

INVENTORY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS

AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS IN RUSSELL COUNTY

Bike Routes: **TransAmerica Bicentennial Bike Route** Exists (302)

Counties: Russell/Dickenson/Buchanan

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Bicycle_Route_76

Follows Hwy 80 at Elk Horn City near the Breaks into Virginia and continues eastward

Stewards are the Adventure Cycling Club - <http://www.adventurecycling.org/>

Recommendation: A review of the route should be done due to traffic changes over time.

Once route is confirmed, website should be update and route promoted and marketed.

Bike Route & Scenic Drive: **Heart of Appalachia Bike Route** Exists (88)

Counties: Russell/Wise/Tazewell

<http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=15992>

The Heart of Appalachia Bike Route runs from Burke's Garden in Tazewell County to Guest River Gorge in Wise County on roughly half paved/half gravel roads. This 125 mile (with 40 miles of side trails) backroad and back country biking excursion. This route offers back roads, rails to trails, single track, historic sites, a natural preserve area, wilderness area, Amish general store, a pub, a swinging bridge, three scenic rivers, farms and coal country, and gorgeous views in Virginia's less crowded, more agriculture and mountain region, the far southwestern counties of Tazewell, Bland, Russell, and Wise. This route crosses the Trans-America bike route along Route 80 in Russell Co. which provides the only winery within a 100 mile radius. The section through Tazewell County is the Garden Loop which takes Route 727, 667, 666, 625. Including side trips, the round trip is 18 miles.

Canoe Trail: **Clinch River** Exists (VA Web)

Counties: Russell/Scott

<http://www.scottcountyva.org/pdf/Scott%20Co.%20Clinch%20River%20Trips.pdf>

The Clinch River flows through some scenic gorges and has sweeping mountain views. Some sections contain Class I to III rapids. The river offers canoeing, kayaking and fishing for smallmouth and muskies. Map on website includes all access points.

Canoe Trail: **Clinch River** Exists (Web)

Counties: Russell/Scott

<http://www.riverfacts.com/rivers/13441.html>

Canoe Trail from St. Paul to Dungannon on the Clinch River. AW Class: I , easy. Length: 18 miles.

See Water Trails below for more on this. Put-in Location Coordinates: Latitude: 36.9015 Longitude: -82.3081. Takeout Location Coordinates: Latitude: 36.8246 Longitude: -82.46331

ATV Trails - Proposed

Hiking/Biking Trails: **Sugar Loop Hiking & Biking Trail** Exists

County: Russell

This five mile historic nature walk also offers excellent biking challenge. *See Conceptual Master Plan by Community Design Assistance Center which includes detailed maps and site photos.*

INVENTORY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS

Multi-use Trail: Dante In the works

A conceptual master plan has been completed which details out both a 1.3 mile primary loop and a 6.4 mile secondary loop connecting Dante Coal and Railroad Museum to an abandoned Mine Portal. Potential to connect the trail with trails in Dickenson County at a future time.

Multi-use Trails: Primarily for hiking and mountain biking. Existing and Potential

- One starts at Pinnacles in Washington County
- Hidden Valley and Hyder's Gap Road
- Guest River Gorge Trail
- Existing and potential additional trails around Laurel Bed Lake

Public Fishing Lakes: Hidden Valley Lake Exists (231)
County: Russell

Public Fishing Lakes: Laurel Bed Lake Exists (231)
Counties: Russell/Tazewell

Scenic River: Guest River Exist (155)
Counties: Russell/Wise

Guest River in Wise County flows through a spectacular gorge on its way to join the Clinch River and has been designated a scenic river. Follows Route 72 to confluence with Clinch River. DCR Recommendation: The Forest Service should evaluate the Guest River's potential as a National Wild or National Scenic River (DCR, 2007).

Scenic River: Big Cedar Creek Exists (155)
Counties: Russell/Tazewell

Big Cedar Creek near Lebanon, 5.8 miles to confluence with the Clinch River has been designated a scenic river.

