail leads right 1.7 miles to the Hurricane Creek trailhead. Turn right off road and ascend where old road begins steep descent.
- 4.4 Hurricane Creek Gap. Climb along east slope of mountain.
- 4.6 Turn right on ridgeline. Follow crest of Hurricane Mountain to northwest.
- 6.5 Leave ridgeline of Hurricane Mountain. Follow crest of Middle Mountain to south.
- 8.5 Turn sharp right onto Forest Service Road 207A and descend.
- 10.6 Cross Swamp Creek.
- 10.7 Turn left, ascending through cove.
- 11.6 Reach crest of ridgeline. Follow crest of Mill Creek Mountain to south.
- 14.7 Begin descent from Mill Creek Mountain along west slope of mountain.
- 15.7 Enter northeast corner of large parking area.
- 15.8 Swamp Creek Gap and Georgia Highway 136. Trail continues directly opposite entrance to parking area.



Horse travel restricted to southernmost 11.8 miles of this section (south of England Spring Gap).

**Hurricane Creek Trail**

Open to foot, horse, and mountain bike travel.

- 0.0 Hurricane Creek trailhead. This is at the end of Forest Service Road 246.
- 0.2 Ford Hurricane Creek.
- 0.9 Ford Hurricane Creek.
- 1.1 Ford Hurricane Creek.
- 1.4 Turn sharp left, leaving cove.
- 1.7 Intersect Pinhoti Trail in England Spring Gap. Pinhoti Trail to left leads 4.0 miles to Dug Gap.

**Section 26**  
**Dug Gap to Conasauga River at Tibbs Bridge**  
**11.9 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is road walk

**Trail Description: South to North**

**Note:** This section is outside the Chattahoochee National Forest and is primarily along busy streets and highways in Dalton, GA. It is an interim route and is chosen solely for being the most direct connection to the eastern portion of the Conasauga District of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

- 0.0** Follow paved road, downhill. Pass under power transmission line. Pass parking area for Dug Gap Battlefield.
- 1.9** Cross bridge over Interstate 75. Road becomes Walnut Street and Georgia Highway 52. Use sidewalk.
- 3.8** Continue straight ahead at junction with Thornton Avenue (old U.S. Highway 41).
- 6.1** Turn right on Airport Road.
- 6.5** Sidewalk ends.
- 6.9** Cross east bypass at traffic light.
- 7.0** Turn left on Tibbs Bridge Road.
- 8.5** Cross bridge over Coahulla Creek.
- 9.6** Turn right at three-way stop sign.
- 11.9** Tibbs Bridge over Conasauga River.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0** Tibbs Bridge over Conasauga River. Continue west on Tibbs Bridge Road.
- 2.3** Turn left at three-way stop sign to continue on Tibbs Bridge Road.
- 3.4** Cross bridge over Coahulla Creek.
- 4.9** Turn right on Airport Road.
- 5.0** Cross east bypass at traffic light.
- 5.4** Sidewalk begins.
- 5.8** Turn left on Georgia Highway 52 (Walnut Street).
- 8.3** Continue straight ahead at junction with Thornton Avenue (old U.S. Highway 41).
- 9.5** Traffic light at Dug Gap Road. Turn left.
- 10.9** Traffic light at Dug Mountain Gap Road. Turn right.
- 11.1** Cross bridge over Interstate 75.
- 11.3** Take right fork.
- 11.6** Pass gate. Follow old dirt road with Forest Service land on left. (Note: No Trespassing sign refers to land to right side of road. Stay on road. Use care crossing landslides.)
- 12.5** Dug Gap. Paved county road crosses gap. Section 25 continues uphill on Forest Service Road 202.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** None. Lodging and restaurants are located at numerous points along Georgia Highway 52 in Dalton.

