



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2009

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

In this issue:

[From the Chair](#)

[Konnarock Crew - Grassy Ridge Relocation](#)

[Friday Hikers](#)

[ASU Freshman Orientation Outing](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Description of Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

## From the Chair

*(Steering Committee Chair and Office Chair)*

Vermont awaits! I have no shame in showing my excitement for the upcoming ATC Biennial in Castleton, VT. This will be the furthest north I have hiked on the AT by nearly 1000 miles or something close. Good weather, good food, good brew and good times are just around the corner for the handful of TEHCC members going. Was I suppose to talk about something in particular this time? Oh yeah, participation survey action items. Like I mentioned last month, we received excellent feedback and it pointed out some items we should work on. The work has started. We are scheduling more day hikes to accommodate busy families. More educational opportunities are in the works –

specifically backpacking and paddling. The Fall Dinner Meeting will see some slight modifications as well. Keep sending us your feedback and we will continue to listen. Next month – AT License Plate Update and Post Vermont gloating.

Happy Trails!

Jake Mitchell, 2009 TEHCC Steering Committee Chair, [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)

## Konnarock Crew - Grassy Ridge Relocation

**July 30-August 3, 2009**

*Leader: [Joe DeLoach](#), 423-753-7263*

When our section of the Appalachian Trail was routed across the Roan Highlands in 1954, much of it was laid out to go straight up and down the ridges. This makes for steep hiking and bad erosion. We've been addressing these problems through relocations for many years. Probably our worst remaining section is between Yellow Mountain Gap south to the shoulder of Grassy Ridge. Hard Core and student groups have already made many improvements. This summer we are working with the Konnarock Crew to relocate the longest remaining section, south of the Stan Murray Shelter towards Grassy Ridge. The Crew arrives on Thursday and works until Monday morning. Volunteers are sought for any of these days; however, the most productive days to volunteer are the full days of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Volunteers who work at least five days with Konnarock qualify for a T-shirt; which won't be easy with only two weeks this year. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the parking lot near Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City. Other meeting spots can be arranged on request. Bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Please contact Joe if you're interested in coming so we'll have tools ready, or for more information.

## Friday Hikers

The Friday Hikers are members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts who hike each Friday in the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia area. Trips typically leave from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8am. Trips to places farther away leave at 7:30am. The

group is VERY punctual. They leave on time so don't be late! If you wish to join them, contact Collins Chew (vcchew@chartertn.net) to be added to the distribution list.

## ASU Freshman Orientation Outing, August 29, 2009

Every year, the freshman class from Watauga College of Appalachian State University works with TEHCC on a trail improvement project. This year, we have some approved relocations around Watauga Lake that will not only reduce some of the short steep sections, but also provide many more scenic views of the lake. The ASU students are coming to help us with some of these relocations on Saturday, August 29. There are usually about 100 students; so help from Club members is very much needed. There are many tasks required, so please plan to come even if you have no trail building experience. Contact Ed Oliver, 423-349-6668 for more information or if you're interested in participating.



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for July:

Michael S. Frost

Michael Housewright

Susan McKinney

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
Jul 30-Aug 3	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
Aug 1	AT: Blackstack Cliffs	A/3/B	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Aug 1	Lower Watauga River (every Saturday thru Labor Day)	Class I-II	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
Aug 6	Paddle to the Grill (every Thursday)	Flatwater	Deb Reynolds	<a href="mailto:dlreynolds@eastman.com">dlreynolds@eastman.com</a>
Aug 11	Two-fer Tuesdays	Fun	Marc Schurger	<a href="mailto:marc.schurger@tehcc.org">marc.schurger@tehcc.org</a>
Aug 15	Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike	B/3/C	Jake Mitchell	<a href="mailto:jake.mitchell@tehcc.org">jake.mitchell@tehcc.org</a>
Aug 29	ASU Freshman Orientation Outing	Maintenance	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Sept 4-7	Backpack: S900M: Forney Creek to Noland Creek	AA/2/A	Kent and Nancy Wilson	<a href="mailto:akwilson@eastman.com">akwilson@eastman.com</a>
Sept 26	SB6K: Black Mountain Circuit	B/2/B	Jake Mitchell	<a href="mailto:jake.mitchell@tehcc.org">jake.mitchell@tehcc.org</a>

