

# Trails of the Chattahoochee- Oconee National Forests

GEORGIA

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Southern  
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United States Department of Agriculture

## CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS

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**TRAILS OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE  
NATIONAL FORESTS**

**Contents**

This guide will help you enjoy the trails within the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. These two forests contain more than 500 miles of trails for hikers, off-road vehicles (ORV's), mountain bicycles, and horseback riding.

The hiking trails offer experiences for everyone from expert backpacker to the novice hiker. You'll find nationally known trails like the Bartram, Appalachian, Duncan Ridge, and Benton MacKaye. You'll also find trails like the 0.5-mile Sosebee Cove Trail and the 0.5-mile Lakeshore Trail at Dockery Lake.

Off-road vehicle drivers, mountain bicyclers and horse riders will also find trails available for their use. It's best to check with the local Forest Service office before taking a vehicle or horse on these specially designated trails. Trail use is restricted after periods of heavy use to allow resource recovery.

The national forests are open to hunting during seasons established by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a variety of game. Wear blaze orange in the forest during hunting seasons. Check with DNR Wildlife Resources Division for hunting dates, wildlife management area locations, and safety precautions.

Whatever your mode of transportation, you'll find trails that offer a variety of recreation opportunities. Some trails are marked by signs that interpret certain highlights of an area. Photography, bird watching, and tests of one's physical stamina attract many hikers. Please remember while you're visiting the trails that you are part of nature and are responsible for leaving the forests clean and free from litter.

Conditions and routes of these trails may change from time to time due to storms, re-routes, etc. Before using these trails, contact the appropriate Forest Service Ranger District office for current trail information.

Key to road numbers on maps:

- U.S. Highways: US 19
- State Highways: 52
- County Roads: CO 309
- Forest Service Roads: FSR 49

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## TRAILS

### TRAIL 1—CHICKAMAUGA CREEK TRAIL

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 6.2 miles

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail begins and ends at the end of Ponder Creek Road. The trail crosses several stream fords and parallels a portion of scenic Chickamauga Creek. **Caution:** *A portion of the trail crosses a road (Forest Service Road 250) open to vehicular traffic. Watch for oncoming vehicles.*

**Directions:** Take GA 136 east from LaFayette for 9 miles. Turn left onto Ponder Creek Road and go about 0.6 mile. Take the right fork onto Forest Service Road 219 to the end of road. The trail can also be reached along Forest Service Road 250. To reach Forest Service Road 250, travel GA 136 east from LaFayette for 7 miles to the top of Taylors Ridge. Turn left (north) onto Forest Service Road 250. The trail crosses this road at a point approximately 2.6 miles north.

### TRAIL 2—HOUSTON VALLEY ORV AREA

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 25 miles

Open to: Motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and mountain bicycles

This 2,600-acre area has a network of trails for trail motorbikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). The trails traverse ridges and valleys, stream crossings, and steep, rocky sections. Multiple-use forest management is practiced in this area, so we ask that you stay on the trails and follow the rules printed in the opening sections of this guide.

**Directions:** From I-75, take the Ringgold/LaFayette exit (Exit 140). Travel south on GA 151 for 7.3 miles. Turn left on Nickajack Road, located beside Wood Station Volunteer Fire Department. Follow Nickajack Road over Taylors Ridge for 1.7 miles. At the base of Taylors Ridge, turn right onto Capehart Road and travel 1 mile until the pavement ends. Parking area for Houston Valley is on the left at the beginning of a Forest Service gravel road.

### TRAIL 3—JOHNS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 3.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail begins and ends at the Johns Mountain Overlook, located at the end of Forest Service Road 208. The trail follows a portion of the ridge top and connects with

the Keown Falls Trail above the falls. **Caution:** *The area above the falls is steep with rock bluffs. Please stay behind the fence.*

**Directions:** Take GA 136 east from LaFayette for 13.5 miles. Turn right (south), past Villanow, on a county road (Pocket Road) and drive about 4 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 208 to the observation deck.

### TRAIL 4—KEOWN FALLS TRAIL

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 1.8 miles

Open to: Hiking

From Keown Falls Recreation Area this loop trail follows a small stream to an observation deck overlooking Keown Falls. After the trail turns away from the stream, it winds up a series of switchbacks. **Caution:** *The area above the falls is steep with rock bluffs. Please stay behind the fence.*

**Directions:** Take GA 136 east from LaFayette for 13.5 miles past Villanow. Turn right (south) on a county road (Pocket Road) and go about 5 miles to the entrance road.

### TRAIL 5—POCKET TRAIL

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 2.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail is located in the Pocket Recreation Area. It begins in the picnic area and ends in the campground. This trail passes areas with seeps and springs. "The Pocket" is a horseshoe-shaped valley between Horn and Mill Mountains.

**Directions:** Take GA 136 east from LaFayette for 13.5 miles; 0.5 mile east of Villanow turn right (south) on a county road (Pocket Road) and drive 7 miles.

### TRAIL 6—TAYLORS RIDGE TRAIL

Ranger District: Armuchee      Length: 2.4 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail follows Taylors Ridgetop to Forest Service Road 635-A. The trail follows Forest Service Road 217 for 0.4-mile before beginning a series of switchbacks to the ridgetop.

**Directions:** Take GA 136 east from LaFayette for about 7 miles to the top of Taylors Ridge. Turn right (south) onto Forest Service Road 217 (at gate). The trail begins at this point in the left fork of the road.

# Map

## **TRAIL 7—ARKAQUAH TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 5.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

Trail descends along a ridge from Brasstown Bald parking lot to Track Rock Gap. There are ups and downs, some steep along the way. The final mile has several switchbacks. Open ridge tops provide excellent views. This trail is within the Brasstown Wilderness for about 5 miles of its length. This trail is not blazed.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 8 miles. Turn left (east) onto Georgia 180. Go 8 miles and turn left (north) onto Georgia 180 Spur. Follow this road 3 miles to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center parking lot.

**NOTE:** There is a parking fee. The trail leaves the parking lot from the northwest corner near the restrooms. To reach the lower end of the trail at Track Rock Gap, go east of Blairsville on U.S. 76 for 6 miles. Turn right (south) on

Track Rock Road and drive 3 miles to a gravel parking lot on the right just past the petroglyphs in the gap. The trail begins across the road from the parking lot.

### **TRAIL 8 - BEASLEY KNOB ORV TRAILS**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 10.8 miles

Open to: Off-road vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles

This area has a well-developed system of 8 interconnecting trails offering a total of 10.8 miles and a wide variety of riding challenges. RIDING IS ALLOWED ON DEVELOPED TRAILS ONLY. Most trails are considered difficult due to steep terrain. The trails are most suited to experienced drivers who are skilled in mountain terrain driving. Inexperienced drivers are strongly urged to select other trails.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76/Appalachian Development Highway (APD) 515 east from Blairsville for 4 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 745. Follow this road 1.1 miles to parking lot. Visitors should stop by the Brasstown Ranger District office for more information on these trails.

### **TRAIL 9 - BRASSTOWN BALD TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 0.6 mile

Open to: Hiking

This steep, paved trail leads from the parking lot on Brasstown Bald Mountain to the Visitor Information Center at the summit. There are interpretive signs along the trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 8 miles. Turn left (east) onto GA 180 and drive 8 miles; then turn left (north) onto GA 180 Spur and follow it 3 miles to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center parking lot.

NOTE: There is a parking fee. The trail begins between the food concession building and the log cabin book store.

### **TRAIL 10 - JACKS KNOB TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 4.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This blue-blazed trail begins with a short climb out of the Brasstown Bald parking lot, then descends nearly 1,500 feet through a series of switchbacks that cover about 2 miles. It crosses GA 180 in Jacks Gap and then climbs about 2.2 miles to the Appalachian Trail at Chattahoochee Gap. Approximately 0.2 mile south of Jacks Gap, the trail enters the Mark Trail Wilderness. Blazes will be farther apart on the wilderness portion of the trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 8 miles. Turn left (east) onto GA 180. After 8 miles, turn left (north) onto GA 180 Spur and follow it 3 miles to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center parking lot.

NOTE: There is a parking fee. The trail begins at the southern end of the parking lot.

### **TRAIL 11 - LAKE CHATUGE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 1.2 miles

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail encircles Lake Chatuge campground around the lakeshore.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76 east from Blairsville for 11 miles. Turn right (south) onto GA 288. Go 1 mile and turn left into the Lake Chatuge Recreation Area. Turn left again into the boat-ramp parking area. The trail begins to the right of the boat ramp.

### **TRAIL 12—WAGON TRAIN TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 5.8 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail follows an old roadbed from Brasstown Bald through the Brasstown Wilderness to the National Forest boundary approximately 1 mile south of Young Harris.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville 8 miles. Turn left (east) onto GA 180. Travel 8 miles and turn left (north) onto GA 180 Spur. Follow it 3 miles to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center parking lot.

NOTE: There is a parking fee. Walk up the mountain on the paved trail that begins between the food concession building and the log cabin. The trail soon comes to a dirt road. Turn right on this road, and you will be on the Wagon Train Trail.

**TRAIL 13 - BEAR HAIR GAP TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 4 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail forms a loop beginning and ending in Vogel State Park. Length includes an optional side trail to an overlook offering a panoramic view of the park and lake. The trail is located on a combination of old roadbeds and constructed trail. It is well marked with orange blazes. However, the blazes are spaced more widely apart on the part of the trail that is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness than on the part outside the wilderness.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 10 miles. Turn right into Vogel State Park.

NOTE: There is a parking fee in the park. The trail begins to the right of the road behind the Park Visitor Center.

**TRAIL 14 - BYRON HERBERT REECE ACCESS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 0.7 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail, fairly steep for about half its length, provides access to the Appalachian Trail at Flat Rock Gap. Since the trail is entirely within the Blood Mountain Wilderness, the blue trail blazes are widely spaced.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 12 miles. Turn right into the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial and continue to parking lot on left.

