

Benton MacKaye Thru-Hikers Guide 2014-15 Edition

Errata Page

As of: Friday, February 27, 2015

The errata page was the most updated information changes available. After the date shown, there is always the possibility of changes being added to future pages. Check www.bmtguide.com and look for the errata page link on the navigation bar for the latest changes.

Page 18 – Iron Bridge Café has changed its hours and closes at 2p not 4p and require advance registration to stay at the hostel.

Page 20 – the Chevron at 500 Appalachian Highway may accept packages sent there for hikers. Call ahead for this service. Hours are 6a-9p 7 days a week and the store is only 1.6 miles from the trail, making it the closest resupply option.

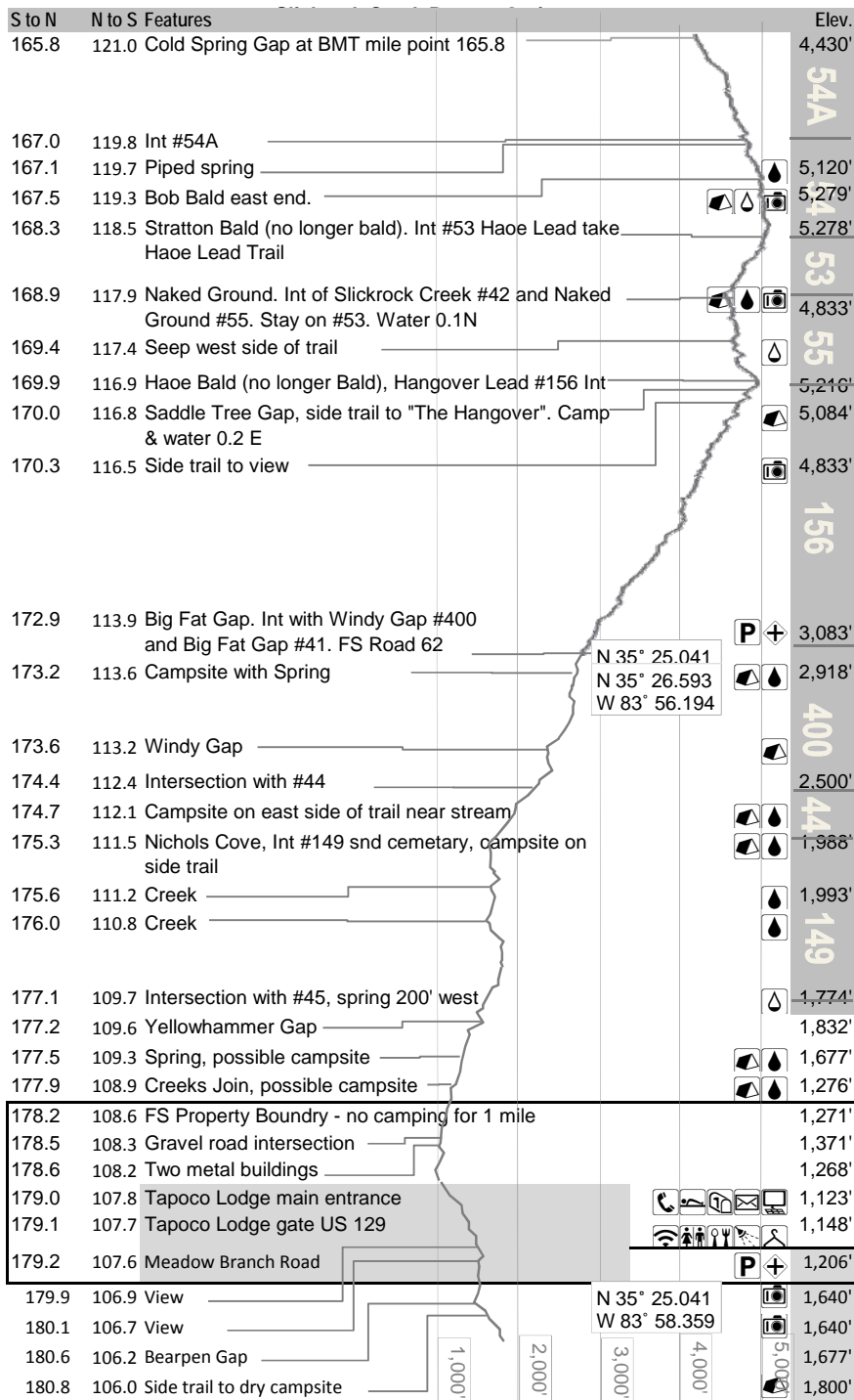
Page 20 – L & A Country Store has closed.