**Water:** Acquire from public establishments.

**Section 27**  
**Conasauga River at Tibbs Bridge to U.S. Highway 411 at Ramhurst**  
**12.1 miles**

**Note:** This entire section is road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Conasauga River at Tibbs Bridge. Continue east on Tibbs Bridge Road.
- 1.8 Turn left on Greeson Bend Road.
- 2.6 Turn right on Callie Jones Road.
- 3.7 Turn right on Georgia Highway 52 Alternate.
- 5.2 Turn right on Georgia Highway 225 in Spring Place. Chief Vann House State Historic Site is on the left.
- 5.7 Turn left on Spring Place – Smyrna Road.
- 8.4 Turn left on Smyrna Church Road.
- 8.5 Turn right on Smyrna – Ramhurst Road.
- 9.6 Cross bridge over Holly Creek.
- 12.1 Intersection of U.S. Highway 411 and U.S. Highway 76 in Ramhurst, GA.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Intersection of U.S. Highway 411 and U.S. Highway 76 in Ramhurst, GA. Follow Smyrna – Ramhurst Road west.
- 2.5 Cross bridge over Holly Creek.
- 3.6 Turn left on Smyrna Church Road.
- 3.7 Turn right on Spring Place – Smyrna Road.
- 6.4 Turn right on Georgia Highway 225 in Spring Place.
- 6.9 Turn left on Georgia Highway 52 Alternate. Chief Vann House State Historic Site is straight ahead.
- 8.4 Turn left on Callie Jones Road.
- 9.5 Turn left on Greeson Bend Road.
- 10.3 Turn right on Tibbs Bridge Road.
- 12.1 Conasauga River at Tibbs Bridge. Section 26 continues west on Tibbs Bridge Road.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** None. Lodging and restaurants are located at numerous points along U.S. Highway 411 in Chatsworth.

**Water:** Acquire from public establishments.

**USDA Forest Service District Office:** The office for the Conasauga Ranger District is located one mile east of the junction of U. S. Highway 76 and Georgia Highway 52 Alternate on the north side of Highway 76. The address is 3941 Highway 76, Chatsworth, GA 30705. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Section 28**  
**U.S. Highway 411 at Ramhurst to Cohutta Overlook (Georgia Highway 52 and 2)**  
**18.2 miles**

**NOTE:** 2.6 miles at the south end, 3.0 miles in the middle, and 0.5 mile at the north end of this section are road walk.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 From the junction of US Highway 411 and US Highway 76 in Ramhurst, follow Highway 76 east.
- 0.2 Turn right on Highway 76 then immediately turn left on Old Federal Road.
- 1.3 Turn right on Dennis Mill Road.
- 2.0 Cross one lane bridge over Mill Creek at historic Dennis Mill.
- 2.6 Turn left onto trail at top of rise. Trailhead parking is immediately to the right of the trail. Begin long ascent on graded trail with switchbacks.
- 3.5 Cross property line, leaving Conservation Fund land and entering USDA Forest Service land.
- 3.6 Reach top of ridge and begin long, winding descent.
- 4.4 Ford stream, a tributary of Rock Creek, in a deep cove. Crossing is normally 12 feet wide. An eight foot high waterfall is 500 feet downstream. The creek may be dry in late summer and fall. Begin long ascent out of cove.
- 5.3 Intersect gated Forest Service Road 3A. Turn right and follow road, making a series of brief ascents and descents near the ridgeline.
- 5.9 Pass a wildlife opening on the right. Begin long gradual descent.
- 6.3 Cross over stream in cove piped under the road.
- 6.8 Circle right around end of ridgeline.
- 7.6 Ford creek, a tributary of Rock Creek. Crossing on stepping stones is normally 20 feet wide.
- 9.1 Gate on Forest Service Road 3A. Vehicular access is possible beyond this point.
- 10.4 Turn left on Forest Service Road 3A at parking area for All Terrain Vehicle trail.
- 10.6 Cross Rock Creek on bridge.
- 11.2 Junction of Forest Service Road 3 and Forest Service Road 3A. Turn right (downhill) on Forest Service Road 3. Straight ahead, Forest Service Road 3 leads 0.1 mile to Pinhoti Connector Trail leading right 1.6 miles to the front gate of Fort Mountain State Park.
- 11.7 Ford Bearpen Branch. Continue on woods road.
- 12.1 Ford stream with good campsite to right. Pass barricade in road 300 feet beyond.
- 12.6 Woods road enters wildlife opening.
- 12.7 Turn right, leave wildlife opening, and ford Baker Branch.
- 13.4 Begin steeper climb toward Tatum Lead.
- 14.3 Reach crest of Tatum Lead. Turn left on old road, skirt left (west) side of ridge.
- 14.9 Leave Forest Service land. Continue on woods road, crossing ridgeline several times.
- 16.1 Reach high point on road (and for section: 2890').
- 16.4 Reach gap. Turn right on gated woods road. Re-enter Forest Service land shortly thereafter. (No horses are allowed beyond this point.)
- 16.8 Turn left from woods road onto graded trail.
- 17.7 Turn right on Georgia Highway 52 and 2 at the Gilmer – Murray County line.
- 18.2 Reach end of Section 28 and the beginning of Section 29 where graded trail begins on north side of road. This point is 800 feet west of the exit road from Cohutta Overlook and features a large Forest Service sign.