**TRAIL 15 - COOSA BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL**

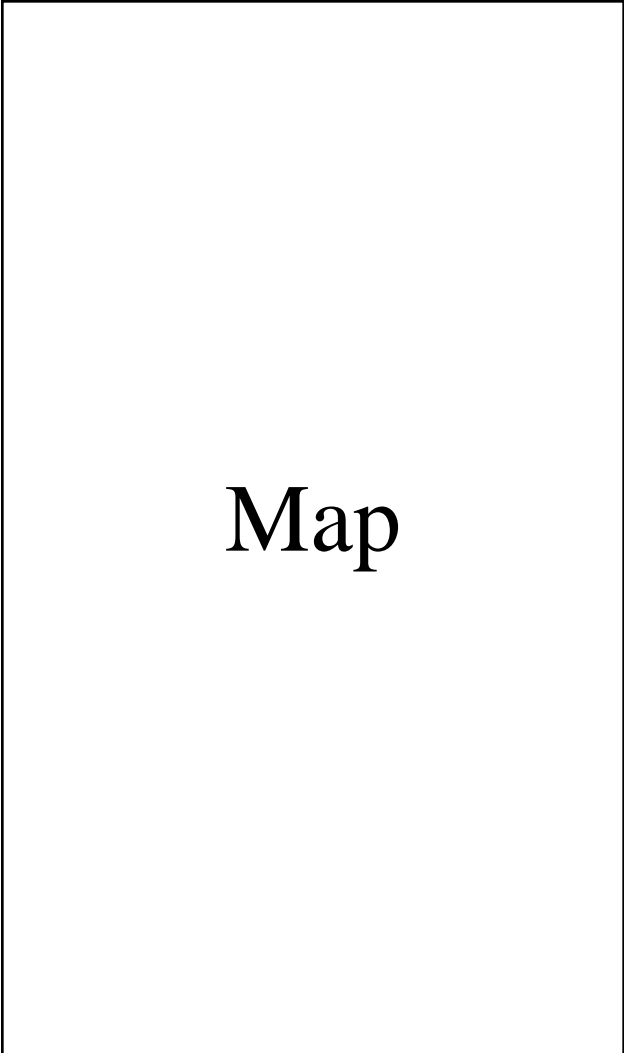
Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 12.7 miles

Open to: Hiking

This yellow-blazed loop trail begins in Vogel State Park and returns there after many ups and downs, crossing through gaps and over mountains. Some ascents are made gradually around the slopes and others steeply up the ridges. It is somewhat easier if hiked in a counterclockwise direction. Approximately one fourth of the trail crosses through the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes will be farther apart on this section. A permit is required for both day hiking and backpacking and is available free from Vogel State Park Visitor Center.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 10 miles. Turn right into Vogel State Park.

NOTE: There is a parking fee in the park. The trail begins to the right of the road behind the Park Visitor Center.



**TRAIL 16 - HELTON CREEK FALLS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 0.3

Open to: Hiking

This short trail descends to the first waterfall then climbs beside the creek to the second and larger waterfall. The rocks are deceptively slippery around these falls. Exercise caution.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for about 11 miles. Turn left onto Helton Creek Road, the first road past the entrance to Vogel State Park. Travel 2.2 miles to the parking area on the right. The trail begins on the right just before the parking area. The first mile of this road is paved, fairly narrow, and surrounded by summer homes. The rest of the road is gravel.



### TRAIL 17 - JARRARD GAP TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 1 mile

Open to: Hiking

The trail climbs gradually from Lake Winfield Scott Campground to its junction with the Appalachian Trail slightly south of Jarrard Gap. The last 0.25 mile of this blue-blazed trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 9.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto GA 180 and go 7 miles to the main entrance to Lake Winfield Scott campground. Turn left into the campground. Follow this road over a hill and continue straight ahead into a gravel parking lot at the foot of the hill. From the parking lot, hike along the paved road passing the guard rail at the head of the lake. The trailhead is on the right of the road just past the guard rails.

### TRAIL 18 - LAKE WINFIELD SCOTT TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 0.4 mile

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail follows the lakeshore on a gentle grade, allowing easy access for fishing. Part of the trail is paved but most is gravel surfaced.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 9.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto GA 180 and go 7 miles to the main entrance to Lake Winfield Scott campground. Turn left into the campground. Follow this road over a hill and continue straight ahead into a gravel parking lot at the foot of the hill. Walk straight through the parking lot to reach the trail.

### TRAIL 19 - SLAUGHTER CREEK TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 2.7 miles

Open to: Hiking

Located partly on old roadbeds, the trail leads from Lake Winfield Scott campground to the Appalachian Trail at Slaughter Gap. This moderate blue-blazed trail enters the Blood Mountain Wilderness about 1 mile before reaching Slaughter Gap. Blazes will be farther apart on this section of trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 9.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto GA 180 and go 7 miles to the main entrance to Lake Winfield Scott campground. Turn left into the campground. Follow this road over a hill and continue straight ahead into a gravel parking lot at the foot of the hill. From the parking lot, hike

along the paved road passing the guard rail at the head of the lake. The trailhead is on the right of the road just past the guard rails.

### TRAIL 20 - SOSEBEE COVE TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 0.5 mile

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail circles through one of the finest stands of second-growth hardwood in the region and is also noted for the variety of wildflowers that flourish on the forest floor.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 9.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto GA 180. Go 2 miles to the Sosebee Cove parking lot on the right.

### TRAIL 21—DESOTO FALLS TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 2.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at the bridge in the lower loop of DeSoto Falls Recreation Area. A relatively easy 0.25-mile trail leads south to lower falls; the upper falls is about 0.75 mile one way to the north. **Caution:** *These trails are located in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 129 north from Cleveland for 15 miles or U.S. 19 north from Dahlonega for 18 miles to the DeSoto Falls Recreation area.

### TRAIL 22—FREEMAN TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 1.8 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins west of Neels Gap at Flatrock Gap on the Appalachian Trail. The trail meanders around the south slopes of historic Blood Mountain to Bird Gap, intersecting with the Appalachian Trail again. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 north from Dahlonega for 21 miles to Neels Gap. Access this trail from Neels Gap or Byron Herbert Reece Trail.



# Map

## TRAIL 23—DAVENPORT TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 5 miles  
Open to: All terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and  
mountain bicycles

This trail loops around Davenport Mountain with some moderate grades and offers views of Nottely Lake. This trail is recommended for riders accustomed to riding on flat to rolling terrain, young, or inexperienced riders. Riders must stay on the trail. Cross country riding is not allowed. **Caution:** *The trail crosses a road at two places. Watch for other vehicles on the road at these crossings.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 north from Blairsville for 2 miles. Turn left on Pat Colwell Road and go 8 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 143 and go 0.75 mile to a trailhead parking area on the left.

## TRAIL 24—HIGH SHOALS TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 1.2 miles  
Open to: Hiking

This trail descends through a series of long switchbacks to a creek crossing, then follows the creek to viewing platforms at two waterfalls. People have been fatally injured climbing on the rocks around these waterfalls. Please stay on the trails and observation decks.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 11.4 miles. Turn right onto Indian Grave Gap Road, graveled Forest Service Road 283. Follow this road 1.5 miles to a small parking lot at the trailhead on the left. The road fords a fairly shallow stream close to the beginning. It is often difficult to travel in winter without four-wheel drive.

## TRAIL 25—ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 1 mile  
Open to: Hiking

This blue-blazed trail climbs gradually from Forest Service Road 283, Indian Grave Gap Road, to the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) on the side of Rocky Mountain. A 3.5 mile loop trail can be made by combining the A.T., Rocky Mountain Trail, and Forest Service Road 283.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 11.4 miles. Turn right onto Indian Grave Gap Road, graveled Forest Service Road 283. At 1.5 miles, pass the parking lot for High Shoals Trail on the left; continue for 0.5 mile to trailhead on the right. Parking is very limited at the trailhead. For more parking continue up the road to Indian Grave Gap, where the A.T. crosses the road. Forest Service Road 283 fords a shallow stream close to the beginning. It is often difficult to travel in winter without four-wheel drive.

## TRAIL 26—ANNA RUBY FALLS TRAIL

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 0.4 mile  
Open to: Hiking

This trail is paved but relatively steep. Benches are located along the trail, and two observation decks offer a beautiful view of the twin falls of York and Curtis Creeks.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 northeast from Helen for 1 mile to Robertstown. Turn right (northeast) on GA 356 for 1.5 miles and left on the entrance road at the sign through Unicoi State Park. Follow signs for 3.5 miles to parking area.

NOTE: A parking fee is charged to access the Anna Ruby Falls area. The trail can be accessed from the parking lot.

