

# BEAR CREEK

**LAND OWNERS:** The property is part of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Cohutta District. It is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Management Area.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS:** None exist at this time but please help us avoid user conflicts by not riding before 10:00 AM during spring turkey season (generally during the months of March to May) and fall archery season (generally during the months of September to January) and to not ride at all during the fall firearm season, generally only one or two weekends during November. Call the Cohutta Ranger office at 706-695-6736 for more information.

## PLEASE FOLLOW IMBA'S RULES OF THE TRAIL

RIDE ON OPEN TRAILS ONLY  
LEAVE NO TRACE  
CONTROL YOUR BICYCLE

ALWAYS YIELD TRAIL  
NEVER SCARE ANIMALS  
PLAN AHEAD

## HIGHLIGHTS / TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Bear Creek / Bear Creek Loop trails are some of the oldest mountain bike trails in Gilmer county. These trails opened to bikes in 1990 from a joint effort from SORBA and the Cohutta District of the US Forest Service. The Bear Creek trail climbs along side Bear Creek for several miles. Do not miss the Gennett Poplar tree on the left at mile 2.92. The Loop trail is a gravel road that is closed to motorized traffic except during hunting season, usually held during November. Riders making the climb to the overlook will have spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. If you plan to ride this trail during the fall months check with the Cohutta District office for hunting season dates. While no regulations are in place that prohibit bicycle use during hunting season we strongly encourage bicyclists to not ride this trail during the firearm deer hunting season or before 10 AM during archery or the spring turkey season so as to reduce user conflicts.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From the Ellijay town square follow GA Hwy 52 West for 5 miles and turn right onto Gates Chapel Road. Look for milepost 8 and signs for Bear Creek and Lake Conasauga. Follow Gates Chapel Road 5 miles to FS Road # 241. You make take FS #241 up to the lower trailhead or park on the side of Gates Chapel Road just past FS #241. If you do park on the side of Gates Chapel Road please be considerate of our neighbors that live on this road. They do not want to see you using the bathroom, changing your clothes, or standing in the road.

## RIDING DIRECTIONS:

Note: This is just one of our favorite ways to ride this great trail. Other routes as well as shorter loops exist. Refer to the map.

From start ride up FS road # 241

Mile 1.21 road forks – turn left (the right fork goes to the campground).

Mile 2.04 Lower Bear Creek trailhead. Continue straight along the creek going upstream on the Bear Creek trail (do not take the Bear Creek loop at this point).

Mile 2.52 Old logging road enters from left. Veer to the right and cross Little Bear Creek. (point #1 on map)

Mile 2.78 Cross Bear Creek. (point #2 on map)

Mile 2.92 Gennett Poplar tree on the left. (point #3 on map)

Mile 3.13 Turn right onto Bear Creek Loop. (point #4 on map)

Mile 3.31 Turn left onto gravel doubletrack. (point #5 on map)

Mile 3.89 Pinhoti trail exits to right continue straight on gravel doubletrack. (point #6 on map)

Mile 4.62 Gate across road, go around gate and continue straight on gravel doubletrack. (point #7 on map)

Mile 4.65 Primitive camping site.

Mile 5.69 Bear Creek Loop / Bear Creek Trail intersection (point #8 on map). If you have had enough climbing turn to the left and descend back down via the Bear Creek Trail. OR turn right and continue climbing another 1.5 miles to the Bear Creek Overlook (point #11 on map)

