

A photograph of a man, Richard Harris, standing in a forest. He is wearing a blue jumpsuit, an orange safety helmet, and yellow gloves. He is holding a chainsaw and standing next to a large, fallen log. The background shows a wooded area with many trees and fallen branches.

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

# Taking Care of Your Section of the BMT

Richard Harris  
TN/NC Maintenance Director

12/20/2010  
Updated 3/10/2012

# Maintaining Your Section

- Become very familiar with your section
- Know what areas grow up rapidly or have trees that routinely fall with high winds or winter snows
- Know the status of your blazes and signs
- Early Spring – log it out
- Early Summer – brush it out
- Fall – brush it out again
- Touch up blazes or replace signs as needed
- Recommend tread work or other needed major maintenance to your maintenance director
- Report all your work trips to your maintenance director

# Certifications & Rules

- To use a hand saw, loppers, swingblades or gas powered brush cutters, you don't need special certifications
- To use a chainsaw or crosscut saw, you must have the appropriate USFS certification as well as First Aid and CPR certification
- Also, remember a sawyer must have a second person along to help. THIS IS REQUIRED
- Always wear helmet, eye protection, gloves, heavy duty shoes, long pants. In summer, snake guards are recommended
- Chainsaw chaps are required for chainsaw work

# Reporting your Work Trips

- Fill out the BMTA online form and email it to the GA or TN/NC Maintenance Director
- Or just send an email reporting your work trip
  - Travel Hours
  - Work Hours
  - Section worked on
  - Specifically what you did
    - Trees logged out (number cut)
    - Brushing out
    - Tread repair, etc

# Reporting your Work Trips

- When your maintenance director receives your report, he will
  - Forward your report to the appropriate Trails Tech in the USFS
  - Publish your report on the web (TN/NC on the Cherokee Hiking Club website so others can check up on the condition of the trail
    - [www.cherokeehikingclub.org](http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org)
  - Record your hours in the database
  - May send your report for inclusion in the E-newsletter

# The Database

BMTAWorkTrips [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

|    | A                | B       | C       | D      | AB      | AC     | AD      | AE      | AF      | AG     | AH      | AI      | AJ      | AK      |
|----|------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1  | NAME             | Sticker | T-Shirt | MEMBER | 6/30/11 | 7/6/11 | 7/11/11 | 7/16/11 | 7/19/11 | 8/5/11 | 8/12/11 | 8/27/11 | 9/10/11 | 9/30/11 |
| 2  | SECTION          |         |         |        | 12e     | 19b    | 12c-d   | 19b     | 15c     | 17d    | 17d     | 16a-b   | 16e     | 16a     |
| 29 | Douglas, Darcy   |         |         | Y      |         |        | 12.0    |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 30 | Dozier, Cherie   |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 31 | Dozier, Michael  |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 32 | Dunn, Larry      | Y       | XL      | Y      | 10.0    |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 33 | Eades, Eric      |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 34 | Edmondson, Bill  |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 35 | Engman, Ernie    |         | L       | Y      |         | 4.5    |         | 11.0    |         |        | 11.5    |         |         |         |
| 36 | Engman, Matthew  |         | M       |        |         |        |         |         |         |        | 11.5    |         |         |         |
| 37 | Engman, William  |         | S       |        |         | 4.5    |         | 11.0    |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 38 | Eren, Stephen    |         |         |        |         |        |         |         | 10.0    |        |         |         |         |         |
| 39 | Evans, Dick      |         | XL      | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 40 | Evans, Margaret  |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 41 | Farmer, Greta    | Y       |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 42 | Foster, Rick     |         | L       |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         | 9.0     |         | 10.0    |
| 43 | Fritz, Caara     |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 44 | Gardner, Brandon |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 45 | Geisler, Bill    |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 46 | Gooch, Phil      |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 47 | Goodsen, Blue    |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 48 | Gray, Tom        |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 49 | Guhne, Carol     |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
| 50 | Guhne, Carroll   |         |         | Y      |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |

2008 Workers 2009 Workers 2009 Walkthrough 2010 Workers 2011 Workers

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# The Trip Report

Microsoft FrontPage - C:\Users\Doc\Documents\My Web Sites\trailmaint-bmt-14-Coker to Unicoi Gap.htm

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|                  |     |     |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|
| David Blount     | 4.5 | 4.5 | 9    |
| Garry Day        | 1   | 4.5 | 5.5  |
| Volunteer Totals | 9.5 | 18  | 27.5 |