**TRAIL 27—ANDREWS COVE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 2 miles

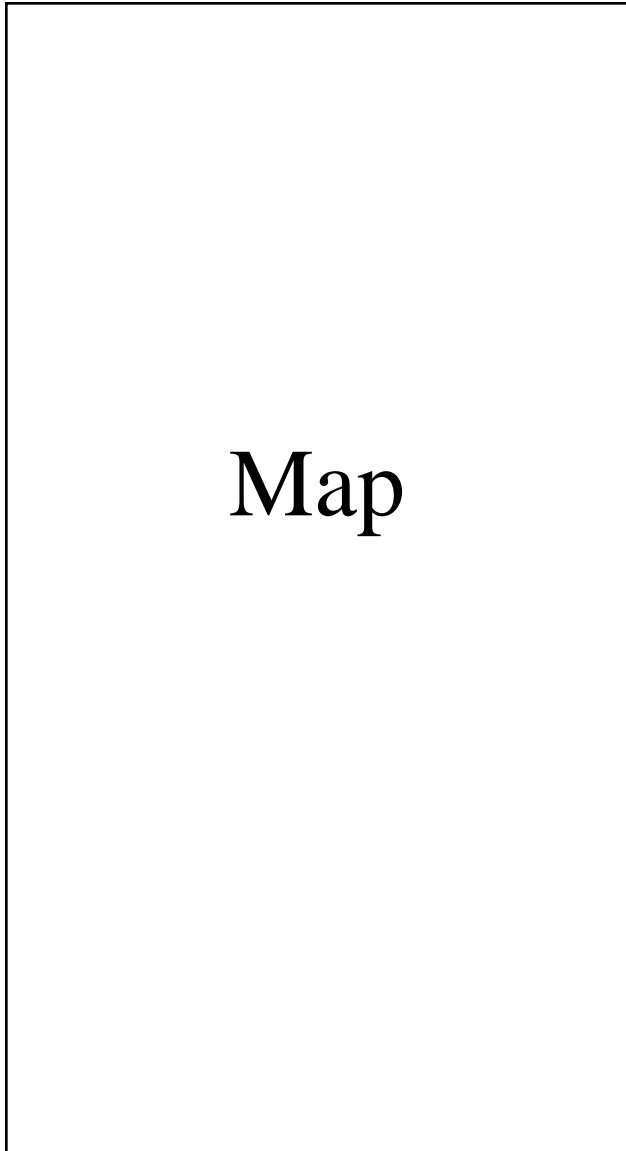
Open to: Hiking

This trail follows an old logging road up Andrews Cove to the Appalachian Trail and Forest Service Road 283 at Indian Grave Gap.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 5 miles. Turn right into the Andrews Cove Recreation Area.

**TRAIL 28—HORSE TROUGH FALLS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 0.4 mile



Map

Open to: Hiking

This is an excellent trail for novice hikers. It leads to the beautiful Horse Trough Falls.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 8 miles to Unicoi Gap. Turn left onto Forest Service Road 44 (Chatahoochee River Road). Go approximately 4.5 miles to the head of the river campground and follow signs to trail parking area.

**TRAIL 29—SMITH CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 4.6 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail offers a serene walk through dense patches of rhododendron, mountain laurel, hemlock, and ferns. Hikers will travel up and over Hickory Nut Ridge and through hardwood stands and will cross several small mountain brooks and springs. The trail ends at Unicoi State Park campground.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 1 mile. Turn right on GA 356 and drive 1.5 miles. Then go left at the entrance to Unicoi State Park. Follow the signs to the Anna Ruby Falls parking area.

NOTE: There is a parking fee. Hike a 0.4-mile trail to the falls. The trail begins to the right of the first observation bridge.



*Rhododendron*

### **TRAIL 30—BROAD RIVER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 4.1 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail is excellent for novice hikers and family groups.

**Directions:** Take GA 365 north from Cornelia. Take the Toccoa/Lavonia fork and stay on GA 365 for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Rock Road. Go 0.7 mile and turn left onto Dicks Hill Parkway. Go 2.4 miles and turn right on Ayersville Road. Travel 0.9 mile and turn left on Forest Service Road 87. Go 3 miles to trailhead at Dicks Creek.

### **TRAIL 31—LADYSLIPPER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 6.2 miles

Open to: Hiking and horseback riding

This horse and foot trail winds up and down hillsides through wooded areas. Wildflowers bloom abundantly along the trail in the spring and summer. You will also find several panoramic views along the trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441/GA 365 north from Cornelia to Clarkesville exit (GA 197). Turn right on Old 197, at second stop sign, turn right onto Dicks Hill Parkway. Go 0.8 mile and turn left on Forest Service Road 59 (Lake Russell Road). Turn left to Nancytown Lake and follow signs to parking. Trailhead is 0.2 mile on paved road behind the gate.

### **TRAIL 32—LAKE RUSSELL TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 4.6 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail follows the south side of Lake Russell from Nancytown Dam to Lake Russell Dam. From there, it follows the interior roads of the recreation area back to the starting point.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441/GA 365 north from Cornelia to Clarkesville exit (GA 197). Turn right on Old GA 197. At second stop sign, turn right onto Dicks Hill Parkway. Go 0.8 mile and turn left on Forest Road 59 (Lake Russell Road). Turn left to Nancytown Lake and follow signs to parking. Trailhead begins at the dam.

# Map

**TRAIL 33—LOCUST STAKE ORV AREA**

Ranger District: Chattooga Length: 17 miles

Open to: Two and four-wheel off-road vehicles.

Maximum axle width 48 inches

This area covers about 1,000 acres that are designated as a place where users of all-terrain vehicles can find adventure and see an example of multiple-use forest management.

**Directions:** Take US 123/GA 365 from Cornelia for about 8 miles. Turn left on a paved county road (Rock Road) and follow signs to parking lot.

**TRAIL 34—SOURWOOD TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga Length: 2.7 miles

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail is excellent for novice hikers. One mile into the trail, hikers will view Nancytown Falls. The trail then goes by a beaver pond and follows a creek. The last part of the trail follows Red Root Road back to the starting point.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441/GA 365 north from Cornelia to Clarkesville exit (GA 197). Turn right on Old 197. At second stop sign, turn right onto Dicks Hill Parkway. Go 0.8 mile and turn left on Forest Service Road 59 (Lake Russell Road). Go 2 miles and turn left to Nancytown Lake. Follow signs to parking. Trailhead begins at the dam.

**TRAIL 35—PANTHER CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga Length: 5.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail follows Panther Creek through stands of white pine and hemlock along steep, rocky bluffs of the creek. The trail passes a series of cascades and Panther Creek Falls. It terminates where Davidson Creek joins Panther Creek. Hikers who carry large packs should be cautious of rocky overhangs.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441 north from Cornelia 16 miles. Turn left onto Glen Hardman Road, then right onto Old 441 for 1 mile to the parking lot.

### TRAIL 36—COOPER CREEK TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 0.4 mile

Open to: Hiking

This is a connector trail between Mill Shoals and Yellow Mountain Trails. It can be reached by hiking 0.6 mile from the trailhead of Mill Shoals Trail or 1 mile from the Yellow Mountain trailhead. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Cooper Creek Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 22 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 33 for 0.8 mile. Turn left on Forest Service Road 236 for 3 miles to Cooper Creek Recreation Area.

### TRAIL 37—MILL SHOALS TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 3.4 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins north of the Cooper Creek Recreation Area and ends at Shope Gap on Forest Service Road 39. Hikers enjoy diverse forest scenery from mature white pines and hemlocks to new-growth areas, as well as scenic views crossing streams. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Cooper Creek Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 22 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 33 and go 0.8 mile. Then turn left on Forest Service Road 236 and drive about 3 miles to the Cooper Creek Scenic Area parking lot. From parking lot, walk north along Forest Service Road 236. Continue pass Yellow Mountain Trailhead for 100 yards to Mill Shoals trailhead. At approximately 2.4 miles the trail joins and then runs concurrent with Forest Service Road 39 for about one mile before reaching Shope Gap.

### TRAIL 38—YELLOW MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 2.7 miles

Open to: Hiking

The trail meanders through a forest of hemlocks, white pines and hardwoods. At 1.5 miles from the trailhead, the foot-path splits into two trails. The Shope Gap trail leads to the left 0.9 mile to Shope Gap. The Yellow Mountain trail follows the right fork across Bryant Creek and ends at Addie Gap. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Cooper Creek Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 22 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 33 and go 0.8 mile. Then turn left on Forest Service Road 236. Drive 3 miles to the

# Map

Cooper Creek Scenic Area parking lot. From parking lot, walk north along Forest Service Road 236 for 0.1 mile to the trailhead.

*hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 22 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 33 and go 0.8 mile. Then turn left on Forest Service Road 236. Drive 3 miles to the Cooper Creek Scenic Area parking lot. From parking lot, walk north along Forest Service Road 236 for 0.1 mile to the trailhead. Hike 1.3 miles on Yellow Mountain Trail to where Shope Gap Trail forks to the left.

#### **TRAIL 40—DUNCAN RIDGE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown and Toccoa

Open to: Hiking Length: 35.5 miles

This challenging trail follows high, dry ridges for most of its length. The trail begins on Long Creek near Three Forks on the Appalachian Trail, goes north, and crosses the Toccoa River on a 260-foot swinging bridge. The trail then leads north and west along Duncan Ridge through Mulky Gap to Slaughter Gap. It includes many steep climbs and descents over several mountain tops. The trail is blue blazed for all of this section but also has yellow blazes on the eastern portion, where the Coosa Backcountry Trail shares the same treadway and also will have the white diamonds of the Benton MacKaye Trail from Long Creek Falls for Rhodes Mountain. About 1.25 miles on the eastern end are within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. A 60 mile loop trail can be made by combing this trail with the Appalachian Trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 and 129 south from Blairsville for 9.5 miles. Turn right (west) onto GA 180 and go 3 miles to Wolfpen Gap. The trail crosses GA 180 in the gap. The trail can also be reached in Mulky Gap by Forest Service Road 4, Mulky Gap Road.

#### **TRAIL 41—"EYES ON WILDLIFE" TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa Length: 1.2 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail starts at Cooper Creek Scenic Area parking lot, goes west across Tom Jones Branch to the ridgetop and returns. It traverses a variety of bird habitats with a 200 foot-elevation gain.

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 26 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 4 for 6 miles. Or take GA 60 south from Morganton 16 miles and turn left on Forest Service Road 4 for 6 miles. Turn on Forest Service Road 236 for 0.5 mile. Trail begins across from Cooper Creek Scenic Area parking lot.