## Description of Upcoming Events

### AT: Blackstack Cliffs to Big Firescald Knob, August 1, 2009

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: A/3/B

This hike is for the great overlooking views up along a knife edge ridge on the Bald Mountains in Greene County. Although the trail is not dangerous to walk, this hike will not be suitable for young children. Also, the length is longer than the standard Viking Mountain out-and-back due to a Boy Scout needing ten miles minimum. Plans are to meet at 7:30AM (Colonial Heights McDonalds) for the 1.5-hour drive to the Viking Mtn meadow (via dropping off a car at Allen Gap). The

group will enjoy the view from the Blackstack Cliffs, and then head north to the Big Firescald Knob. Once done soaking up the vistas, we will return to the meadow for lunch, with the blueberries possibly being in season. If adequate transportation, some folks could call these five miles (B/3/C rating) enough for the day. The scout, I and possibly others will continue south downhill on the AT, past Little Laurel Shelter to Allen Gap for an additional seven miles to meet the requirements of the Hiking merit badge. Bring clothing layers, plus sunscreen and/or a hat as the ridge is exposed to wind and elements. Also hiking stick/trekking poles, lunch/snacks, and plenty of water are needed. The group will stop for dinner on the way back at a location TBD. Please contact the hike leader during the week prior so that we know what transportation arrangements are available.

### **Lower Watauga River, August 1, 2009 and every Saturday in August**

*Leader:* [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

*Rating:* Class I-II

Debbie will lead Class I-II Trips on the Lower Watauga River "most" Saturday afternoons from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The meeting place is at Riverside Park behind the Carmen Dugger Sports Complex in Elizabethton, TN at 3:00 PM. Bring cold-water gear and a snack. Check first to see if we are on, because in times of low water we may move the run to whatever is running.

### **Paddle to the Grill, August 6, 2009 and every Thursday in August**

*Leaders:* [Deb Reynolds](#) and [Debbie Briscoe](#)

*Rating:* Flatwater

Each Thursday evening in August, bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to the second boat launch at Winged Deer Park to paddle to Sonny's Marina & Café for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back. We plan to launch at 6:30. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFD's are mandatory. If you need a stern light, try the following link <http://www.boatbandit.com/portable-stern-light>. You can also search on-line for a portable stern light. A bow light is also recommended but not mandatory.

### **TEHCC Two-Fer Tuesdays, August 11, 2009**

*Leader:* [Marc Schurger](#)

This is an informal after-work get-together at Kingsport Grocery that takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. All TEHCC Members, Affiliates, and friends are invited to attend and get to know other members of the club; to learn about their favorite (or secret) hike/paddle, swap trail stories, learn about upcoming activities and to generally enjoy the company of like-minded hikers and paddlers. We will meet around 5 pm on the second floor of Kingsport Grocery. (Kingsport Grocery offers \$2 drafts on Tuesday.) This is a great opportunity to recruit new members and increase member participation in upcoming outings and events. For more details, contact either [Marc Schurger](#) or [Ed Montgomery](#).

### **Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike, August 15, 2009**

*Leader:* [Jake Mitchell](#)

*Rating:* B/3/C

Jake Mitchell will lead an easy moonlight hike to Grassy Ridge for some meteor watching (he hopes) from Carvers Gap. A sunset dinner is encouraged also. If you have never night hiked, this is your chance to find out what you have been missing. If the moon is clear, it will be an exhilarating experience. Headlamps or flashlights are a must. Hot chocolate and fine beverages are good too. Contact Jake if interested ([jake.mitchell@tehcc.org](mailto:jake.mitchell@tehcc.org)).

### **Backpack: S900M: Forney Creek to Noland Creek, September 4 – 7, 2009**

*Leaders:* [Kent and Nancy Wilson](#)

*Rating:* AA/2/A

Kent and Nancy Wilson will lead a Smokies 900 Miler backpacking trip on the following trails: Forney Creek, Jonas Creek, Bear Creek, Springhouse Branch, Forney Ridge and possibly Noland Creek. More details will be forthcoming. The hike rating is AA/2/A. Contact Kent Wilson if you are interested.

### **SB6K: Black Mountain Circuit, September 26, 2009**

*Leader:* [Jake Mitchell](#)

*Rating:* B/2/B

Jake Mitchell will lead a South Beyond 6000 hike in the Black Mountains. Aptly named the Black Mountain Circuit, this 8-mile hike will include the summits of Mounts Mitchell, Gibbes, Hallback and Craig. Of special note, we will get to see the

new observation platform on Mount Mitchell which was replaced and opened this year. We will leave the Tri-Cities area at 9am and return around dinner time. Contact Jake Mitchell if you are interested.