**Section 28**  
**Cohutta Overlook (Georgia Highway 52 and 2) to U.S. Highway 411 at Ramhurst**  
**18.2 miles**

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Follow Georgia Highway 52 and 2 west from a point 800 feet west of the exit road at Cohutta Overlook.
- 0.5 Turn left onto graded trail at Gilmer – Murray County line.
- 1.4 Turn right into woods road.
- 1.8 Reach gap on Tatum Lead. Pass gate and turn left on dirt road along Tatum Lead. Next 1.5 miles is through private property. Stay on road. Horses are allowed from this point to the end of the section.
- 2.1 Reach high point on road (and for section: 2890’).
- 3.3 Enter Forest Service property. Skirt right (west) side of Tatum Lead.
- 3.9 Reach gap on Tatum Lead. Turn right onto faint woods road.
- 4.8 Begin more gradual descent with stream to right of trail.
- 5.5 Ford Baker Branch. Turn left into wildlife opening, following woods road.
- 5.6 Leave wildlife opening.
- 6.1 Pass barricade. 300 feet beyond, ford stream. Good campsite is to left of woods road.
- 6.5 Ford Bearpen Branch.
- 7.0 Turn left onto Forest Road 3A. Forest Road 3 (Peeples Lake Road) leads right 0.1 mile to the Pinhoti Connector Trail that leads 1.6 miles to the front gate of Fort Mountain State Park.
- 7.6 Cross Rock Creek on bridge.
- 7.8 Turn right on Forest Road 3A at parking area for All Terrain Vehicle trail.
- 9.1 Take left fork in road and pass behind gate 120 feet later.
- 10.6 Ford creek, a tributary of Rock Creek. Crossing on stepping stones is normally 20 feet wide. Begin long gradual ascent.
- 11.4 Circle left around end of ridgeline.
- 11.9 Cross over stream in cove piped under the road.
- 12.3 Pass a wildlife opening on the left.
- 12.9 Turn left from Forest Road 3A onto graded trail.
- 13.8 Ford stream, a tributary of Rock Creek, in a deep cove. Crossing is normally 12 feet wide. An eight foot high waterfall is 500 feet downstream. The creek may be dry in late summer and fall. Begin long ascent out of cove.
- 14.6 Reach top of ridge and begin long, winding descent.
- 14.7 Cross property line, leaving USDA Forest Service land and entering Conservation Fund land. Begin long, gradual descent on graded trail with switchbacks.
- 15.6 Pass trail to left leading to trailhead parking area. Intersect Dennis Mill Road and turn right, following road.
- 16.2 Cross single lane bridge over Rock Creek at historic Dennis Mill.
- 16.9 Intersect Old Federal Road. Turn left and follow Old Federal Road.
- 18.0 Intersect U.S. Highway 76. Turn right and immediately turn left, following Highway 76.
- 18.2 Reach intersection of U.S. Highway 411 and U.S. Highway 76 in Ramhurst. Small stores are located near the corner. Section 27 continues directly across intersection.

**Nearby Accommodations:** Dennis Mill Cabin is 500 feet from the trail at Mile 2.0 south to north (Mile 16.2 north to south). Reservations are required. The cabins and developed campground in Fort Mountain State Park can be accessed two ways. Use the Pinhoti Connector Trail from Mile 11.2 south to north (Mile 7.0 north to south) or follow Tatum Lead Road for 0.5 mile from Mile 16.4 south to north (Mile 1.8 north to south) to Highway 2 and 52. Continue another 3.1 miles west along the highway to the entrance of Fort Mountain State Park. Reservations for cabins and campsites are recommended. No camping is allowed on road segments through private property.

**Water:** Stream crossings are frequent from Mile 4.0 to Mile 13.0 south to north (Mile 5.2 to Mile 14.2 north to south). Water is also available from stores in Ramhurst.