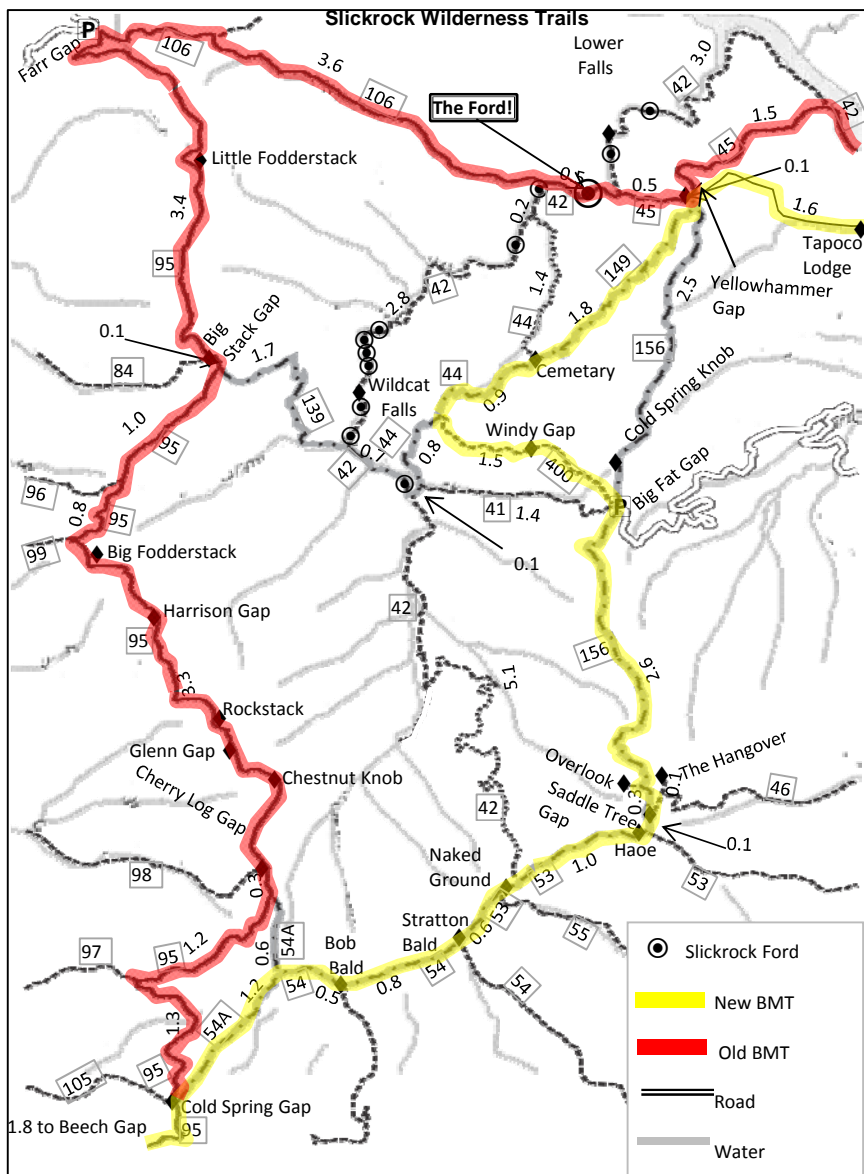
Page 22 – North Georgia Mountain Outfitters has moved. Their new address is 14244 Hwy 515 N, Suite 1200 Ellijay, GA 30536 just past mile marker 14, on Highway 515/US76, is in a small commercial center several miles north of Ellijay and 7.5 miles south of where the BMT crosses the highway in Gilmer County. Situated on the right side of the highway going north, the new 3,500 square foot store will have great visibility for folks passing by on this gateway to the mountains.

Page 28 – Webb Brothers store no longer accepts mail drops. Also have received reports that resupply has been reduced to snack foods or their stock of meal items is such that they sell out very fast, so no longer a potential for long term resupply.