#### **TRAIL 39 ---SHOPE GAP TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 0.9 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail branches left off Yellow Mountain Trail after 1.3 miles. It follows a ridgeline to Forest Service Road 39 at Shope Gap. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Cooper Creek Wildlife Management Area which is open to various*

**TRAIL 42—ANDERSON CREEK ORV TRAILS**

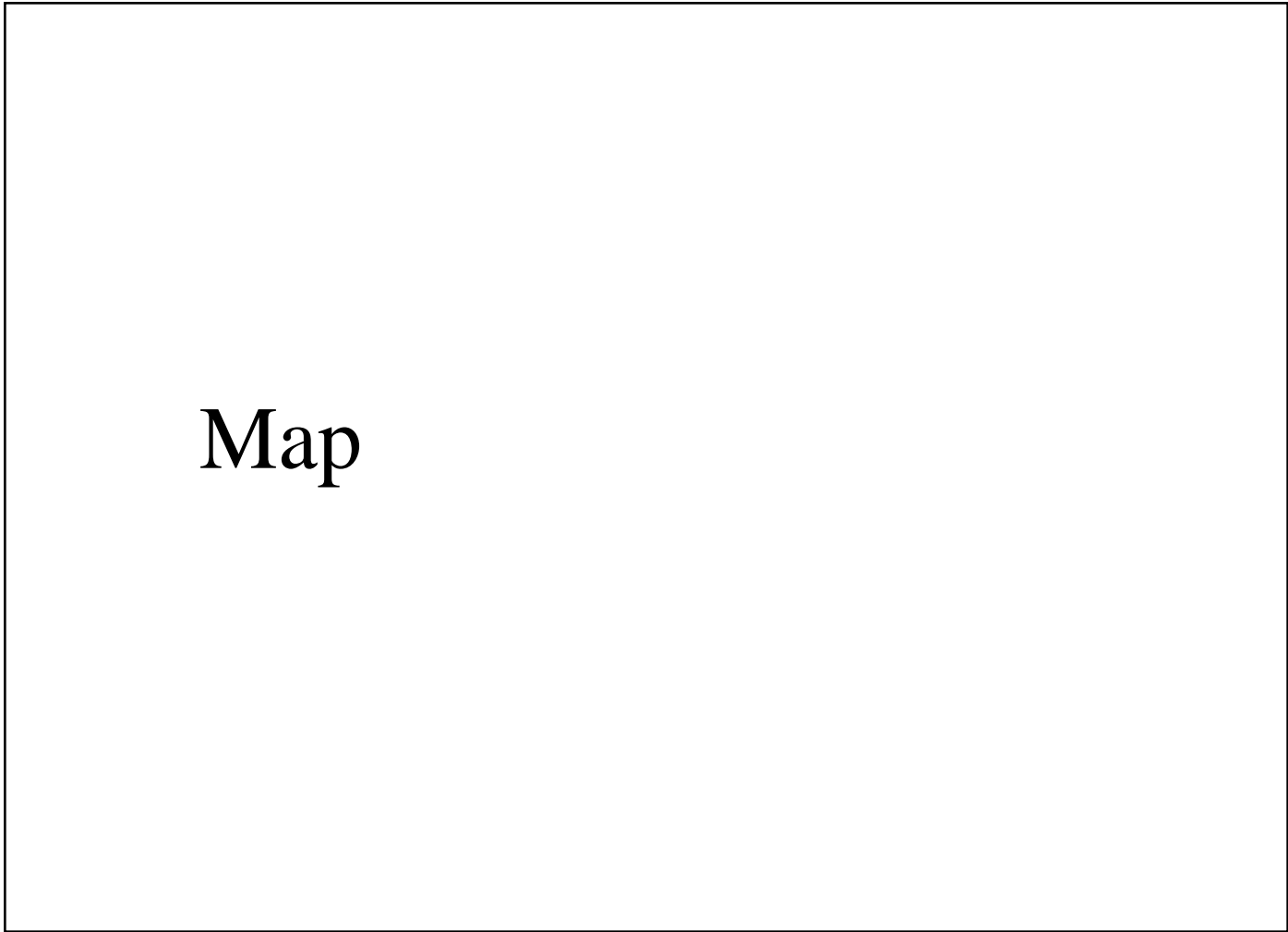
Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 5 miles  
Open to: All types of all-terrain vehicles  
About 5 miles of trails are suitable for all-terrain vehicles.  
These trails have several spurs that dead end.

**Directions:** From Ellijay, take GA 52 east for 7 miles to Cartecay Methodist Church. Turn left on County Road 1.6 (Roy Road) and go 8.5 miles to Tickantley Church Road. Turn right and go 2 miles past the church to Forest Service Road 28. Turn left and go 2 miles to Forest Service Road 357. Turn right and go 2 miles to the first ORV trail.

**TRAIL 43—WHISSENHUNT ORV TRAILS**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length 15 miles  
Open to: Motorbikes and all-terrain vehicles.  
Maximum axle width 48 inches.  
Several miles of trail are open in this 700-acre area. All  
ATV's must stay on developed trails.

**Directions:** From the traffic light near the Dahlonega square, take U.S. 19/GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 2.2 miles. Turn left on a paved county road (Wahsega Road) toward Camp Frank D. Merrill. Go 3.9 miles to Forest Service Road 662 (gravel). Turn left into the ORV parking area.





**TRAIL 44—BULL MOUNTAIN MULTI-USE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 15 miles

Open to: Hiking, horses and mountain bicycles

This trail features a 4-mile single-track experience with 11 additional miles of lightly traveled dirt and gravel Forest Service roads to complete the loop. Elevations range from 1,700 to 2,500 feet. The single-track trail is shared by mountain bicycles and horses. The remaining 11 miles is subject to motor vehicle traffic. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the single-track trail. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Blue Ridge Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**NOTE: USE ANY ROADS SHARED WITH MOTOR VEHICLES WITH EXTREME CAUTION**

**Directions:** Take GA 52 west from Dahlonega for 8.5 miles to Grizzle Store. Turn right onto Nimblewill Road and continue for 2 miles. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 28-1 and follow signs for the Bull Mountain parking area on Forest Service Road 83.

**TRAIL 45—TURNER CREEK MULTI-USE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 7 miles

Open to: Hiking, horses, and mountain bicycles

This trail features a 1.7-mile single-track experience with approximately 5 additional miles of dirt and gravel Forest Service roads to complete the loop. Elevations range from 1,650 to 1,900 feet. The single-track trail is shared by mountain bicycles and horses. The portion of this loop on Forest Service Road 77 and Forest Service Road 28-1 is open to motor vehicle traffic. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the single-track trail. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Blue Ridge Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take GA 52 west from Dahlonega for about 8.5 miles to Grizzle Store. Turn right onto Nimblewill Road and continue for about 2 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 28-1 and follow the signs for Bull Mountain parking area on Forest Service Road 83.



# Map

## **TRAIL 46—DUKES CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 0.8 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail winds its way into Dukes Creek Gorge where it dead ends across from the 300-foot Dukes Creek Falls.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 1.5 miles. Turn left on GA 356 (75 Alternate) and go 2.3 miles to the Russell/Brasstown Scenic Byway. Turn right, and go 2 miles to the Dukes Creek Falls Parking Area.

## **TRAIL 47—RAVEN CLIFFS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 2.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail is in the Raven Cliffs Wilderness Area. The trail follows cascading Dodd Creek upstream to the cliffs.

**Directions:** Take GA 75 north from Helen for 1.5 miles. Turn left on GA 356 (75 Alternate) and travel 2.3 miles to the Russell/Brasstown Scenic Byway. Turn right and travel to mile marker 3. Trailhead is where Dukes Creek runs under the scenic highway. Parking is along the road.

## **TRAIL 48—DOCKERY LAKE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Brasstown      Length: 3.0 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail provides access to the Appalachian Trail. The trail winds north for 3 miles over an old logging road and terminates at Miller Gap. About one mile north of Dockery Lake, the trail enters the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes will be less frequent in this section. The footpath parallels a portion of Pigeon Roost Creek and provides scenic views of nearby mountain ridges and peaks. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 north from Dahlonega for 8.2 miles to the intersection of GA 60 at Stonepile Gap. Follow GA 60 for 3.6 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 654 opposite the Dockery Lake Recreation Area sign. Travel 1 mile to the picnic area. The trail begins at the parking lot.

### TRAIL 49—LAKESHORE TRAIL

Ranger District: Brasstown Length: 0.5 mile

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail encircles Dockery Lake and is accessible to people with disabilities. Footpaths provide access to fishing areas around the lake as well as an accessible fishing platform located on the dam. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 1.6 north from Dahlonega for 8.2 miles to the intersection of GA 60 at Stonepile Gap. Follow GA 60 for 3.6 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 654 (gravel road) opposite the Dockery Lake Recreation Area sign. Travel 1 mile to the picnic area.