**Section 29**  
**Cohutta Overlook to Forest Service Road 90**  
**9.6 miles**

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Follow trail north from Georgia Highway 2 and 52 (2390'). This point is marked by a large sign and is 800 feet west of the exit road for Cohutta Overlook. Descend on graded trail.
- 0.5 Turn right at switchback onto old roadbed.
- 1.0 Turn left, uphill, at gap on Murray-Gilmer County Line (2190').
- 1.2 Begin descent by switchbacks in narrow ravines.
- 1.5 Cross intermittent stream. Begin ascent by switchbacks.
- 2.3 Skirt right of main ridgeline.
- 2.7 Cross ridgeline (2300'). Descend below cliffs on north face of Turkey Mountain.
- 4.2 Turn right on Forest Service Road 18 at a point 0.2 mile east of Mulberry Gap (1680').
- 5.3 Turn left from Forest Service Road 18 and ascend through cove.
- 5.6 Reach ridgeline. Route follows on or near ridgeline for the next two miles.
- 7.7 Cross ridgeline in gap between north and south peaks of Double Top. Skirt west slope on wide road.
- 8.0 Curve right and cross ridgeline. Skirt north side of Double Top.
- 8.9 Turn sharp left into Forest Service Road 90B. Parking area is to right.
- 9.4 Turn sharp left into Forest Service Road 90.
- 9.6 Reach end of section where Forest Service Road 90 intersects wildlife opening access road ½ mile east of Holly Creek Gap (1830').

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 Forest Service Road 90 at junction with wildlife opening access road ½ mile east of Holly Creek Gap (1830'). Turn left (southeast) and follow dirt Forest Service Road 90.
- 0.2 Turn right onto gated Forest Service Road 90B. Cross stream.
- 0.7 Turn sharp right (northwest) on roadbed at barricade. Parking area is straight ahead.
- 1.1 Begin skirting north side of Double Top.
- 1.6 Curve left to cross ridgeline and skirt west side of Double Top.
- 1.9 Cross ridgeline in gap between north and south peaks of Double Top. Follow narrow road on east slope.
- 4.3 Turn right onto Forest Service Road 18. Private property borders most of this road.
- 5.4 Turn left from road onto trail. Mulberry Gap is 0.2 mile ahead on the Forest Service Road 18. Ascend north face of Turkey Mountain. Pass near base of impressive cliffs.
- 6.9 Cross ridgeline (2300') to south side of Turkey Mountain.
- 7.3 Trail briefly comes onto main ridgeline of Turkey Mountain. Descend on switchbacks.
- 8.1 Cross intermittent stream. Begin ascent by switchbacks in narrow ravines.
- 8.4 Begin descent.
- 8.6 Turn right, downhill, at gap on Murray-Gilmer County Line (2190'). Follow old roadbed.
- 9.1 Turn left at switchback, leaving old roadbed. Ascend on switchbacks.
- 9.6 Georgia Highway 2 and 52 (2390'). This point is marked by a large sign and is 800 feet west of the exit road for Cohutta Overlook. Section 28 continues right (west) along Georgia Highway 2 and 52.

**Water:** Intermittent streams cross the trail at Mile 1.5 south to north (Mile 7.5 north to south) and Mile 3.1 south to north (Mile 5.8 north to south). There are several stream crossings along the road walk. Water quality should be considered suspicious. A large stream crosses Forest Service Road 90B at Mile 8.7 south to north (Mile 0.3 north to south). Accommodations, meals, and water are available from Mulberry Gap outfitters, ½ mile west of Mulberry Gap.



Horses are prohibited on this section.