State Natural Area Preserves: Cleveland Barrens Natural Area Preserve Exists (251)
County: Russell

State Natural Area Preserves: Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve Exists (251/306)
County: Russell

<http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=15170>

The Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve is lush and offers visitors spectacular cliffs and breathtaking waterfalls. The Clinch River and Big Cedar Creek flow through this extraordinary landscape, which is known as karst topography. The rugged terrain has sinkholes, caves, sinking streams and unusual rock formations, such as The Pinnacle. The Clinch is home to various rare freshwater mussels. Big Cedar Creek is a trout fisherman's dream. The area, now managed by the state, had been managed by Russell County since 1946 as Big Cedar Creek Park. In 1978, Youth Conservation Corps volunteers developed trails and added picnic tables. Biodiversity here is abundant; no other park in Southwest Virginia has more species. Consideration should be given to acquiring developable land in the vicinity of the Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve that can accommodate river access and the development of day-use and overnight facilities to augment the natural and scenic attributes of the preserve. Any recreation facility developed in the area could increase the supply of canoeing opportunities through canoe livery services on the Clinch River.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS

State Natural Area Preserves: Red Rock Mountain Exists (251)
Counties: Russell (near), Tazewell (near)

State WMA (also hiking & fishing): Hidden Valley Exists (231)
County: Russell

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/detail.asp?pid=27>

Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area is located in Southwest Virginia's Washington County, and is bordered by Russell County along the area's northwest boundary. This 6,400-acre property is mostly forested mountain land with the exception of a number of small openings, developed and maintained to enhance wildlife habitat. Two thousand feet at its lowest elevation, the area's highest elevation exceeds 4,000 feet, indicating the rugged steepness of the area. Logged in the early 1900s when much of the area was virgin forest, the predominate forest is now mature, mixed hardwood. Hidden Valley Lake is situated at the head of the valley, from which flows Brumley Creek.

• With its network of closed roads, Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Area is excellent for hiking. Here, also, is the opportunity to view wildlife and photograph some of this area's unique mountain scenery. Hidden Valley Lake invites anglers to fish for smallmouth bass, rock bass, bluegill, northern pike and walleye. Map: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/maps/hiddenvalley.pdf>

State WMA (also horseback riding, hiking, boating, fishing): Clinch Mountain Exists (231)
Counties: Russell/Tazewell

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/detail.asp?pid=21>

• Hunting: deer, bear, turkey, grouse, gray and fox squirrel, rabbit, and wood duck hunters usually enjoy success on these ponds, particularly during the first season that opens each fall.

• Fishing: Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area offers anglers the opportunity to fish roaring mountain streams or placid, picturesque, 300 acre Laurel Bed Lake. A daily fee is charged for fishing some of the area's waters. Facilities: There is ample parking space. Two boat ramps are available at Laurel Bed Lake. A shooting range for archery is near the resident manager's house. There is a developed campground on the area and Raven Ridge Campground and B&B is just minutes away.

• Other popular uses of the area include: horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hiking and nature photography. A wide range of wildflowers attract visitors in the spring.

• Map: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/maps/clinchmountain.pdf>

Note: Clinch Mountain WMA is expanding its trails system and will be linking with trails on proposed DOF property on Brumley Mountain, which is currently owned by the Nature Conservancy.

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail: Clinch Mountain Loop VBWT Exists
Counties: Russell/Tazewell

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/loop.asp?trail=2&loop=MCM>

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail: St. Paul Loop VBWT Exists
Counties: Russell/Tazewell

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/loop.asp?trail=2&loop=MSP>

INVENTORY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS

Virginia Byway

Proposed (304)

County: Russell

Route 80 between Breaks Interstate Park and Route 19 in Russell County has been recommended for consideration as Virginia Byways.

DCR Recommendation: Apply for Virginia Byway status for section of road (DCR 2007).

Water Trails: Clinch River

Exists (120/155/289)

Counties: Russell/Scott

Two sections through Russell County have been designated a scenic river (Confluence with Little River to Route 645 - Nash Ford Bridge and at the confluence with Guest River), another section through Russell has desirable components to be designated (Nash Ford to Route 58) and the portion through Scott has potential components but requires further study (Confluence with Guest River to VA-TN line). Natural Tunnel State Park's staff members conduct interpretive trips on the Clinch River in Scott County. Access is fairly good where the TVA and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) collaborated in the development of a series of access sites.