### TRAIL 50—LOGAN TURNPIKE TRAIL

Ranger District: Chattooga Length: 2 miles

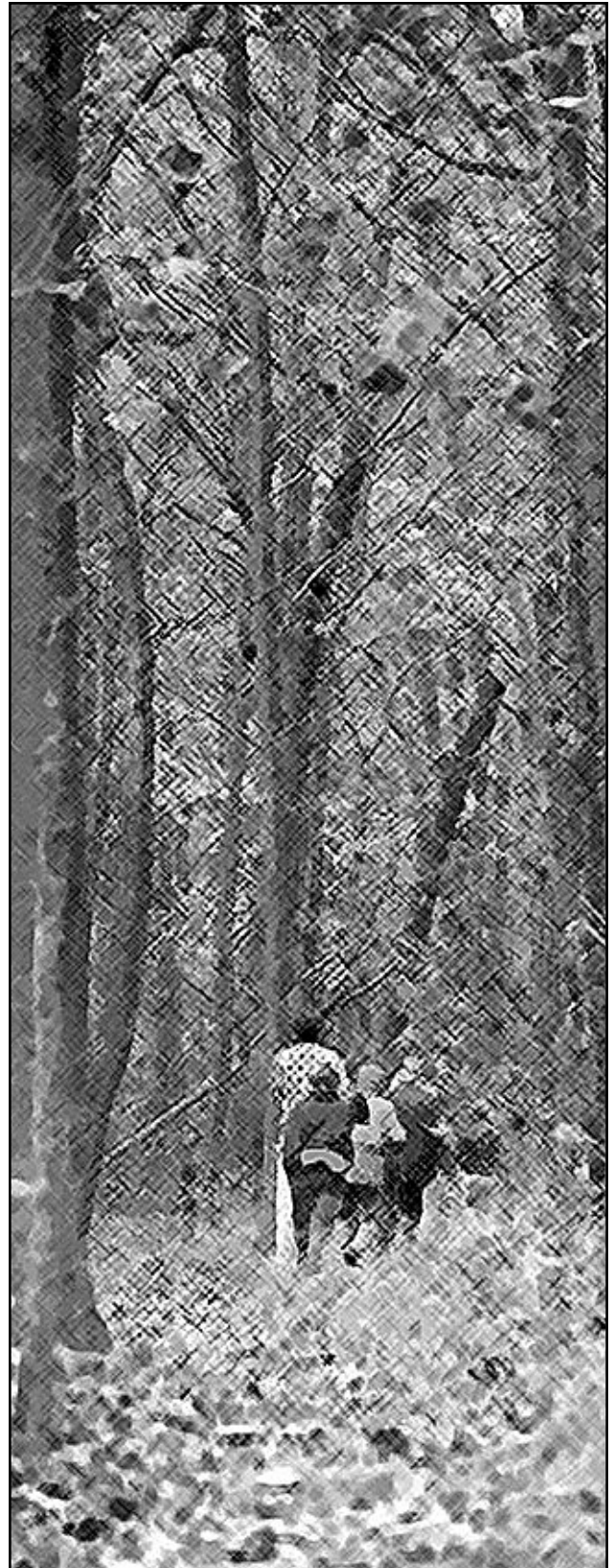
Open to: Hiking

This former toll road of the 1800's crosses some of Georgia's most rugged terrain and accesses Raven Cliffs Wilderness. A historical marker on the approach road to the trailhead designates the toll keeper's house. The trail parallels Town Creek. The first mile is easy but the next is strenuous. This historic trail accesses the Appalachian Trail at Tesnatee Gap. **Caution:** *This trail is located in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area which is open to various hunting seasons throughout the year.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 19 north from Dahlonega for 13.5 miles to Turners Corner. Turn right and proceed south on U.S. 129 for 2.8 miles. Turn left on Town Creek Road (paved first 1.5 miles) and go 2.8 miles. Parking area is at the wilderness boundary. Trail begins at the parking area.



*Remember, only you can prevent wildfires.*



**TRAIL 51—GRASSY MOUNTAIN TOWER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 2.0 miles

Open to: Hiking

The trail begins at the dam on Lake Conasauga and makes a gradual ascent to the old fire tower atop Grassy Mountain. The fire tower stairs remain open for outstanding views of the surrounding countryside. Novice hikers and family groups will enjoy this relatively easy trail.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 3 miles to Eton. Turn right at the only traffic light and follow the road, which becomes Forest Service Road 18 for 10.4 miles. Turn left, on Forest Service Road 68, and go 5.7 miles to the T-intersection. Turn left, staying on Forest Service Road 68 and travel 5.5 miles. Turn right, park in the Lake Conasauga picnic or boating parking lots, and walk to the trailhead on the dam.

**TRAIL 52—LAKE CONASAUGA TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 1.2 miles

Open to: Hiking

Encircling the highest lake in Georgia, the trail connects fishing spots, camping areas and picnic sites. This trail is ideal for short family hikes.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 3 miles to Eton. Turn right at the only traffic light and follow the road which becomes Forest Service Road 18 for 10.4 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 68 and go 5.7 miles to the T-intersection. Turn left, staying on Forest Service Road 68, and travel 5.5 miles. Park in either the Lake Conasauga picnic or boating parking lots.

**TRAIL 53—MILMA CREEK ATV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 3.8 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles

The trail connects the Windy Gap Cycle Trail and the Tibbs Trail. Access is from either the base of Grassy Mountain via Windy Gap Cycle Trail or the top of Grassy Mountain via Tibbs Trail. Sections are steep and streams must be forded. *Caution: During the November through January*



Map

*hunting season, the eastern segment of the trail is a road open to mixed vehicle travel. Watch out for oncoming vehicles.*

**Directions:** Follow directions for Tibbs Trail or Windy Gap Cycle Trail in this guide.

#### **TRAIL 54—ROCKY FLATS ORV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 5 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel drive vehicles

The trail follows a multi-purpose woods road over piney ridges and through hollows of oak and yellow poplar forest. View timber stands in various stages of development from young regenerated stands to mature forest. Openings in the forest canopy offer vistas of Grassy Mountain. This is an excellent beginner trail for mountain bikers and all-terrain vehicle riders. **Caution:** *The trail is open to mixed vehicle travel. Watch out for oncoming vehicles.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth about 6 miles. Turn right on Grassy Street and proceed across the railroad tracks to the T-intersection. Turn right, go about 300 feet, and turn left onto Forest Service Road 630. Travel about 4 miles to the second Rocky Flats Road sign and turn right. Limited parking is available across the creek.

#### **TRAIL 55—SONGBIRD TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 1.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

An abundance of wildflowers greets hikers along this interpretive loop trail as it meanders through the Songbird Management Area. Follow the trail around the active beaver pond and through a variety of habitat types offering excellent birding opportunities. Leading out over the beaver swamp, a boardwalk and observation platform offer a different perspective of the Songbird Area. The trail is designed for all age groups to use and enjoy. The Grassy Mountain Tower Trail merges with this trail for a short distance.

**Directions:** Follow directions to the Grassy Mountain Tower Trail in this guide. Then continue straight on Forest Service Road 68 an additional 0.4 mile to the Songbird Trail parking area.

#### **TRAIL 56—TIBBS ORV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 5 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles

The trail follows a multi-purpose woods road beginning atop Grassy Mountain and ending at a gate near private land. A second gate is located about 1 mile below the trailhead. The trail descends a steep ridge leading down the mountain through managed timber stands of pine and hardwood. Openings in the forest canopy offer exceptional vistas of distant mountain ranges. **Caution:** *During the November through February hunting season, the trail is open to mixed vehicle travel. Watch for oncoming vehicles.*

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 3 miles to Eton. Turn right at the only traffic light and follow the road which becomes Forest Service Road 18 for 10.4 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 68 and go 5.7 miles to the T-intersection. Turn left, staying on Forest Service Road 68, and travel 5.4 miles to the trailhead across from the entrance to Lake Conasauga Loop B campground.

#### **TRAIL 57—WINDY GAP CYCLE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 4.1 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, and motorcycles.

All-terrain vehicles permitted below Milma Creek intersection.

Beginning as a multi-purpose woods road, the trail eventually changes to a narrow, steep pathway as it climbs 2,000 feet to the top of Grassy Mountain, ending at an upper trailhead on Forest Service Road 68. Follow the trail up a narrow ridge line and ford a high mountain stream to complete the trip. Much of the trail is steep, narrow, and rocky.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth for 4 miles. Turn right (east) at the traffic light in Eton and go about 4.3 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 218 (Muskrat Road) and travel 3 miles to the lower trailhead. To reach the upper trailhead, follow directions to Songbird Trail in this guide, but continue on Forest Service Road 68 an additional 0.4 mile.

#### **TRAIL 58—EMERY CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 6.4 miles

Open to: Hiking

Twin waterfalls highlight this trail which follows the path of two major mountain streams. From the lower trailhead, the trail crosses Holly Creek, requiring a difficult ford. It then leads along the banks of Emery Creek and ends at the group camping area atop Grassy Mountain. An outstanding vista of Fort Mountain is available near the mountain top.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 3 miles to Eton. Turn right at the only traffic light and follow the road which becomes Forest Service Road 18 for 7.5 miles to the trailhead parking area.

**TRAIL 59—BEAR CREEK TRAIL**

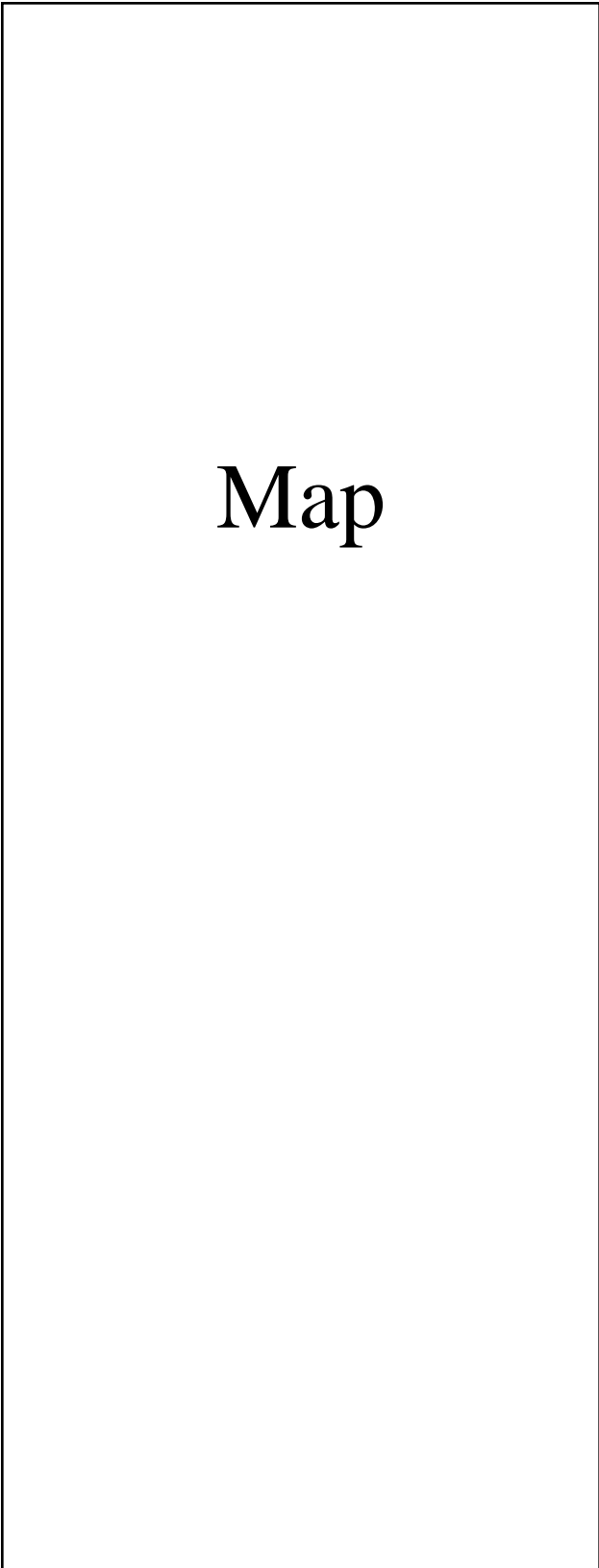
Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 6.7 miles  
Open to: Hiking and mountain bicycles  
This double-loop trail follows scenic Bear Creek through hemlock-cove hardwood forests and passes by the Gennett Poplar, an immense, old-growth yellow poplar tree. The 2-mile round trip to the “Big Poplar” makes a great family outing. Sections of the trail are narrow, steep, and the path crosses several streams.

