

Hike the Trout Adventure Trail with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association and Trout Unlimited

(Flyer Revised July 3, 2013)

On Saturday, July 6, 2013, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association and Trout Unlimited will hike together on the Trout Adventure Trail in the Chattahoochee National Forest. There will be two guided hiking options.

Group 1 will begin their hike at 9:00 a.m. at Big Stamp Gap (as opposed to Springer Parking area). The hike will proceed from FS 42 at Big Stamp Gap up to Owens Overlook and back retracing steps on the BMT across the road and over to the intersection with the AT and proceeding on the AT down to Three Forks. After the initial 1/4 mile to Owens Overlook, it is almost all downhill and crosses several trout streams and passes a gorgeous stand of Hemlocks and crosses and re-crosses Stover before hitting 3 Forks. This hike features long distance views, a magnificent stand of mature Hemlocks, and several small stream crossings.



Meanwhile, **Group 2** will meet at *Three Forks on FS 58* at 10:30 and take the short hike up to Long Creek Falls and back. The Group 2 hike from Three Forks to Long Creek Falls is an easy 2.2 miles round trip to Long Creek Falls along Long Creek and features a beautiful waterfall site.



At Three Forks, Group 1 will meet up with Group 2 at about 12:30 pm for a trail lunch and discussion about the area's small stream mountain trout and efforts to preserve and conserve the habitat. Non-hikers are welcome to sign up for lunch and presentations.

After lunch and discussion, **Group 1** will be shuttled back to their vehicles at Springer Mountain. We will also ferry 5 mile hikers back to their cars at Big Stamp Gap, a drive of about 8 minutes.

This is a free event sponsored by Trout Unlimited, who will provide lunch. Every registered hiker will receive a distinctive Trout Adventure Trail patch. Hikers are encouraged to bring children and grandchildren, as the primary purpose of the Trout Adventure Trail is to educate and encourage succeeding generations to appreciate, conserve, and preserve forest habitat and waters. For detailed directions to the parking areas and for more information on the Trout Adventure Trail go to www.TroutAdventureTrail.org. Those in Group 1 who want to caravan to the start of the hike may meet at 8:00 am sharp at The Village Restaurant in Blue Ridge. Likewise, Group 2 participants may caravan from The Village Restaurant at 9:30 a.m.

To sign up for the hike or for further information, email trout.adventure.trail@gmail.com.

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