## For the Record



### AT Backpack: Devil Fork Gap to Allen Gap

*Jake Mitchell reporting*

June 26-28, 2009

The pre-hike plan was to hike from Devil Fork Gap to Flint Mountain Shelter (2.7 miles) on Friday evening after shuttling a car to Allen Gap. Day 2 plan was to hike to Little Laurel Shelter (12.7 miles). Day 3 plan was to finish at Allen Gap (4.9 miles). The total hike would be 20.3 miles. Hikers were Ryan Minton, Kevin Barham, Chuck Mather, Johnny Jobe, Mike Tuttle, Mike Chase and myself. One interesting point to this hike was that Kevin was going to continue hiking south from Allen Gap with the intention of making it to at least Newfound Gap and maybe all the way through the Smokies to Fontana Dam. He was going to call his wife to pick him up upon finishing. This was Kevin's first serious backpacking trip. His wife brought him over and he had solid khaki on - pants and shirt. He topped that off with a very nice Tilley hat. Less than 60 seconds after stepping out of the car he had a trail name - Crocodile Hunter. Enough said. Let's hike.

#### Day 1



*The crew is ready to start at Devil Fork Gap (L-R: Kevin Barham, Ryan Minton, Mike Chase, Johnny Jobe, Mike Tuttle, Chuck Mather)*

We left Mike T's van at Allen Gap which would accommodate 6 (sans Kevin). We took Jake and Chuck's vehicles back to Devil Fork Gap, took the starting picture and started walking. Within 3 minutes, we met a hiker; some guy who had camped way too close to the road. We made quick work of the 2.7 miles to Flint Mountain Shelter, arrived a little after 7, and set up camp. It was a pretty standard set up except I was trying out the TEHCC's Hennessy Hammock. I set it up in the yard the night before and it was pretty easy. The problem was finding two trees the proper distance apart that were not covered up in Rhodies and weren't the two trees the bear cables were strung between. The night ended with conversation about Facebook, graduate school, the Tennessee Appalachian Trail

License Plate and the ATC Biennial Conference. Overnight, we did weather a short storm that lasted less than an hour. I stayed alive in the hammock, but did find myself swinging back and forth from the wind.

#### Day 2

Morning came with the sunrise. We were all up and active by 6:30 and started hiking around 7:30 after various types of breakfast. After a 1-mile descent to Flint Gap, we started climbing Big Butt and it was a butt kicker. Turn after turn revealed another climb until finally we reached flat trail. Soon thereafter, we arrived at the Shelton graves. The Sheltons were Union soldiers in the Civil War. A little more hiking brought us to Big Rock, the summit of Big Butt. We climbed it to take advantage of the cool breeze, not the views. We were socked in 100%. After a short break, we walked the better part of a mile through a beautiful meadow. We then scooted on down to Jerry Cabin for a morning snack. We didn't stay long because the gnats were getting ferocious. A piece of paper said that water was on the AT 50 yards from the shelter. They lied. We didn't see water again for hours. Correction - we didn't see water that we wanted to hike to for hours. The next part of the trip was something I had been looking forward to for a long time - Big Firescald Knob, Little Firescald Knob, Blackstack Cliffs and Camp Creek Bald. We reached the bypass trail and of course took the AT. We climbed rock

after rock and poured out gallons of sweat as the humidity reached 1000%. Finally, we broke through treeline, but never found a good place to stop, feel the breeze and take a break. We eventually did, but it didn't last long because Blackstack Cliffs waited ahead. The views were limited on the Knobs because of the fog. We got the occasional glimpse of Greene County, TN and Madison County, NC. Upon reaching the side trail to Blackstack Cliffs, I was hesitant to go out there. I was tired, nearly out of water and did not want to waste my time if it was socked in. I shouldn't have gone. It was indeed socked in and the trail was overgrown making it hard to find. We then marched towards Camp Creek Bald and hoped to find water. We found a good little stream trickling out from under the trail. I pumped three 96-oz bags for the crew. We guzzled and topped off before making the so-we-thought glorious summit of Camp Creek Bald. Unfortunately, the fire tower was on a side trail and we did not go to it. I need to study my map and go back for another visit. It was 1 mile to Little Laurel Shelter and rest. Earlier in the day, I made the comment that if we made it to Little Laurel Shelter by 4pm, I would be tempted to finish the day. We made it by 2:30. We all took brief naps, ate dinner and hoisted our packs one more time to finish the trip and day. We floated down the trail because we knew cold drinks, warm showers and soft beds waited for us at home. We hammered out the remaining 5 miles in about 1 hour and 45 minutes for a 6:30pm finish. We had hiked 20.3 miles in 24 hours. Not too shabby. Kevin stayed behind to continue hiking. We shook hands, gave him his resupply and kicked him down the trail.

