

BMTA Annual Walk-thru Report

Section(s) Evaluated: ___15a-c Sandy Gap to Unicoi Gap_____

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

Evaluator(s) Name(s) ___Rick & Brenda Harris_____

Evaluation Date: ___May 26, 2009_____

Work hours: ___6 hrs_____ Travel Hours: _____2 hrs_____

Reporting Evaluator's phone #: ___423-253-6358_____

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

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

Treadway (1-5) __4__

Corridor Clearance (1-5) ___1-5 (see comments)_____

Blazes, Signs and Trailmarkers (1-5) ___1-4 (see comments)_____

Overall rating for the section (1-5) __1-5 (see comments)

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

Brenda & I hiked from Sandy Gap to Unicoi Gap.

The Sandy Gap to Six Mile Gap section 15c is in quite good shape. There are two small trees around mile 1.0 across the trail, then nothing until mile 1.5. Twelve trees need clearing, ten within 0.6 miles of Six Mile Gap. These can best be approached from Waucheesi Access Trail.

- Mile 1.5 – 14 inch tree
- Mile 1.7 – 7 inch tree
- Mile 1.8 – 2 trees
- Mile 2.0 – one suspended tree and one on the ground
- Mile 2.05 – blackberries need cutting out
- Mile 2.06 – 4 trees close together
- Mile 2.14 – need sign at intersection with Waucheesi Trail which says Six Mile Gap

The grade on this section is good and the trail is otherwise well signed. The last half mile could use some brushing out.

Six Mile Gap to Tate Gap, section 15b is in poor shape. Lots of work needed and this should probably be our June worktrip. This whole section needs to be brushed out very badly and needs blazes painted. The 54 trees are listed below:

- Mile 0 – Six Mile Gap – just past the gap is the top of a downed pine tree across the trail
- Mile 0.1 – tree
- Mile 0.23 – big tree blocking trail with walkaround
- Mile 0.45 – another big tree with walkaround
- Mile 0.78 – 2 trees close together on trail and one suspended over trail. Also, top of tree with branches across trail
- Mile 1.10 – 4-wheeler tracks
- Mile 1.16 to 1.27 – 13 trees across trail
- Mile 1.29 to 1.43 – 11 trees across trail
- Mile 1.66 – 11 dead low trees across trail in short distance
- Mile 1.71 – suspended tree over trail with walkaround and another 10 trees in a short distance
- Mile 1.74 – meet old roadway and turn right. Need brushing out along edge of field here

Tate Gap to Unicoi Gap, Section 15a is in fairly good shape. Much of this is along old logging roads. The whole first half of this section could use some brushing out, but it is not too bad. There are only a few trees across the trail. This section is also blazed well and does not really need any new blazing. Only 10 trees need to be cut out.

- Mile 1.59 from Tate Gap – tree across trail
- Mile 1.70 – tree across trail
- Mile 1.91 – tree on ground and leaning pine tree
- Mile 2.09 – short section which needs re-side-hilling
- Mile 2.15 – two trees on ground and one overhead
- Mile 2.7 – beginning of 4-wheeler tracks, trails from here on in great shape, probably because of the 4-wheeler. Minimal to no brushing out needed past this point
- Mile 3.11 – tree
- Mile 3.33 – suspended tree
- Mile 3.73 – tree. All clear past this point all the way to Unicoi Gap at Mile 4.57.

SUGGESTION: We plan the June worktrip with two groups. One group of workers (one sawyer and one brusher/swamper) would come in from Waucheesi and clear the 10 trees on the Sandy Gap to Six Mile Gap section and do the minimal brushing out of the blackberry bushes on this section. Then the sawyer and brusher/swamper will come back

to Six Mile Gap and head up toward Cantrell Top, cutting out the 6 or so trees to the top. The brusher/swamper who goes with the sawyer could begin repainting blazes as the sawyer cuts out these trees. Another group of 2 or 3 brushers would go from Six Mile Gap to the top of Cantrell Top. There is lots of brushing out which needs to be done. Thus we need 1 sawyer, one brusher/swamper/painter and 2 or 3 other brushers to come in from Waucheesi.

The other group of at least two sawyers, two brushers and one painter/swamper will go in via Tate Gap and saw out the dozens of trees to the top of Cantrell Top. The brushing out needed is much less in this section. If the sawyer coming if from Six Mile Gap gets to the top of Cantrell Top before the other sawyers, he will continue cutting trees on the south side of Cantrell Top until he meets up with those coming up from Tate Gap. The swamper/painter will also paint blazes.