**Section 30**  
**Forest Service Road 90 to Forest Service Road 64 at Buddy Cove Gap**  
**11.0 miles**

**General Information:** This section of the Pinhoti Trail is entirely within the Barnes Creek, Bear Creek, and Mountaintown Creek watersheds. It primarily follows old roadbeds that are closed to motorized traffic. However, 1.4 mile of trail between Barnes Creek and Bear Creek and 0.7 mile of trail between Bear Creek and Mountaintown Creek is narrower graded trail. The section ends at the high point on the Pinhoti Trail, Buddy Cove Gap, with an elevation of 3164 feet.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Junction of Forest Service Road 90 and wildlife opening access road (1/2 mile east of Holly Creek Gap). Follow access road behind gate.
- 0.6 Keep right, avoiding side road to left.
- 0.7 Enter wildlife opening. Continue to far end of opening and turn left.
- 0.9 Ford Barnes Creek (10' wide). 150 feet later, turn left on old roadbed.
- 2.8 Reach highpoint on north slope of ridge. Good view of Flat Top Mountain to northeast.
- 4.0 Intersect BEAR CREEK TRAIL. Turn left. Bear Creek trailhead is 0.2 mile to right.
- 4.6 Ford Bear Creek (20' wide).
- 4.7 Gennett Poplar is to left of trail.
- 4.9 Turn right on trail, leaving Bear Creek Trail.
- 5.1 Turn left on BEAR CREEK LOOP TRAIL. Trail to right leads to Bear Creek trailhead.
- 5.6 Turn right on trail, leaving Bear Creek Loop Trail. Trail to left leads to Bear Creek Trail.
- 7.1 Turn left on MOUNTAINTOWN CREEK TRAIL.
- 7.4 Ford Heddy Creek (40' wide).
- 7.5 Ford Crenshaw Branch (30' wide).
- 7.7 Ford Crenshaw Branch (15' wide). Use care fording here; rock shelf is slick.
- 8.9 Cascades to right of trail.
- 9.2 Ford Crenshaw Branch (20 wide).
- 9.3 Cascade to left of trail.
- 11.0 Forest Service Road 64 at Buddy Cove Gap (3164').



Horses are prohibited on this section.



Bicycles are prohibited on the Mountaintown Connector (Mile 5.6 to Mile 7.1). The Forest Service proposes to open the connector to mountain bikes after reconstructing portions of the trail between Bear Creek Loop Trail and Mountaintown Creek Trail.

**Bear Creek Trail (Trail #136)**

Open to foot and bike travel

- 0.0 Parking area for Bear Creek and Bear Creek Loop Trails at the end of Forest Service Road 241.
- 0.2 Junction of Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to left leads south 4.0 miles to Forest Service Road 90.
- 1.1 Junction of Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to right leads north 6.1 miles to Forest Service Road 64.
- 1.7 Junction of Bear Creek Loop Trail. Loop Trail to right leads 3.2 miles to Bear Creek parking area.
- 3.2 Forest Service Road 68. Road to left leads to Holly Creek Gap and Forest Service Road 90.

## Section 30 (continued)

### Trail Description: North to South

- 0.0 Buddy Cove Gap (3164'). Follow MOUNTAINTOWN CREEK TRAIL south from Forest Service Road 64.
- 1.7 Cascade to right of trail.
- 1.8 Ford Crenshaw Branch (20' wide).
- 2.1 Cascades to left of trail.
- 3.3 Ford Crenshaw Branch (15' wide). Use care fording here; rock shelf is slick.
- 3.5 Ford Crenshaw Branch (30' wide).
- 3.6 Ford Heddy Creek (40' wide).
- 3.9 Turn right on trail, leaving Mountaintown Creek Trail. Ascend with stream to right of trail.
- 5.4 Turn left on BEAR CREEK LOOP TRAIL. Trail to right leads to Barnes Creek trailhead.
- 5.9 Turn right on trail, leaving Bear Creek Loop Trail. Trail straight ahead leads to Bear Creek trailhead.
- 6.1 Turn left on BEAR CREEK TRAIL.
- 6.3 Gennett Poplar is to right of trail.
- 6.4 Ford Bear Creek (20' wide).
- 7.0 Turn left, leaving Bear Creek Trail. Bear Creek trailhead is 0.2 mile straight ahead.
- 8.2 Reach high point on north slope of ridge.
- 10.1 Turn right off old roadbed. 150 feet later, ford Barnes Creek (10' wide).
- 10.3 Turn right, entering wildlife opening. Exit wildlife opening in 200 feet.
- 10.4 Keep left, avoiding side road to right.
- 11.0 Forest Service Road 90 at junction with wildlife opening access road ½ mile east of Holly Creek Gap (1830').

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** A campground is located at the junction of Bear Creek and Mountaintown Creek, 0.7 mile south of the Bear Creek trailhead. There are no shelters on this section.

**Water:** Stream crossings are frequent throughout this section. Longest segment without water is from Barnes Creek to Bear Creek (3.1 miles).



Horses are prohibited on this section.



Bicycles are prohibited on the Mountaintown Connector (Mile 3.9 to Mile 5.4).

The Forest Service proposes to open the connector to mountain bikes after reconstructing the trail between the Bear Creek Loop Trail and Mountaintown Creek Trail.