**November 26, 2011 - BMT Section 14a - Towee Creek to Motorcycle Trail** - Eleven maintainers enjoyed this warm late November day following Thanksgiving working off some of those excess calories on this 4.5 mile stretch of trail. The entire section is now maintained to standards with all logs removed and brushed out from where the BMT leaves the motorcycle trail on top of Unicoi Mountain down to the bridge over Coker Creek. Some sidehilling and filling in two holes in the trail from trees which fell taking out the trail with the rootball. We will probably do this work in the spring.

| Name                          | Travel Hours | Work Hours | Totals |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------|
| Rick Harris                   | 0.5          | 6          | 6.5    |
| Larry Dunn                    | 2.5          | 6          | 8.5    |
| Shirley Adams                 | 2            | 6          | 8      |
| Chris Beck                    | 2            | 6          | 8      |
| Lucas Beck                    | 2            | 6          | 8      |
| Greta Farmer                  | 2            | 6          | 8      |
| Tom Smith                     | 1            | 6          | 7      |
| Richard Sullivan              | 3            | 6          | 9      |
| Bill Hodge                    | 0.5          | 6          | 6.5    |
| Richard Taylor                | 2.5          | 5          | 7.5    |
| Kim, friend of Richard Taylor | 2.5          | 5          | 7.5    |
| Totals                        | 20.5         | 64         | 84.5   |

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# Reporting your Work Trips

- Once a year, your maintenance director will summarize hours worked for each person in each district and forward this information to the Trails Tech in each district
- You may receive rewards from the district such as a parking pass or T-shirt or hat
- Yearly, maintainers who put in 30 or more hours in trail work for the BMTA will receive a perk, such as the T-shirt given out this past year



# Annual Walk-Thru

- Once a year, we want to get your section hiked by someone other than the assigned section maintainer to produce an objective unbiased report on the condition of your section
- These reports are sent to the section maintainer and used by the maintenance director to plan the monthly work trips for the coming year

# Reporting your Work Trips

- We want information on the following:
  - Clearance (brush and logs)
  - Condition of the tread
  - Blazes
  - Signs
  - Sections needing reroutes, switchbacks, or drainage repair
- We ask the reporter to take pictures and use a GPS or cell phone with GPS capability, report findings on our standard form

# Walk-Thru Report

2012Walk-ThruReport Section 12a - Dry Pond Lead.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

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Tools Comment Share

Please fill out the following form. If you are a form author, choose Distribute from the Forms panel in the Tools Pane on the right to send it to your recipients. Highlight Existing Fields

## BMTA Annual Walk-thru Report

Section(s) Evaluated: Section 12a - Dry Pond Lead Trail

Direction walked: ☐ northbound ☒ southbound

Evaluator(s) Name(s) Rick Harris & Bill Lundin

Evaluation Date: Jan 29, 2012

Work hours: 6.5 each Travel Hours: 2 and 2.5 hours

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."

# Walk-Thru Report

2012Walk-ThruReport Section 12a - Dry Pond Lead.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

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

Treadway (1-5) 5

Corridor Clearance (1-5) 5

Blazes, Signs and Trailmarkers (1-5) 4

Overall rating for the section (1-5) 4.5

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

| Mileage     | Waypoint | Comment   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| <u>0.00</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>Wilderness Sign - excellent condition, need BMT Turn arrow</u> |
| <u>0.14</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>Wilderness sign, clearing for hanging over trail</u>           |

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# Walk-Thru Report

2012Walk-ThruReport Section 12a - Dry Pond Lead.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