Page 28 – Black Bear Cove Resort is under new ownership and is currently not in business. They may reopen in the future, but for now do not count on this service.

Page 37-43 – The BMTA has been working tirelessly since 2005 to reroute sections of the trail for safety and enjoyment. In 2014 we were able to reroute the trail away from the dangerous road walk along “The Tail of the Dragon” and in 2015 we have started the work necessary for rerouting the trail through the Slickrock Wilderness. This section was partially rerouted for safety in order to avoid the sometimes dangerous ford of Slickrock Creek, but mainly because our first choice of routes was over Bob Bald and past “The Hangover” in early 2015 this route was approved and marking of the trail signs has started as of the writing of the errata. The old route is still also marked and there, so you can use it as an option now. The following pages should substitute the current pages shown in your guide.





In February 2015 the BMTA received approval for a new route through the Slickrock/Joyce Kilmer Wilderness. This is close to the original intended route through this area and adds some excellent spots to the trail for camping and views as well as other places of interest. Pictured here is a map to orient you to the old and new routes. Some signs for the old route still exist and the BMTA considers the old route an authorized optional route for hikers to use.

Points of interest include Bob Bald, The Hangover, the overlook, Windy Gap, and the cemetery at Nichols Cove. This also adds a great trail friendly resupply point at Tapoco Lodge, please let them know how much you appreciate their support of the BMT!

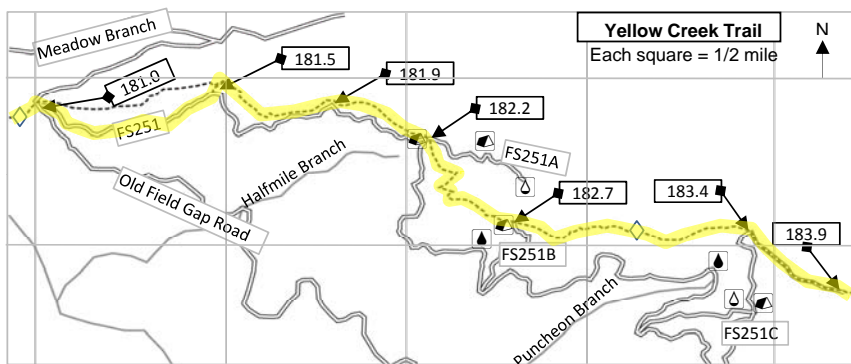
S to N	N to S Features	Elev.
180.9	105.9 View	1,887'
181.0	105.8 Old Field Gap Road.	1,942'
181.5	105.3 Side trail to FS251	2,240'
181.9	104.9 Next to FS251	2,280'
182.2	104.6 Halfmile Branch Gap, FS251A. Water 0.4 miles down FS251A	2,313'
182.7	104.1 FS251B Crossing. Water 0.4: go trail east down FS251B 0.3 and then right on FS251 0.1	2,718'
183.4	103.4 FS251C West end. Begin/End road walk. Campsite with water 0.3 south on FS251C	2,948'
183.9	102.9 FS251C East end. Begin/End road walk.	2,800'
184.1	102.7 View	2,918'
184.4	102.4 Begin/End road walk under power lines	2,857'
184.6	102.2 Begin/End road walk under power lines	2,783'
184.7	102.1 Kirkland Gap	3,148'
186.3	100.5 Microwave Tower	3,233'
186.5	100.3 Yellow Creek Mountain peak	2,960'
186.9	99.9 Lookout Rock	2,937'
187.1	99.7 Green Gap	2,104'
187.9	98.9 Side trail 100 yards to Fontana Heights Road N35° 25.7449' W83° 49.8843'	1,945'
188.8	98.0 Side trail 100 yards to Lodge. N 35° 25.938 W 83° 49.265	1,877'
189.4	97.4 Lewellyn Cove Trail Intersection N35° 26.1033' W83° 48.9766	1,973'
190.7	96.1 Intersection with Lower Lewellyn Cove Loop	2,071'
190.9	95.9 Intersection with FS2624	1,240'
191.6	95.2 Intersection with Appalachian Trail. Water 200 yards south of	1,745'
191.8	95.0 Fontana Marina N 35° 26.480 W 83° 47.725	1,848'
193.0	93.8 Fontana Dam Shelter N 35° 26.938 W 83° 47.790	1,700'
193.4	93.4 Fontana Dam Visitor Center N 35° 26.124 W 83° 48.082	1,895'
194.5	92.3 Appalachian Trail/Lakeshore Trail. Start/end BMT in GSM N 35° 27.635 W 83° 48.664	1,840'
195.3	91.5 Cross small stream	