I will definitely make plans to re hike this section; maybe in the fall when the humidity is less and the views are better.



## AT Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** June 26, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut and clear blowdowns and annual growth

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** Five blowdowns were removed; all except the trunk on two trees south of Temple Hill Gap. The Trail is passable from Spivey to Temple Hill Gap

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 27, 2009

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers Gap to Toll House Gap

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We drove in stakes that hold the steps and logs in place on the first stretch to the old Hack Line. Some of them had loosened from frost heaving. We cut briars and weeds and dug out some of the drainage ditches which had filled. The parallel blowdowns reported by hikers were significantly worse obstructions than we had anticipated; they are gone now. We scattered three fire rings at the shelter and confirmed there is plenty of space in the shelter register. Spring at the shelter is running fine. We hauled out a small bag of trash. No sign of any volunteer trails at Toll House Gap. We left one fire ring for a July inspection trip.

**Reporting:** Chad Tate

**Date:** June 27, 2009

**Purpose:** Annual maintenance

**Location:** Section 13b, Doll Flats to Big Hump

**People:** Chad Tate, Chris Harrison, Joel Corley

**Summary:** We cleared the wooded section of Trail using swing blades. The field between Doll Flats and the wooded section had been bush hogged prior to June 27<sup>th</sup>; so minimal weed trimming was needed. We repainted blazes (water and trail) within the camp site at Doll Flats.

**Reporting:** Daryel Anderson

**Date:** June, 28, 2009

**Purpose:** Clear blow downs and weeds

**Location:** Section 1, Damascus south

**People:** Daryel Anderson, John Stout, Anne Maio

**Summary:** The trail is fine for hiking now. We took out one show-stopper blowdown that had many limbs blocking the trail. There was an abundance of wildlife including grader snakes, turtles, and bear poop on the trail. Much needs to be done south of the TN state line. We saved that for the next trip.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** June 30, 2009

**Purpose:** Scout an old road to Curly Maple Gap

**Location:** Section 19, Martin Creek Road to Curly Maple Gap

**People:** Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ed and I scouted the Forest Service road from Martin Creek to Curly Maple Gap to see if it might be suitable for hauling materials up for the shelter renovation. It looks like it might be possible with a 4-wheel- drive vehicle of some kind; probably something like a Gator or Mule.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** July 3, 2009

**Purpose:** AT maintenance, clear and cleaning waterbars

**Location:** Section 4a, US Hwy 421 at Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Jud Barry, Lee Bockman, Carol Broderson, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, June Donaldson, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Anne Maio, Glenda O'Neal, Rachael Richardson, Anna Sherill

**Summary:** The Friday Hikers cleared the AT and cleaned 63 waterbars between US Hwy 421 and Double Springs Shelter (3 1/2 miles) on a beautiful, cool day. Stinging nettle and blackberries were the major items for clearing. We also walked through to Cross Mountain for another 3 miles, and there was an individual excursion north of the section; so some minor, incidental clearing was done on adjacent sections. The trail is in fine shape. Many hikers were out and thanked us for our efforts. A rattlesnake was encountered north of the section.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** July 3, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut out blow downs

**Location:** Section 20b, South of Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Bill Berry and Joe Allen (Florida Trail Association)

**Summary:** All trees were removed from the Trail and weeds were cut from Spivey to Temple Hill Gap. The Trail is clear and in good shape.

**Reporting:** Steve Banks

**Date:** July 3, 2009

**Purpose:** Lop branches and cut annual growth

**Location:** Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to McQueens Knob

**People:** Steven Banks, Steve Banks

**Summary:** We had an eventful trip on an unseasonably cool summer day. First, we saw a bear while driving up the Forest Service road to McQueens Gap, a first for us outside the Smokies. We lopped branches and cut the annual growth between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. The annual growth, mostly stinging nettles, was waist-high in some places. When we returned to McQueens Gap, we found a couple of thru-hikers from Thunder Bay, Ontario. One of them had injured his leg and could not continue hiking. We gave both of them a ride to Damascus. We then returned to McQueens Gap and I starting cutting south from there. The annual growth was tall and thick. After cutting to about 0.2 miles south of McQueens Knob, it was about 4pm; so I turned around, cut about 1/3 of the small open area on the Knob, and then cut the other side of the AT back down to McQueens Gap. We saw quite a few hikers, all of whom were appreciative of our work. Both shelters on this section are in good shape. Abingdon Gap Shelter needs a new register and a new bear precaution sign. There are several blowdowns on this section, but all of them can be stepped over.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** July 3, 2009

**Purpose:** Eradicate invasive plant

**Location:** Section 15, Cloudland vicinity

**People:** Craig DeLoach

**Summary:** A field trip to identify and eradicate invasive plants in the Roan Highlands was publicized in local newspapers and on the ATC web site. A group of mostly ATC and agency personnel discussed invasive Colts foot and then eradicated with herbicides near the former Cloudland hotel site.