Recommendation: Potential for being designated a Scenic River and establishing a Blueway trail on the Clinch River.

- The shortage of public access sites limits the duration and types of trips that can be offered. There is also a need to improve public access to stocked trout streams in the region.
- Inadequate parking and access trails create congestion, resource degradation and unsafe conditions during popular fishing days.
- Facilities for canoe-in camping and public rest stops are also needed at appropriate distances along each river. State and local officials should work with river user groups to develop a canoe trail for the Clinch and Powell Rivers. And develop a management plan that addresses law enforcement, education, camping, sanitation, access management and maintenance.
- Clinch River also needs additional public boat launching and bank fishing opportunities.. *See Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve for more on this.*

OTHER NOTED INFORMATION OR ATTRACTIONS

Archaeological Survey

Rated poor (132)

Architectural Survey

Portions excellent and other portions good. (132)

Biodiversity Ranking

Some areas have been rated very high, some high and a few have moderate to general interest. (247)

No Full time parks & recreation directors (267)

Recreational Planning Regions: Cumberland Plateau - Region 2 Exists (286)

Counties: Russell/Dickenson/Buchanan/Tazewell

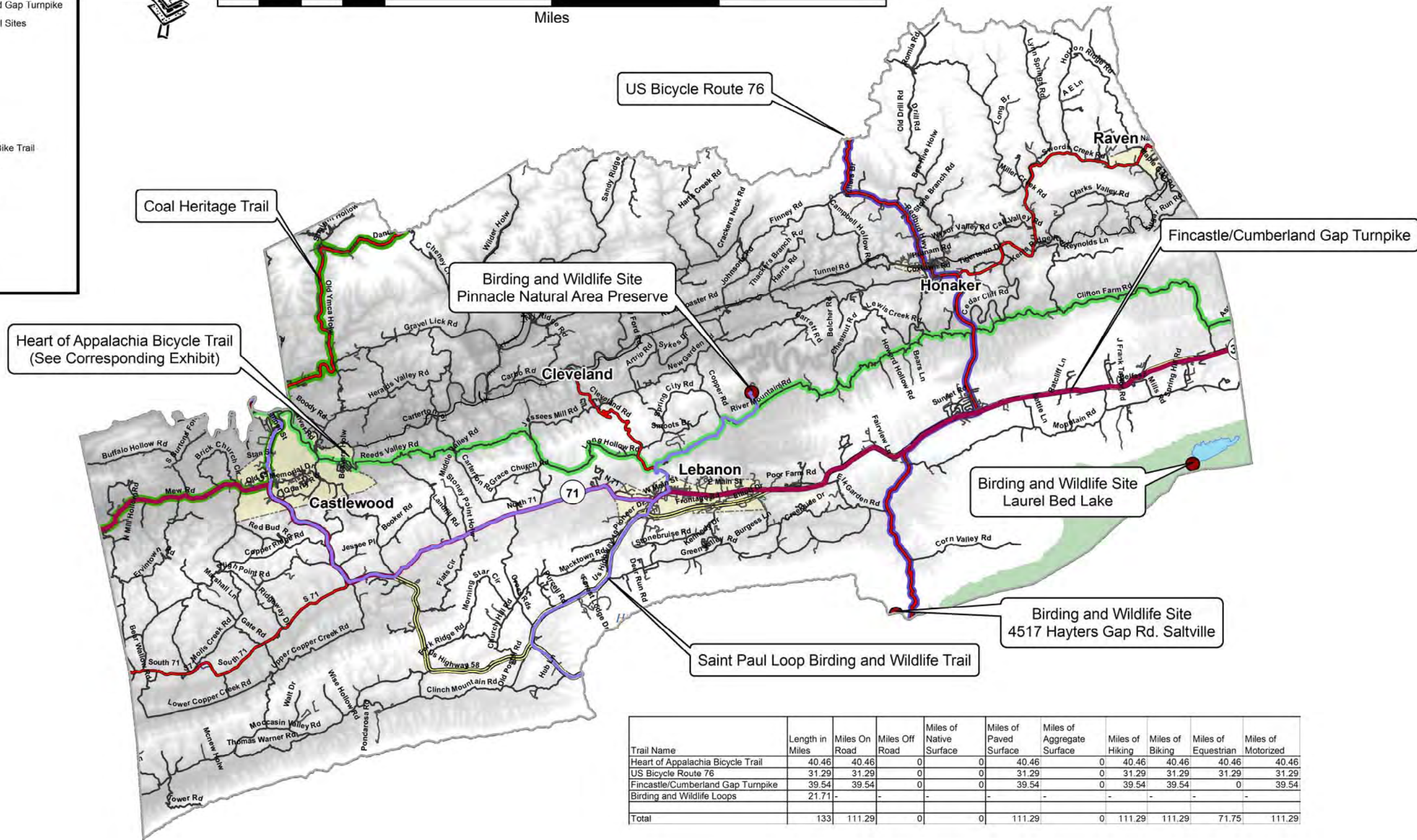
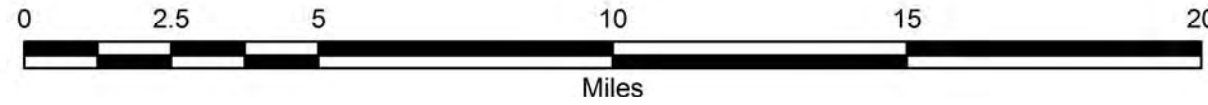
Legend