Additional points shown on map

Point 10 – Intersection of Bear Creek Loop Trail and FS Road 68

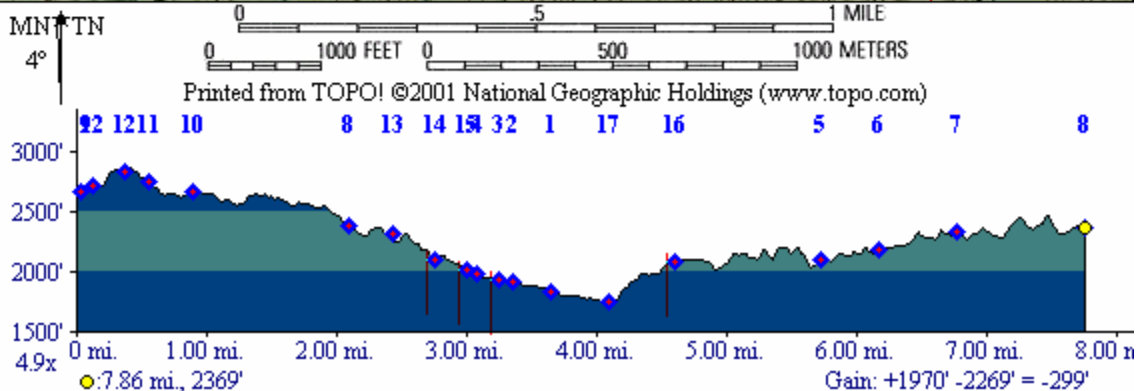
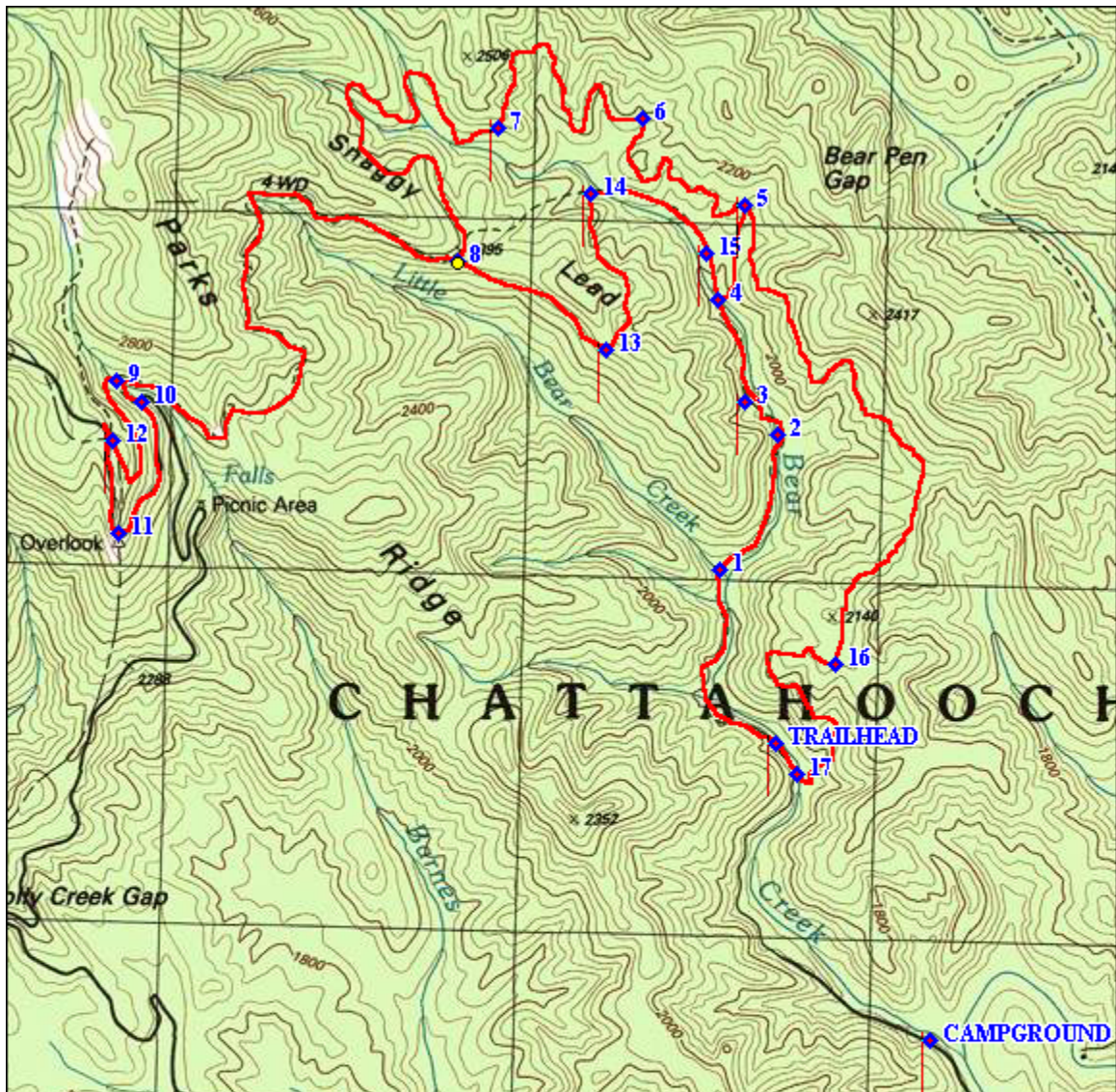
Point 12 – Upper Bear Creek Trail parking lot.

Point 13 – Sharp turn at double whoop de doo at edge of wildlife opening

Point 14 – Trail leaves Bear Creek

Point 15 – Cross Bear Creek

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Help promote mountain biking in the Southeastern United States by joining the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) at [www.sorba.org](http://www.sorba.org). SORBA builds, maintains, and strives to preserve the trails we ride on.

Map produced by the SORBA-Ellijay Mountain Bike Association. Map and mileage shown are to be used as a reference only. User of map accepts all responsibility and by using this map and data agrees not to hold SORBA, the SORBA-Ellijay Mountain Bike Association, Georgia Department of Natural Resources or the Chattahoochee National Forest responsible for loss of property or health while visiting the area described on this map.