178.2 FS Property boundary. Between here and Meadow Branch Road 179.2 is private property. Though it might be tempting to camp between here and the lodge, please don't. If you want to camp before hitting the lodge for resupply there are a couple possible campsites at 177.5 and 177.9

179.0 Meadow Branch Road/US129 Intersection across from Topoco Lodge. Meadow Branch flows downstream from community with septic systems. Treat or filter water.

 Tapoco Lodge, 14981 828.498.2800 Open weekends Feb – Mar, 7 days a week Apr – Dec. A new service with smiling faces happy ready to receive hikers. Lodge dining area B/L/D with grab and go options throughout the day. Evening farm-to-table concept meals prepared by executive chef. Downstairs offers separate restaurant with beer, burgers, pizza, ice cream, and make your own pancake breakfast. 11 Lodge rooms and 20 cabin rooms starting at \$100, up to \$300 depending on accommodations, but at a flat rate meaning there is no extra cost if you split the room with other hikers. So feasibly you could have 4 hikers in a cabin room for \$25 each. Limited Wi-Fi available in lodge. Gift shop plans to include some hiker supplies and gear. Accepts mail drops and have mail out service for sending stuff home or ahead on the trail, call ahead if you plan to send a drop. The Lodge is very friendly to hikers and the BMTA and have let us route the trail over their property. Please pay them respect and help keep the goodwill between us and them! www.tapocolodge.com

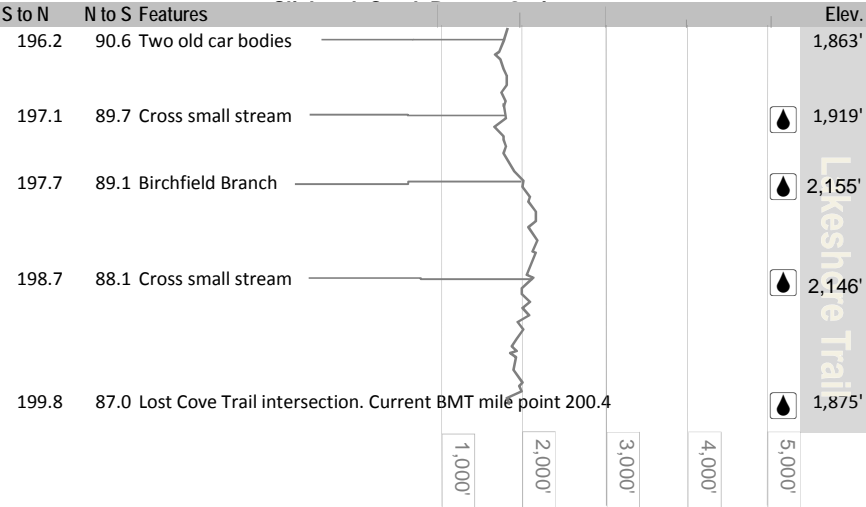
Between MP 181.0 and 183.9 the BMT crisscrosses old Forest Service Roads. Water is available but is tricky to find. To make this section a little easier for navigation I've included this small map to helpfully help you find water and pick campsites. The official BMT route is highlighted in yellow.

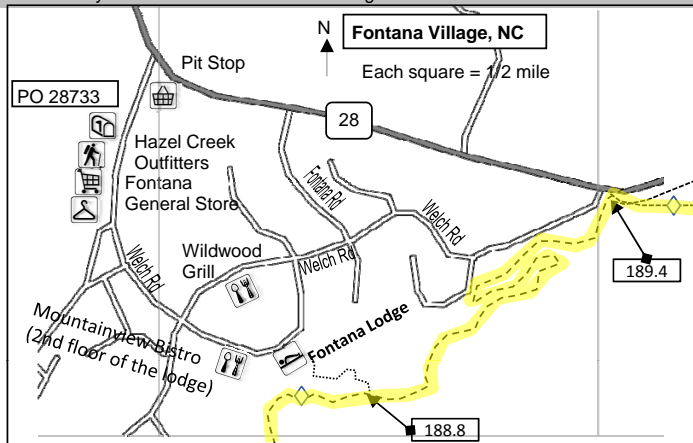


Hikers entering the Great Smoky Mountains National Park should know that there are numerous policies dealing with a variety of issues such as permitting, camp sites, pets, and other subjects. A better write up for this is found in the **Benton MacKaye Trail Thru-Hiker's Guide©** on page 44 which this is meant to supplement. That said, there has been some new policy changes to the Service Animal policy that were not available at the time of printing for that guide. Here are the basics:

