Benton MacKaye Trail

Great Smoky Mountain National Park
July 4, 2014

www.BMTGuide.com www.Postholer.com BMT Topo maps.

07-04-14

Greeting BMT Hikers,

If you are reading this, then you are most likely contemplating hiking the Benton MacKaye Trail (rhymes with Sky) or the BMT. Here are some notes about these files:

- 1. Background: They were created by www.postholer.com, a great resource for hiking information and journaling. They were created using data I've compiled and edited over a few years of hiking the BMT and they are by no means perfect. I'm constantly tweaking my mileages and waypoint plots. The mileages listing in my guidebook are consistent with the BMTA's Data Book for the BMT, and may not always agree with what the maps show on mileage between points.
- 2. Cost: These maps are provided to you free for planning and hiking trips on the BMT. We just ask that you support www.postholer.com in their endeavors, the BMTA in maintaining the trail, and maybe use my guidebook;)
- 3. Printing: The maps are created at 1:30,000 scale, NAD83 datum and decimal degree tick marks along the perimeter. Declination (June 2014) at map center is noted at the bottom of each map. All elevation values are in feet, not meters. 8.5×11 , 300 dpi, $\sim 1/4$ inch borders for best printing results. Print front and back to save weight and pack space.
- 4. Disclaimer: Neither I nor Postholer guarantee the accuracy of these maps nor do we suggest you use them in place of professionally prepared maps such as the National Geographic Trails Illustrated series, however you can hike with them and probably do just fine. If you get lost it is on you. And even with those professionally made maps BMT hikers usually get misplaced a time or two. It's happened to me before. One thing I should mention here is these maps do show the track of the BMT fairly accurately and do a pretty good job of showing the relationship of the BMT to water sources, campsites, etc. what they do not show very well is the trails that intersect with the BMT. In places like the Cherokee NF and Great Smoky Mountains NP blazing is minimal to non-existent. Knowing which trail you are supposed to be on and how it relates to the other trails in the area is key. If you do decided to hike using these maps, make sure you are familiar with the other trails. In the Great Smoky Mountains NP there is a \$1 trail map available at the entrances to the park that does that very well, and you may want to get one to augment these maps.
- 5. Have fun.

SGT Rock

www.hikinghq.net

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