- Saint Paul Loop (Birding & Wildlife)
- Fincastle Cumberland Gap Turnpike
- Birding & Wildlife Trail Sites

Public Roads

Route Type

- US Route
- VA Primary
- Secondary
- Unclassified
- Heart of Appalachia Bike Trail
- US Bicycle Route 76
- Coal Heritage Trail
- Public Fishing Lake
- City Boundary
- Railroad
- County Boundary
- National Forest

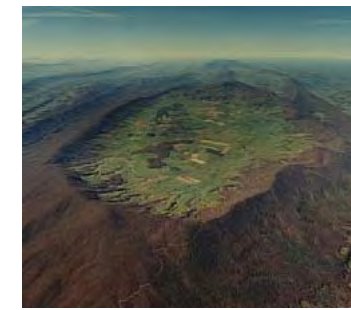
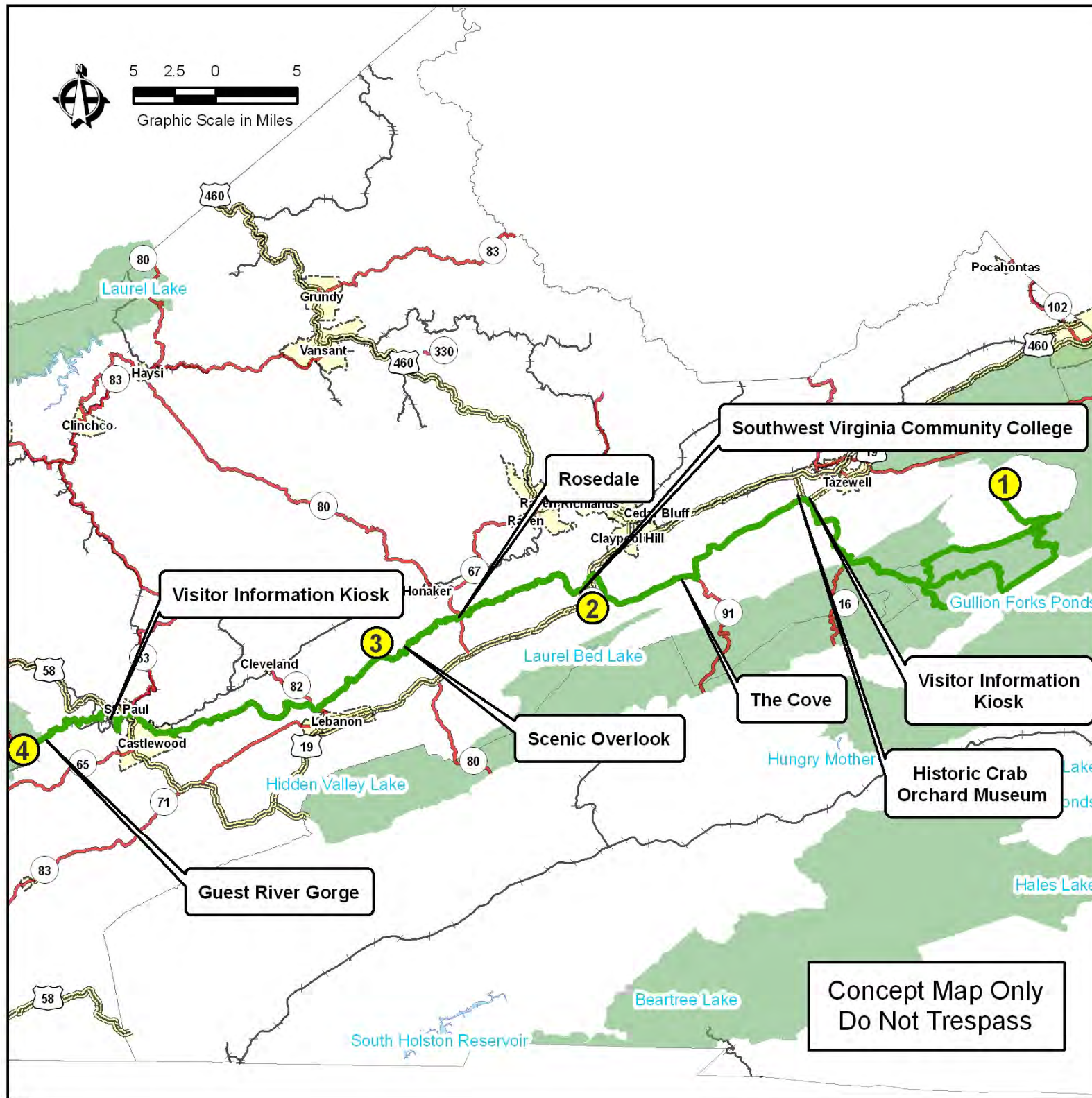