**Directions:** Take GA 52 west from Ellijay for 5 miles. Turn right at the Bear Creek campground sign onto Gates Chapel Road and go 4.6 miles. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 241 and go about 2 miles to the trailhead parking lot at the end of the road.

**TRAIL 60—MOUNTAINTOWN CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 5.6 miles  
Open to: Hiking and mountain bicycles  
Experience the roaring cascades and waterfalls of Mountaintown Creek gorge as the trail threads its way through stands of white pine and hemlock. Be prepared to get your feet wet as the trail crosses the creek several times. Sections are rocky and narrow and the upper part of the trail is steep. Hills Lake on the lower access road is privately owned and not open to the general public. Access is from the upper trailhead.

**Directions:** Take GA 52 west from Ellijay for 5 miles. Turn right onto Gates Chapel Road and go about 4.9 miles to the end of the pavement. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 90 and go 1.7 miles to the junction with Forest Service Road 68. Turn right and go 3.3 miles to the T-intersection. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 64 and go 7.1 miles to the upper trailhead.





### TRAIL 61—SOUTH FORK TRAIL

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 2.6 miles

Open to: Hiking, horses, and mountain bicycles

From its southern end near a horse camping area, the trail winds through fields and hardwood forests along the south fork of the Jacks River. It fords the river once before ending at Forest Service Road 126A. Wildlife sightings are a common occurrence in the grassy meadows. This is a good ride for novice mountain bikers and horse riders. The Benton MacKaye hiking trail merges with this trail for a short distance.

**Directions:** Take GA 5 northwest from Blue Ridge for about 4 miles. Turn left (west) at the Watson Gap directional sign onto Old GA 2 and travel 10.5 miles to the four-way intersection at Watson Gap. Turn left onto For-

est Service Road 64 and go 4.2 miles to the trailhead. Parking is available just past the trailhead in the Jacks River Field camping area.

### TRAIL 62—BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL

Ranger District: Cohutta and Toccoa

Open to: Hiking                      Length: 78.6 miles (in Georgia)

The trail in Georgia stretches from Springer Mountain to Double Spring Gap on the Tennessee border. The first 20 miles of this trail merge with the Appalachian and Duncan Ridge Trails. From Springer Mountain, the Benton MacKaye Trail goes north to Rhodes Mountain and turns west, crossing the Toccoa River at Shallowford Bridge. The trail uses county roads near Stanley Gap, and then follows ridge tops to Cherry Log. The trail then crosses private property before following state and county roads to Bush Head Gap. The entire trail is marked with white diamonds and blazes on trees.

**Directions:** There are many access points along the trail. Two are given here. **Shallowford Bridge Access:** From Blue Ridge, take old U.S. 76 for 1 mile east to Aska Road. Turn right, and go south for 9 miles to a steel bridge. **GA Highway 60 Access:** From Blue Ridge, take Old U.S. 76 east for 5 miles to Morganton. There, turn right on GA 60 and travel south 15 miles near Tooni Gap.

The last 7 miles are located within the Cohutta Wilderness. The terrain varies from streams through laurel and rhododendron thickets to scenic ridge tops, mature forest, and country roads. The trail is marked with white diamonds and blazes on trees. On the Cohutta District, the trail merges with the South Fork, Jacks River, and Hemptop Trails, where horse travel is permitted within the wilderness.

**Directions:** The following access points are available within the Cohutta Ranger District. **Watson Gap:** Take GA 5 northwest out of Blue Ridge for about 4 miles. Turn left at the Watson Gap directional sign onto Old GA 2 and travel 10.5 miles to Watson Gap, a four-way intersection, where the trail enters the road. **Dyer Gap:** Follow directions to Watson Gap. Then turn left onto Forest Service Road 64 and go 3.5 miles to the Dyer Cemetery. The trail crosses the road just beyond this point. **Dally Gap:** Follow directions to Watson Gap. Then turn right onto Forest Service Road 22 and go about 3.5 miles to Dally Gap and the Jacks River trailhead. Hike down the Jacks River Trail about 0.8 mile to where the Benton MacKaye Trail intersects.

# Map

## **TRAIL 63—MURRAY'S LAKE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 0.9 mile

Open to: Hiking

The trail provides access to primitive campsites and fishing spots as it encircles a small lake. Observe beaver activity along the trail at the upper end of the lake. This short, easy trail is ideal for young families.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 12.3 miles to Cisco. Turn right onto Old GA 2 and proceed 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 17 and travel 3.4 miles. Turn left at the Murrays Lake directional sign and go about 0.8 mile to the parking area.

## **TRAIL 64---SUMAC CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 12.5 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, and horseback riding

This long distance double-loop trail offers both the challenge of steep ascents and descents and the ease of flat double-track travel. From high, narrow ridge lines, trail users will drop into the rugged Sumac Creek drainage three times. **Caution:** *The northern segment of the trail follows a gravel road that is open to vehicles. Watch for vehicles.*

**Directions:** Take US 411 north from Chatsworth and go 12.3 miles to Cisco. Turn right onto old GA Highway 2 and travel 3.2 miles. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 17 and go about 2.1 miles to the trailhead parking area.

## **TRAIL 65—IRON MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 4 miles

Open to: Hiking, horses, and mountain bicycles

Beginning at the Cottonwood Patch camping area, the trail fords the Conasauga River and passes through grassy wildlife clearings as it gradually ascends to a forest opening for a spectacular view of the rugged Cohutta Mountains. The trail continues over rolling terrain to its end on Forest Service Road 1.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 411 north from Chatsworth and go 12.3 miles to Cisco. Turn right onto Old GA 2 and proceed 8.1 miles to the trailhead in the Cottonwood Patch camping area.



**TRAIL 66—TATUM LEAD ORV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 7 miles  
Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, motorcycles,  
          all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel drive  
          vehicles

The trail follows an old woods road along the ridge line of Tatum Mountain through dense forest. The trail dead ends to the south at a mound of dirt on the government property boundary. However, four-wheel drive vehicles must enter off GA 52 about 0.8 mile east of the Cohutta Lodge on Fort Mountain. Note: After turning off GA 52, the first 2 miles of the road is a right-of-way across private land. Only licensed vehicles are permitted on this section. **Caution:** *The trail is open to mixed vehicle travel. Watch out for oncoming vehicles.*

**Directions:** Follow directions to Rock Creek ATV Trail in this guide. Access is via Rock Creek ATV Trail.

**TRAIL 67—ROCK CREEK ATV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Cohutta                      Length: 5.4 miles  
Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles, motorcycles,  
          and all-terrain vehicles

Beginning along the banks of Falls Branch, the loop trail quickly breaks away to start its steady climb to the crest of Tatum Lead. Reaching the mountain top, the trail merges with the Tatum Lead ORV Trail for a short distance before looping back through oak and hickory forest to the trailhead. Sections of the trail are steep and rocky.

**Directions:** Take GA 52 east from Chatsworth about 1 mile. Turn right onto the Old Federal Road and go 4 miles. Turn left at the Peoples Lake/Rock Creek Trail directional sign onto Forest Service Road 3 and travel 5.9 miles to the trailhead parking area.



Map

### **TRAIL 68—MOATES KNOB ATV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Chattooga      Length: 3.5 miles  
Open to: Three and Four-wheel ATV's and motorcycles  
This trail forms a loop, but is primarily a spure of the Oakey Mountain ORV Trail at the Habersham/Rabun county line.

**Directions:** Same as Oakey Mountain ORV Trail, Trail 71 below.

### **TRAIL 69—COLEMAN RIVER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah      Length: 1 mile  
Open to: Hiking  
The trail begins about 150 yards north of the Tallulah River campground at the Coleman River bridge. The trail leads hikers along the very scenic east bank of the Coleman River. It has good fishing access.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76 west from Clayton for 8 miles. Turn right (north) on Persimmon Road (unnumbered) and drive 4 miles. Turn left (northwest) on Forest Service Road 70 and go 1.25 miles. Trailhead is on right.

### **TRAIL 70—MINNEHAHA TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah      Length: 0.4 mile  
Open to: Hiking  
This short trail follows Fall Branch to the scenic Minnehaha Falls.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 23/441 north from Tallulah Falls for 3 miles to the Rabun Beach Recreation Area sign. Turn left on an unnumbered county road and follow the signs to the recreation area. Continue west past the recreation area for 1 mile and turn left on Flat Creek Road across the river below Seed Lake Dam. Follow the left fork of the road for 1.7 miles to a sign marking the trail on the right side of the road.