### Bear Creek Loop Trail

Open to foot and bike travel

- 0.0 Parking area for Bear Creek and Bear Creek Loop Trails at the end of Forest Service Road 241.
- 1.4 Junction of Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to left leads south 5.1 miles to Forest Service Road 90.
- 2.0 Junction of Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to right leads north 5.4 miles to Forest Service Road 64.
- 3.2 Junction of Bear Creek Trail. Bear Creek Trail leads right 1.5 miles to Forest Service Road 68.



**Section 31**  
**Forest Service Road 64 at Buddy Cove Gap to Benton MacKaye Trail**  
**3.1 miles**

**General Information:** This section of the Pinhoti Trail is entirely within the Jacks River watershed. It follows old roadbeds that are closed to motorized traffic. Horse, bike, and foot travel are permitted on this section. The section begins at the high point on the Pinhoti Trail, Buddy Cove Gap, with an elevation of 3164 feet. From here, the trail descends to the South Fork of the Jacks River at an elevation of 2500 feet. Shortly after fording the river, the trail intersects the Benton MacKaye Trail at the northern terminus of the Pinhoti Trail. The Benton MacKaye Trail leads north to Tennessee and south to Springer Mountain and the Appalachian Trail.

**Trail Description: South to North**

- 0.0 Junction of Forest Service Road 64 and Mountaintown Creek Trail (3164'). Follow Road 64 west for 150 feet. Turn right and follow road behind gate. Large parking area is straight ahead, uphill.
- 0.9 Keep left, avoiding side road to right.
- 1.1 Enter wildlife opening. Continue 150' to far end of opening.
- 1.3 Enter wildlife opening. Continue 200' to far end of opening.
- 1.7 Leave ridgeline at gap, skirting right (east) on steady descent.
- 2.2 Stream crosses trail in pipe (2610'). Begin steady ascent.
- 2.5 Begin descent.
- 2.8 Intersect SOUTH FORK TRAIL. Turn hard right and follow South Fork Trail. To left, trailhead at West Fork of Jacks River is 0.4 mile.
- 2.9 Ford South Fork of Jacks River (2500'). In normal conditions, river is 40 feet wide and 12 inches deep.
- 3.1 Intersect BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL. This is the NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE PINHOTI TRAIL. To the left, the Benton MacKaye Trail leads 2.3 miles to Forest Service Road 64 in Watson Gap. Straight ahead, The Benton MacKaye Trail leads 2.2 miles to Forest Service Road 64 in Dyer Gap. Straight ahead the South Fork Trail leads 2.1 miles to Forest Service Road 64 at Jacks River Fields Campground.

**Trail Description: North to South**

- 0.0 NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE PINHOTI TRAIL at the junction with the BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL. Follow the combined Pinhoti Trail / South Fork Trail north along the South Fork of the Jacks River.
- 0.2 Ford South Fork of Jacks River (2500'). In normal conditions, river is 40 feet wide and 12 inches deep.
- 0.3 Turn sharp left on Pinhoti Trail, leaving the South Fork Trail. Straight ahead, South Fork Trail leads 0.4 mile to trailhead at West Fork of Jacks River.
- 0.6 Begin descent.
- 0.9 Stream crosses trail in pipe (2610').
- 1.0 Take right fork and begin steady ascent.
- 1.4 Enter saddle on ridgeline. Continue ascent skirting first right (west), then left (east) of ridgeline.
- 1.8 Enter wildlife opening on ridgeline. Continue 200' to far end of opening.
- 2.0 Enter wildlife opening on ridgeline. Continue 150' to far end of opening. Skirt left (east) of ridgeline.
- 2.2 Keep right, avoiding side road to left.
- 3.1 Reach Forest Service Road 64 at Buddy Cove Gap (3164'). Parking area is to right, uphill. Pinhoti Trail continues left along Forest Service Road 64 for 150 feet to trailhead for MOUNTAINTOWN CREEK TRAIL.

**Shelters and Designated Campsites:** The Jacks River Fields Campground (fee) is 2.2 miles south of the Pinhoti Trail terminus near the junction of the South Fork Trail and Forest Service Road 64.

**Water:** Stream crossings at Mile 2.2 south to north (Mile 0.9 north to south) and near Mile 3.1 south to north (Mile 0.0 north to south). South Fork Jacks River is not considered a water source for issues of water quality.

## CONNECTING TRAILS IN SECTION 31

### South Fork Trail

Open to foot, horse, and mountain bike travel.