**Reporting:** Daryel Anderson

**Date:** July 7, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 1, Damascus to the Backbone Rock side trail

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Susan Erdeky, Joe Erdeky, Anne Maio, Bob Widner

**Summary:** It was a great day for trail work. We cut weeds that were in patches all along the AT from Damascus south to the Backbone Rock side trail, about a five-mile section. This will keep the trail well defined for awhile, as well as work to remove recent growth that obstructed blazes. In several cases, the best choice was to relocate the blazes. Recent heavy rains have filled the waterbars (about four miles south of Damascus) with dirt, so that they are no longer working. We look forward to another work trip to clean waterbars.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** July 7, 2009

**Purpose:** Discuss user impacts and perform routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** At the 2007 Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere conference, a work group was formed to focus on the protection of rare plants. The group is comprised of representatives from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, ATC, SAHC, The Nature Conservancy, individual scientists, and others. Many in the group were already involved in stewardship on Roan Mountain. The group convened a field trip to discuss alleged impacts to rare species habitat caused by users. Four sites on or near the AT were visited and three others on the balds were discussed. Restrictions on camping and campfires may be proposed, but the major outcome will be to monitor a few of the sites while developing objective measures of the desired conditions. Afterwards, the more routine tasks of driving in stakes for the steps heading from Cloudland to Toll House Gap and cutting briars along that stretch provided a good contrast from the discussions. Two posts are needed near Cloudland for Trail routing.

**Reporting:** Daryel Anderson

**Date:** July 10, 2009

**Purpose:** Clean water bars

**Location:** Section 1, About three miles south of Damascus

**People:** Susan Erdeky, Anne Maio, Daryel Anderson

**Summary:** We focused on an area about three miles south of Damascus that was in serious need of waterbar cleaning. We cleaned the waterbars that were still intact. However, work is needed to rebuild waterbars that need to be replaced.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** July 14, 2009

**Purpose:** Work on needed improvements and needed maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cut one small tree and cleared several waterbars, made several new dips in poor draining areas, lopped, and identified locations for two new waterbars. We checked open areas for mowing and decided a second mowing could be delayed until late August. We also picked up trash. We noted that someone has broken through the stile at Beauty Spot PA and one or more trucks have driven up to and south on the AT. We met two section hikers, two day hikers, and ten overnight campers.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** July 15, 2009

**Purpose:** Complete needed trail improvements

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to one mile south

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Elizabeth Dukes, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko.

**Summary:** We removed one tree from the Trail, dug one dip, built a log waterway across the trail, and leveled or rebuilt about 175 feet of trail. We also saw evidence of a four wheeler along part of the new trail about 0.5 miles from Iron Mountain Gap.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** July 17, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut grass across the Osborne Farm

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed grass and cut weeds on the AT and Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. Rain kept the temperature down.

**Reporting:** Tim McClain

**Date:** July 18, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US Hwy 421

**People:** Tim McClain

**Summary:** I cut weeds and got poison ivy.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** July 21, 2009

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 8, Relocation near Watauga Lake

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We measured and marked 13 sections of 200 feet to be relocated by Watauga College in August. Weeds were trimmed Trail south and north of 19E to near the Tweetsie Bridge, north and south of Buck Mtn Road about 200 yards on both sides, and north and south of Campbell Hollow Road for about 50 feet. Some campers have left a large amount of trash just before the first campsite on Watauga Lake. The trash was not removed as we did not have any bags. It appears someone is cutting some posts just south of Buck Mountain Road. Some tops of trees are in the first field near the trail. We did not check the rest of the field; however someone has had a tractor in the field. Also, someone is bush hogging the field adjacent to the Trail on Buck Mtn Rd and has built a fence around it. Horses were in the field.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 21, 22, and 23, 2009

**Purpose:** Biological survey of Trail relocations

**Location:** Section 15, just Trail south of Hughes Gap to Cloudland

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob and Ed helped U.S. Forest Service biologist Joe McGuinness and two summer interns, Chris and Max, survey for plants on the relocations from south of Hughes Gap to Cloudland. In some places they adjusted the flag line to minimize impact on rare and endangered plants. The probability of getting approval of these relocations from a biological perspective is high.