- ◇ The only authorized service animals are dogs and miniature horses.
- ◇ The animal must be under physical control, i.e. a leash.
- ◇ The animal must perform a specific task for the hiker to mitigate the hiker's disability. Something like alerting the hiker to oncoming seizures, seeing eye animal, etc. Emotional comfort and therapy animals will not apply. That said, there has been some further guidance for PTSD animals for veterans. It appears that those will qualify.
- ◇ Rangers cannot ask what the hikers condition is. But they can ask two questions: 1) is the animal a service animal required because of a disability, and 2) what work or task as the animal been trained to perform. Based on those answers the animal may be allowed.
- ◇ Regardless of service animal status of the dog or miniature horse, if the animal is aggressive or disruptive they can be denied entry or be told to leave once in the park.

I don't claim to be the expert on this, if you think this might be an issue for you please contact the park ahead of time for clarification.





Fontana Village Resort specializes in servicing AT thru-hikers during hiker season so it is a logical place for resupply. Some services may be closed or be under reduced hours during off-season. 800-849-2258. www.fontanavillage.com

Post Office - 50 Fontana Rd, Fontana Dam, NC ZIP 28733. 828-498-2315. Mo–Fr 8:30a–4:30p, Sa 10a–12p. Hikers can send packages to the Fontana General Store for pick up, which could be a better option as they are open 7 days a week and with store hours during hiker season.

Lodging - Fontana Inn. 800-849-2258. Price per room: Su–Th \$89, Fr–Sa \$109 (May–Aug) Su–Th \$79 Fr–Sa \$99 (Apr & Sep–Nov) Su–Th \$69 Fr–Sa \$89 (Dec–Mar). Cabins start at \$129.

The Hike Inn. Directions: 8.0 E on HWY 28. 3204 Fontana Rd, Fontana Dam, NC 28733. 828-479-3677. Open Feb 15 to Jul 10 and Sep 1 to Dec 1, other dates by reservation only. A hikers-only inn, owned and operated by Jeff and Nancy Hoch. Thru-hikers, call ahead for reservations. Five rooms with max 2 per room. No credit cards. Thru-hikers (check in by 4p, check-out 9a - firm), \$60S, \$75D. Rate includes shuttle to and from dam, one load of laundry, evening shuttle to Robbinsville at 5p for dinner and supplies. Shuttles to/from points on the BMT extra, call for rates. Section-hikers, \$40S/D (room only). Packages accepted c/o Hike Inn. Mail service \$20 for nonguest. Shuttles, slack-pack, all fuels (canister incl). Internet access available. email: hikeinn@graham.main.nc.us, www.thehikeinn.com

Fontana General Store. 828-498-2211. Small grocery store with LT resupply. Seasonal Ice Cream shop. In peak hiker season supplies may be limited. Mar–May & Sep–Oct: Daily 9a–6p, Jun–Aug: Daily 8:30a–10p, Nov–Dec: Fr–Su 9a–6p, Closed Jan–Feb.

Hazel Creek Outfitter. Limited hiker gear and stove fuels by the ounce - in the same building as the General Store with the same hours and seasons for opening.

Hellbender Pit Stop. ST resupply and some meals. Daily 9a–5p.

Shuttle to and from Fontana Marina for \$3. Call outfitter and dial EXT 265 from the marina pay phone.

Wildwood Grill. Open May to Sep. Lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Mountainview Bistro. Pricy food. Located on the second floor of the lodge.

191.8 Fontana Marina. Phone here for calling the Fontana Village shuttle.

193.0 Fontana Dam Shelter sleeps 20. Bathroom and shower on path to shelter.

193.4 Fontana Dam Visitors Center. Bathroom with showers on the end opposite gift shop. Snacks also available at the gift shop open May 1 to Oct 31 - 9a–6p.