This trail follows an old roadbed, primarily along the east side of the South Fork, Jacks River. The south end of this trail is at the Forest Service Road 64 bridge over the South Fork. The Forest Service Jacks River Fields Campground is on the west side of the river here. The north end of the trail is at Forest Service Road 126 near the confluence of the West Fork, Jacks River and the South Fork, Jacks River.

- 0.0 Forest Service Road 64
- 0.3 Waterfall (“Shadow Falls” in some references) on South Fork is 50 feet west of trail.
- 0.5 Intersect Benton MacKaye Trail. Benton MacKaye Trail to north follows South Fork Trail for the next 1.6 miles. Benton MacKaye Trail to south leads right 0.6 mile to Forest Service Road 64 in Dyer Gap.
- 2.1 Intersect Benton MacKaye Trail and Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to south leads straight ahead on South Fork Trail. Benton MacKaye Trail to north turns right and leads 2.3 miles to Forest Service Road 64 in Watson Gap.
- 2.3 Ford South Fork, Jacks River. This is normally about 40 feet wide.
- 2.4 Intersect Pinhoti Trail. Pinhoti Trail to south leads hard left, uphill, reaching Forest Service Road 64 at Buddy Cove Gap in 2.8 miles.
- 2.8 Ford West Fork, Jacks River. Campsite is to left on far (north) side of river. Intersect Forest Service Road 126 in 200 feet.

### Benton MacKaye Trail

The Benton MacKaye Trail is one of the southeast’s “long trails” and is a component of the so-called Eastern Continental Trail. With the exception of some short segments, it is open only to foot travel. The Benton MacKaye Trail begins at Springer Mountain in Georgia and ends at Davenport Gap at the east end of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The trail intersects the Appalachian Trail near Springer Mountain and twice in the Great Smokies. The Benton MacKaye Trail Association publishes three good guidebooks along with the *Benton MacKaye Trail Data Book*. The following is a list of Benton MacKaye Trail sections from Springer Mountain to Davenport Gap:

Section 1 – Springer Mountain to Three Forks (Forest Service Road 58)	6.0 miles
Section 2 – Three Forks (Forest Service Road 58) to Little Skeenah Creek (Georgia Highway 60)	12.3 miles
Section 3 – Little Skeenah Creek (Georgia Highway 60) to Skeenah Gap	6.3 miles
Section 4 – Skeenah Gap to Wilscot Gap (Georgia Highway 60)	5.3 miles
Section 5 – Wilscot Gap (Georgia Highway 60) to Aska Road at Shallowford Bridge	7.7 miles
Section 6 – Aska Road at Shallowford Bridge to Weaver Creek Road	9.5 miles
Section 7 – Weaver Creek Road to Bushy Head Gap	9.0 miles
Section 8 – Bushy Head Gap to Dyer Gap (Forest Service Road 64)	12.8 miles
Section 9 – Dyer Gap (Forest Service Road 64) to Watson Gap (Forest Service Road 64)	4.5 miles
Note: The Pinhoti Trail intersects the Benton MacKaye Trail in this section.	
Section 10 – Watson Gap (Forest Service Road 64) to Double Spring Gap (state line)	8.5 miles
Section 11 – Double Spring Gap (state line) to US Highway 64 and 74 (Ocoee River)	11.1 miles
Section 12 – US Highway 64 and 74 (Ocoee River) to railroad trestle in Reliance, Tennessee	17.0 miles
Section 13 – Railroad trestle in Reliance, Tennessee to Forest Road 228 near Coker Creek	11.2 miles
Section 14 – Forest Road 228 near Coker Creek to Unicoi Gap	8.7 miles
Section 15 – Unicoi Gap to Sandy Gap	8.3 miles
Section 16 – Sandy Gap to Tellico River Road	14.3 miles
Section 17 – Tellico River Road to Beech Gap on the Cherohala Skyway	12.2 miles
Section 18 – Beech Gap on the Cherohala Skyway to U.S. Highway 129 in Tapoco, North Carolina	15.1 miles
Section 19 – U.S. Highway 129 in Tapoco, North Carolina to Fontana Dam	14.7 miles
Section 20 – Fontana Dam to Lakeshore Trail parking west of Noland Creek	35.0 miles
Section 21 – Lakeshore Trail parking west of Noland Creek to Smokemont (Newfound Gap Road)	26.5 miles
Section 22 – Newfound Gap Road to Straight Fork Road	14.9 miles
Section 23 – Straight Fork Road to Big Creek Campground	16.6 miles