Trail Name	Length in Miles	Miles On Road	Miles Off Road	Miles of Native Surface	Miles of Paved Surface	Miles of Aggregate Surface	Miles of Hiking	Miles of Biking	Miles of Equestrian	Miles of Motorized
Heart of Appalachia Bicycle Trail	40.46	40.46	0	0	0	40.46	0	40.46	40.46	40.46
US Bicycle Route 76	31.29	31.29	0	0	31.29	0	31.29	31.29	31.29	31.29
Fincastle/Cumberland Gap Turnpike	39.54	39.54	0	0	39.54	0	39.54	39.54	0	39.54
Birding and Wildlife Loops	21.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	133	111.29	0	0	111.29	0	111.29	111.29	71.75	111.29



HEART OF APPALACHIA BICYCLE and DRIVING TRAIL (TAZEWELL, RUSSELL, WISE, DICKENSON)- Existing

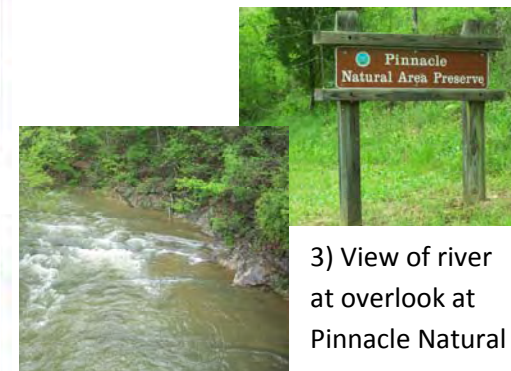
LET'S BUILD A TRAIL SYSTEM TOGETHER and REMEMBER
Always respect private property rights by first obtaining permission
to access someone else's land.



1.) Burke's Garden



2.) Southwest Virginia Community College



3) View of river at overlook at Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve.



4.) Guest River Gorge Trailhead

DESCRIPTION:

This route offers back roads, rails to trails, single track, historic sites, a natural preserve area, wilderness area, Amish general store, a pub, a swinging bridge, three scenic rivers, farms and coal country, and gorgeous views in Virginia's least crowded, friendliest region, the far southwestern counties of Tazewell, Bland, Russell, and Wise.

A tour of Virginia's mountain biking scene in the western-most part of the state includes the Mount Rogers Loop in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area near Damascus, which is a 115,000-acre wilderness region with more than 400 miles of trails, some of them exceedingly difficult and some climbing to Mount Rogers at 5,729 feet. The loop system has 8 miles of trails, winding over creeks, through valley meadows and across some of southwest Virginia's most impressive mountain peaks.