### **TRAIL 71—OAKEY MOUNTAIN ORV TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah      Length: 6.2 miles  
Open to: ORV's with less than a 48-inch axle width  
This trail is near Lake Burton and Lake Rabun.

**Directions:** To north parking lot: From Clayton, go west on U.S. 76 for 6.8 miles. Turn left on Charlie Mountain Road and proceed until it dead ends. Turn right on Bridge Creek Road and go 2 miles, where the road dead ends at Lake Burton Dam Road. Turn right and drive 1.6 miles to the entrance road on the left. To south parking lot: From Clayton, go west on U.S. 76 for 6.8 miles. Turn left on Charlie Mountain Road and proceed until it dead ends. Turn right on Bridge Creek Road and go 2 miles, where it dead ends at Lake Burton Dam Road. Turn left and drive 4.4 miles to Flat Creek Road. Turn right, below Seed Lake Dam, and go 2.1 miles until the pavement ends. Continue on the gravel road for 0.8 mile to the entrance road on the right.

### **TRAIL 72—ANGEL FALLS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah      Length: 1.6 miles  
Open to: Hiking  
This trail leaves the Rabun Beach campground, passes Panther Falls, and ends at an observation deck beneath Angel Falls. Last 0.25-mile is steep.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441 north from Tallulah Falls for 3 miles and turn left on old Highway 441 (sign for Rabun Beach Recreation Area). Proceed to Lake Rabun Road and turn left. Go 4.5 miles and turn right into parking area adjacent to telephone station.

### **TRAIL 73—HEMLOCK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah      Length: 1 mile  
Open to: Hiking  
The trail begins across from Moccasin Creek State Park and follows an old railroad bed. The trail offers excellent scenery and fishing opportunities along Moccasin Creek. Trail ends at Hemlock Falls.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76 west 12 miles to GA 197 and turn left. Proceed to Moccasin Creek State Park. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 127 for 0.6 mile. Trail begins at dead end.

#### **TRAIL 74—BARTRAM TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah            Length: 37 miles

Open to: Hiking

This National Recreation Trail stretches from the Georgia/North Carolina line over the summit of Rabun Bald to the Chattooga River. The trail was named for William Bartram, an early explorer and naturalist. Some sections may have difficult stream crossings. Portions of the trail are steep and rocky.

**Directions:** Three access points are available. (1) Take U.S. 441 north from Clayton for 1 mile past Dillard. Turn right onto GA 246 toward Highlands, N.C. Continue on GA 246 and 106 for 7 miles, and turn right onto Bald Mountain Road. Continue for 2.1 miles, and take County Road 7 for 1.1 miles, (2) Take Warwoman Road (State Road 884) east from Clayton for 3 miles to the Warwoman Dell Recreation Area. (3) Take U.S. 28 toward Walhalla (east) to the bridge at the Georgia/South Carolina state line. Parking area is on left of bridge prior to crossing into South Carolina.

#### **TRAIL 75—HOLCOMB CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah            Length: 1.3 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at the intersection of Hale Ridge Road (Forest Service Road 7) and Overflow Road (Forest Service Road 86) and follows a short loop to its end on Hale Ridge Road. The trail passes Holcomb Creek Falls and Ammons Creek Falls, where there is an observation deck.

**Directions:** Take Warwoman Road east from Clayton for 10 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 7 (Hale Ridge Road) and drive 9 miles. Trailhead is at rock sign on right.

#### **TRAIL 76—THREE FORKS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah            Length: 1.2 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at John Teague Gap and ends near the west fork of the Chattooga River. Hikers will encounter steep and rugged terrain. Exercise caution if you attempt to proceed down to the river on an unmaintained extension.

**Directions:** Take Warwoman Road east from Clayton for 16 miles to Overflow Road (Forest Service Road 86). Turn left and drive 4 miles to John Teague Gap, where the trailhead is on the right.

#### **TRAIL 77--WARWOMAN DELL NATURE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah Length:0.4 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail makes a small loop from the end of the Warwoman Dell Picnic Area. The highlights are a small waterfall and excellent wildflower viewing. Area contains structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

**Directions:** Take Warwoman Road east from Clayton for 3 miles to the Warwoman Dell Recreation Area. Trailhead is where the road dead ends.

#### **TRAIL 78--RABUN BALD TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah Length: 2.9 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail provides a spectacular view of the tri-state area from an observation deck atop Rabun Bald, Georgia's second highest point. The deck is constructed from remnants of an old fire tower built in the 1930's. One of Georgia's rarest birds, the raven, is frequently sighted. The ascent is extremely steep.

**Directions:** Take Warwoman Road from Clayton for 10 miles and turn on Forest Service Road 7 (Hale Ridge Road). Proceed 5.6 miles to the trail marker on left.

#### **TRAIL 79--WILLIS KNOB**

Ranger District: Tallulah            Length: 15 miles

Open to: Hiking and horseback riding

This trail provides some of the most scenic horseback riding opportunities in the Southeast. It features both rugged mountain terrain and views of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

**Directions:** Go east on Warwoman Road from Clayton for 11.6 miles. Turn right on Forest Service Road 157 (Goldmine Road). Proceed 0.2 mile to parking area on left.

Map

**TRAIL 80---CHATTOOGA RIVER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah                      Length: 10.7 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at the intersection of U.S. 76 and the Chattooga River and continues north along the west bank of the river. It intersects the Bartram Trail near Sandy Ford Road and is often within the boundaries of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor. Several spur trails leading to the Chattooga River are not maintained. Anticipate numerous stream fords.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76 east from Clayton for 9 miles. Parking area is on left before the Chattooga River bridge.

**TRAIL 81---RAVEN ROCK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah                      Length: 0.8 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at the end of Daniel Creek Road (Forest Service Road 511-B). It follows the west bank of the Chattooga River, with spectacular views of the Raven Rock Cliffs.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 441 south from Clayton for 8 miles and turn left onto Camp Creek Road. Travel 1.4 miles and take the left fork onto Watergage Road (Forest Service Road 511). Travel 2.6 miles and turn left onto Daniel Creek Road (Forest Service Road 511-B). Four-wheel vehicles are recommended for traveling Forest Service Road 511-B.

**TRAIL 82---SUTTON HOLE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Tallulah                      Length: 0.3 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail begins at the end of the Woodall Shoals Spur Road (Forest Service Road 290-A) and ends on the west bank of the Chattooga River.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 76 east from Clayton for 7 miles. Turn right on Woodall Shoals Road (Forest Service Road 290). Go 0.3 mile and turn left on Forest Service Road 290-A until it dead ends. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended for Forest Service Road 290-A.

**TRAIL 83---LAKE BLUE RIDGE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 0.6 mile

Open to: Hiking

This loop trail follows the shoreline of Lake Blue Ridge and offers a beautiful view of the lake. It is flat and a good trail for families with young children.

**Directions:** From Blue Ridge, take Old U.S. 76 east for 1.5 miles to Dry Branch Road. Turn right and go 3 miles to the entrance of the Blue Ridge Recreation Area. The trail begins and ends in the picnic area.

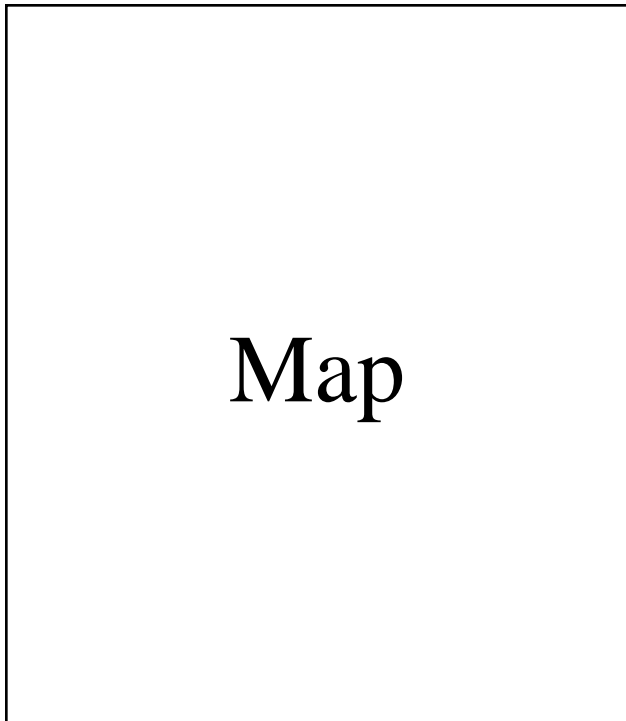
**TRAIL 84---ASKA TRAILS**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 17 miles

Open to: Hiking, mountain bicycles

These trails include Long Branch 2.5-mile loop, Flat Creek 5-mile loop, Green Mountain Trail, and Stanley Gap Trail. The area is accessed from Aska Road parking area at Deep Gap and from Stanley Gap and Shady Falls Road. A mixture of single track and former logging roads with elevations changes of 1,700 feet area encountered. The trails offer gentle to moderate hiking grades but are challenging for mountain bikes.

**Directions:** From Blue Ridge, go east 0.25 mile on Old U.S. 76 to Aska Road. Turn right (south) and continue 4.5 miles to Deep Gap. The trail crosses the road just below gap. To reach Stanley Gap, go on Aska Road an additional 3 miles to Stanley Gap Road. Turn right on a gravel road and travel 4.2 miles to the trailhead. To reach the lakeshore, go 2.5 miles on the Aska Road and turn left on Campbell Camp Road. Travel 2 miles on Forest Service Road 711 to the trailhead.



# Map

## **TRAIL 85---STANLEY CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 0.9 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail connects a parking area on Stanley Creek Road to nearby Brownlow Gap at the Rich Mountain Wilderness boundary. There is a gradual ascent (200 feet) from the creek to the gap.