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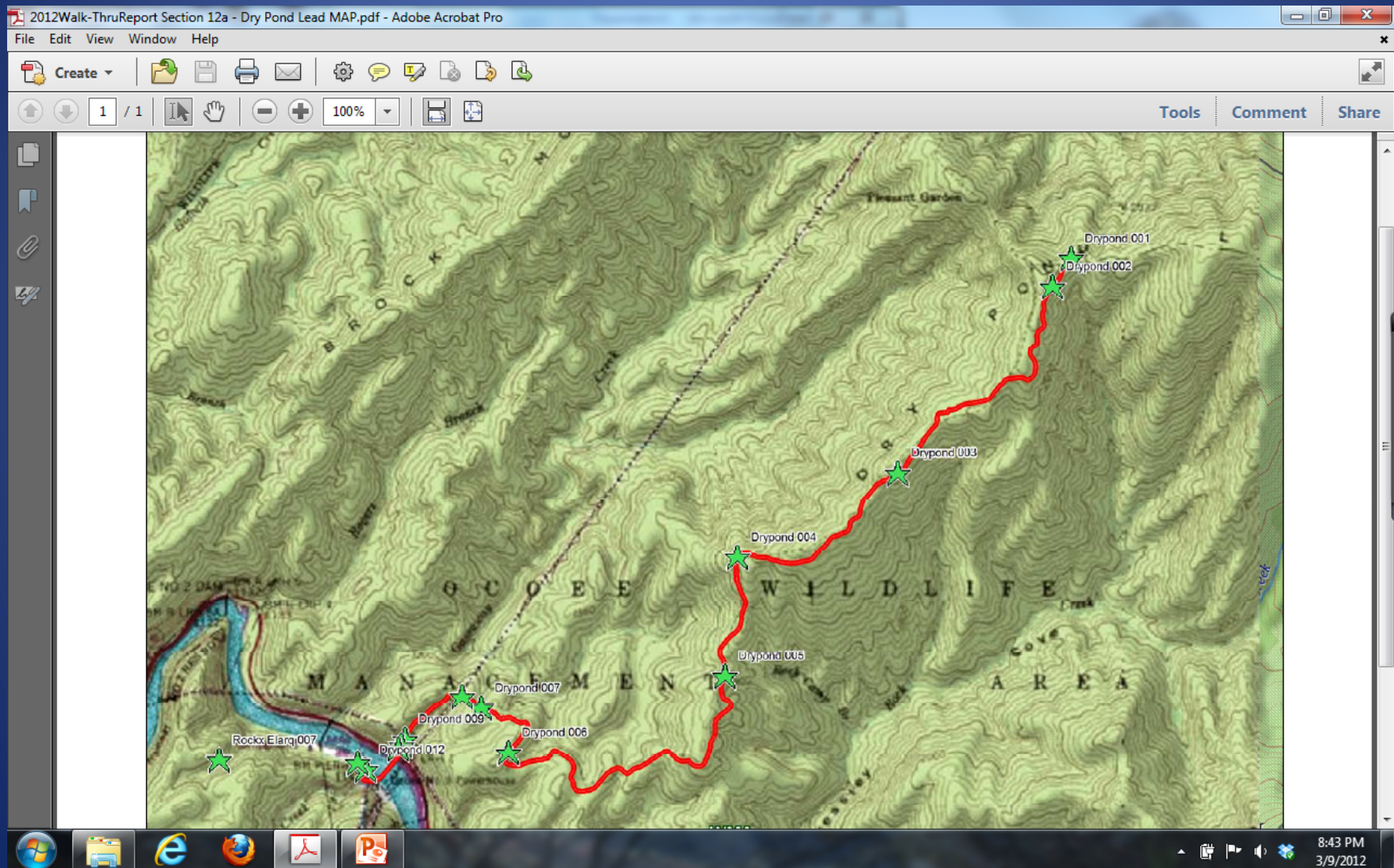
Please fill out the following form. If you are a form author, choose Distribute from the Forms panel in the Tools Pane on the right to send it to your recipients. Highlight Existing Fields

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

| Mileage | Waypoint | Comment  |
|---------|----------|--|
| 0.00    | 1        | Wilderness Sign - excellent condition, need BMT Turn arrow                             |
| 0.11    | 2        | Widow-maker, dead pine top hanging over trail  |
| 1.03    | 3        | 14" dead pine - horizontal across trail at head height                                 |
| 1.68    | 4        | 100' sidehilling needed  |
| 2.12    | 5        | intersection with Rock Cr Trail, sign in reasonable condition, few good years left     |
|         |          | Little Frog Wilderness sign OK but USFS sign destroyed by bears                        |
| 3.30    | 6        | 1st BMT blaze  |
| 3.57    | 7        | 15" pine across trail, can use chainsaw  |
| 3.64    | 8        | Powerline crossing   |
| 3.92    | 9        | Wood sign "Dry Pond Lead Trail 76" good condition                                      |
| 3.94    | 10       | Metal "Dry Pond Lead Trail" sign with mileages to Deep Gap & Kimsey Hwy good condition |
| 3.96    | 11       | Big BMT sign on highway, in good condition   |
| 4.21    | 12       | Thunder Rock parking area by Ocoee #3 powerhouse                                       |

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# Walk-Thru Report



# Walk-Thru Report



# After your Walk-Thru

- Email your report to the appropriate maintenance director
- Include
  - The Fillable PDF report itself
  - Pictures of signs
  - Your GPS track and waypoint file or a good map showing the location of signs, where work is needed, etc.

# The Sign Database

- Ernie Engman is developing a sign database using Google Earth
- Your sign waypoints and pictures will be put onto the BMT Google Earth showing the location and the attached picture
- Should be a reality in the next couple of months.