**Directions:** From Blue Ridge, travel east 1.5 miles on East First Street (Old U.S. 76) to Aska Road (Harmony Church is on your left). Turn right and go south 8 miles. Turn right on a gravel road and go 3.5 miles to trail parking area. Directions to other access points are available through the district office.

## **TRAIL 86---TOCCOA RIVER CANOE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Toccoa                      Length: 17 miles

Open to: Canoeing

The put-in point for this canoe trail is at Deep Hole Campground and the take-out at the gauging station. **Caution:** *Do not trespass on adjacent private land bordering some sections of the river.* River is rated Class I and II, with currents averaging 3 miles per hour. Expect low water levels in midsummer.

**Directions:** Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for 27 miles or take GA 60 south from Morganton for 15.5 miles.

# Map

## **TRAIL 87---BOARDING HOUSE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 0.2 mile

Open to: Hiking

This hiking trail leaves the parking lot at the Scull Shoals Historic Area, on the east. The trail leads hikers through flat piney woods to the remains of a historic boarding house.

**Directions:** Take GA 15 north from Greensboro for about 10 miles. Turn right on Macedonia Church Road for 2 miles. Turn left on Forest Service Road 1234 and follow the signs for 2 miles to Forest Service Road 1231. Bear left on Forest Service Road 1231 and go 1 mile to Scull Shoals Historic Area.

## **TRAIL 88---INDIAN MOUNDS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 1.0 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail leaves the end of Forest Service Road 1231A and traverses the Oconee River floodplain to two prehistoric indian mounds.

**Directions:** Take GA 15 north from Greensboro for about 10 miles. Turn right on Macedonia Church Road, a two-lane, paved road, and drive 2 miles to Forest Service Road

1234. Turn left and go about 2 miles to Forest Service Road 1231. Bear left on Forest Service Road 1231 and go about 0.5 mile to Forest Service Road 1231-A. Turn right and go about 0.5 mile to the trailhead at the end of the road.

## **TRAIL 89--- SCULL SHOALS TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 1 mile

Open to: Hiking

This trail follows the Oconee River from the Oconee River Recreation Area to historic Scull Shoals Village. The walk is flat and relatively easy.

**Directions:** Take GA 15 north from Greensboro for about 12 miles to the Oconee River Recreation Area.

## **TRAIL 90---TOWN CREEK BIKE TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 15 miles

Open to: Motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and bicycles

This double loop trail has numerous creek crossings in the rolling piedmont of middle Georgia. It starts at a hunt camp. We ask that you do not ride when it is wet for safety and environmental reasons.

**Directions:** Take Penfield Road north from Greensboro to Shiloh Church. Turn right on a dirt, county road and follow until it dead ends. Turn left on another dirt, county

# Map



road and go 0.75 mile to a hunt camp on the left. Signs mark the trail.

**TRAIL 91---KINNARD CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee Length: 5.0 miles  
Open to: Horseback riding  
From Concord Hunt Camp to Horse Hunt Camp, this easy trail traverses piney woods and bottoms including a stand of old-growth loblolly pine. You will find this trail is perfect for a leisurely horseback ride.

**Directions:** Take GA 16 west from Monticello for 6.3 miles to Concord Church Road. Turn left and go 1.6 miles to Concord Hunt Camp

**TRAIL 93---OCMULGEE RIVER TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee Length: 2.5 miles  
Open to: Hiking, horseback riding  
This hiking and horse trail follows flat, piney woods along the Ocmulgee River.

**Directions:** Take GA 83 south from Monticello for about 13 miles. Turn north on Forest Service Road 1099 and go about 1 mile to the Ocmulgee Flats Hunt Camp. The trail begins behind the hunt camp.

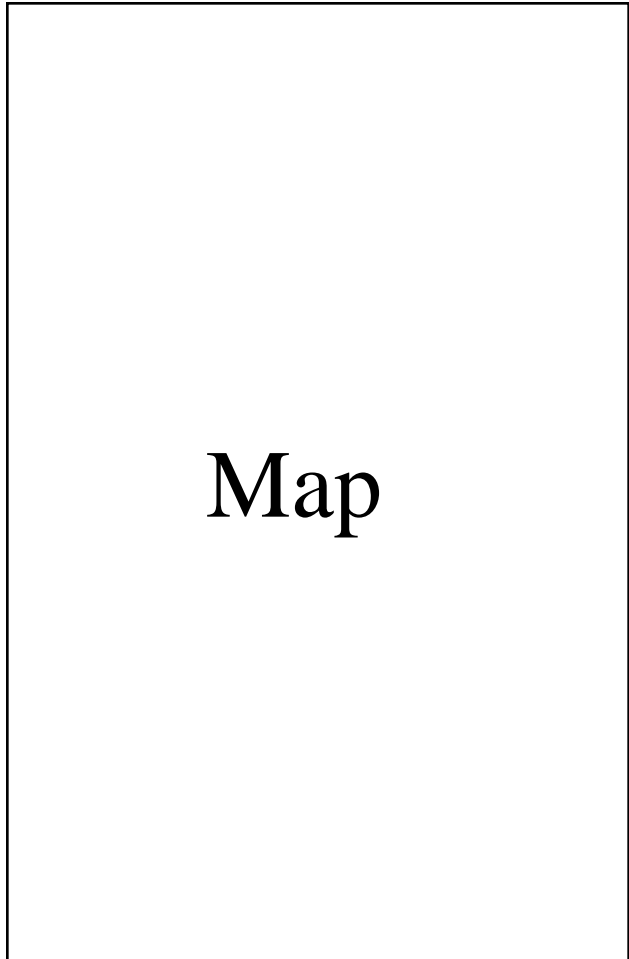


*Ocmulgee River*

**TRAIL 93---WISE CREEK TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee Length: 4.5 miles  
Open to: Hiking, horseback riding  
This trail goes through piney woods and hardwood bottoms. It follows the Ocmulgee River and climbs back through piney woods. It is easy to walk and perfect for horseback riding.

**Directions:** Take GA 83 south from Monticello for 6.6 miles to Clay Road. Turn right and go 2.5 miles to McElheney’s Crossroads. Turn left on a single-lane gravel county road. Go 1.2 miles, turn right and go 0.1 mile. Then turn left onto Forest Service Road 1019 and follow for 1.8 miles to Forest Service Road 1098. Follow Forest Service Road 1098 for 1.3 miles to Wise Creek Hunt Camp on the Ocmulgee River.





Map

**TRAIL 94—BURGESS MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 0.25 mile

Open to: Hiking and horseback riding

This trail leaves a forest road and meanders on an old road-bed to the highest point on the Oconee National Forest, 645 feet. Horses are allowed on this trail.

**Directions:** From Eatonton, take the Godfrey Highway (county road 213) north for 4 miles to Forest Service Road 1120. Turn left on Forest Service Road 1120 and go about 1.4 miles to the trailhead.

**TRAIL 95—TWIN BRIDGES TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 1.8 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail offers hikers an easy walk through a flat, forest.

**Directions:** Take GA 212 east from Monticello for about 15 miles. Turn left onto Twin Bridges Road and drive to Lake Sinclair Recreation Area where the trail begins.

**TRAIL 96—HITCHITI TRAIL**

Ranger District: Oconee                      Length: 2.5 miles

Open to: Hiking

This trail is in the Hitchiti Experimental Forest and follows Falling Creek and the Ocmulgee River. One section, marked 184 on the ground, is a shorter loop that does not go to the river.

**Directions:** From Macon, take U.S. 23 north for 16 miles to GA 18. Turn east (right) on GA 18 for 3 miles to Juliette Road. Turn north (left) onto Juliette Road and go about one mile to Forest Service Road 908. The trailhead is at the junction of Juliette Road and Forest Service Road 908.



Map

## “LEAVE NO TRACE” ETHIC

Many people use the trails described in this guide to access their favorite fishing, camping, or picnicking spots. We ask that you practice the “leave no trace” ethic so that the next person can enjoy a natural scene and so that nature can endure and replenish. Here are some tips to help you accomplish these goals.

### Plan Ahead to Avoid Impact

- Avoid holidays and weekends.
- Limit your group size to six or less.
- Repackage food to reduce containers.
- Take along a litter bag to carry out refuse.
- Carry a stove and choose foods that require little cooking.
- Buy gear only in subdued forest colors (exception in hunting season).
- Check at the ranger station for low-use areas.

### Travel to Avoid Impact

- Travel quietly.
- Walk single file in the center of the trail.
- Never shortcut switchbacks.
- Look at and photograph, but never pick or collect.
- Avoid popular areas.
- Never discard cigarette butts, candy or gum wrappers on forest floor.
- Walk softly. Don’t kick up dirt and stones or trample vegetation.

### Make “Leave No-Trace” Camps

- Select a site invisible from the trail and any other camping parties.
- Camp at least 200 feet from water sources and away from beauty spots.
- Use existing, well-used camp sites, if possible.
- Never cut standing trees and vegetation or pull up plants.
- Never dig hipholes or trenches.
- Wear lightweight, soft-sole shoes around camp.
- Avoid building campfires or make only small fires in safe places.
- Never wash dirty dishes, clothes, or yourself directly in a stream or spring.
- Use biodegradable soap and dispose of waste water at least 200 feet away from a water supply.
- Bury human waste 6 inches deep, at least 100 feet from water.
- Stay as quiet as possible. Leave radios and tape players at home.
- Leave your dog at home.

### Leave A “No-Trace” Campsite

- Pick up every trace of litter.
- Drown your campfire and erase all evidence of it, including ashes and unburned wood.
- Replace and scatter twigs and leaves cleared for sleeping areas.
- Pack out all garbage.
- Check for any evidence of your stay.
- For more information on the “Leave No-Trace” ethic, call 1 800 332-4100.



*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.*

*- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac (1949)*

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