LENGTH, TYPE OF TRAIL:

The Heart of Appalachia Bicycle Trail extends 128 miles from Burke's Garden to the Guest River Gorge. Portions of the trail are intended for bicycle, walking and automobile driving.

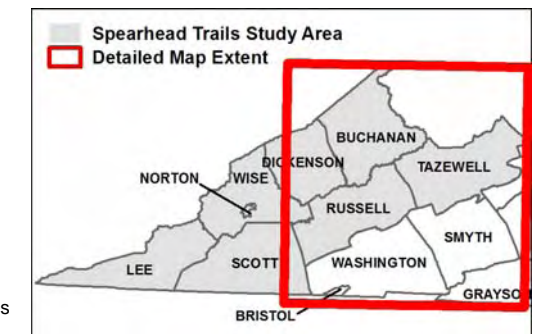
CONNECTIONS & DESTINATIONS:

From Burke's Garden to Guest River Gorge, crosses Route 80 in Russell County.

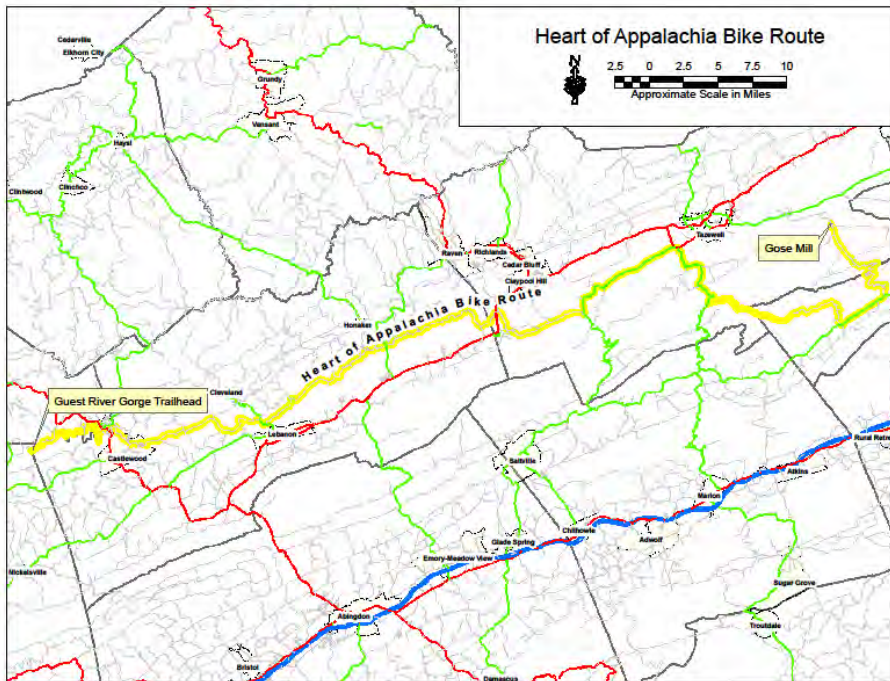
See next page for more on this.

Legend

- Proposed Trail
- Public Roads
- Route Type
 - US
 - VA
 - Local
 - Unclassified
 - Railroad
- National Forest
- Public Fishing Lakes
- City Boundary



THE HEART OF THE APPALACHIA BIKE ROUTE & DRIVING TOUR



The Heart of Appalachia Bike Route is 128 miles of roads and trails in Tazewell, Bland, Russell and Wise counties. The route takes cyclists through some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in southwest Virginia, and it provides a variety of terrain and surfaces, including paved and gravel roads, rail-trails and single-track side trips.

Begin in Burkes Garden, a mountain-ringed bowl 10 miles in diameter that contains some of the most fertile farmland in the state. From there, follow the route along sparsely traveled roads in the Jefferson National Forest, across U.S. Bicycle Route 76 in Russell County, to the end at the Guest River Gorge Trail near Coeburn. Forty miles of side-trails provide access to spectacular natural features such as Russell Creek Falls and The Pinnacle at Big Cedar Falls.

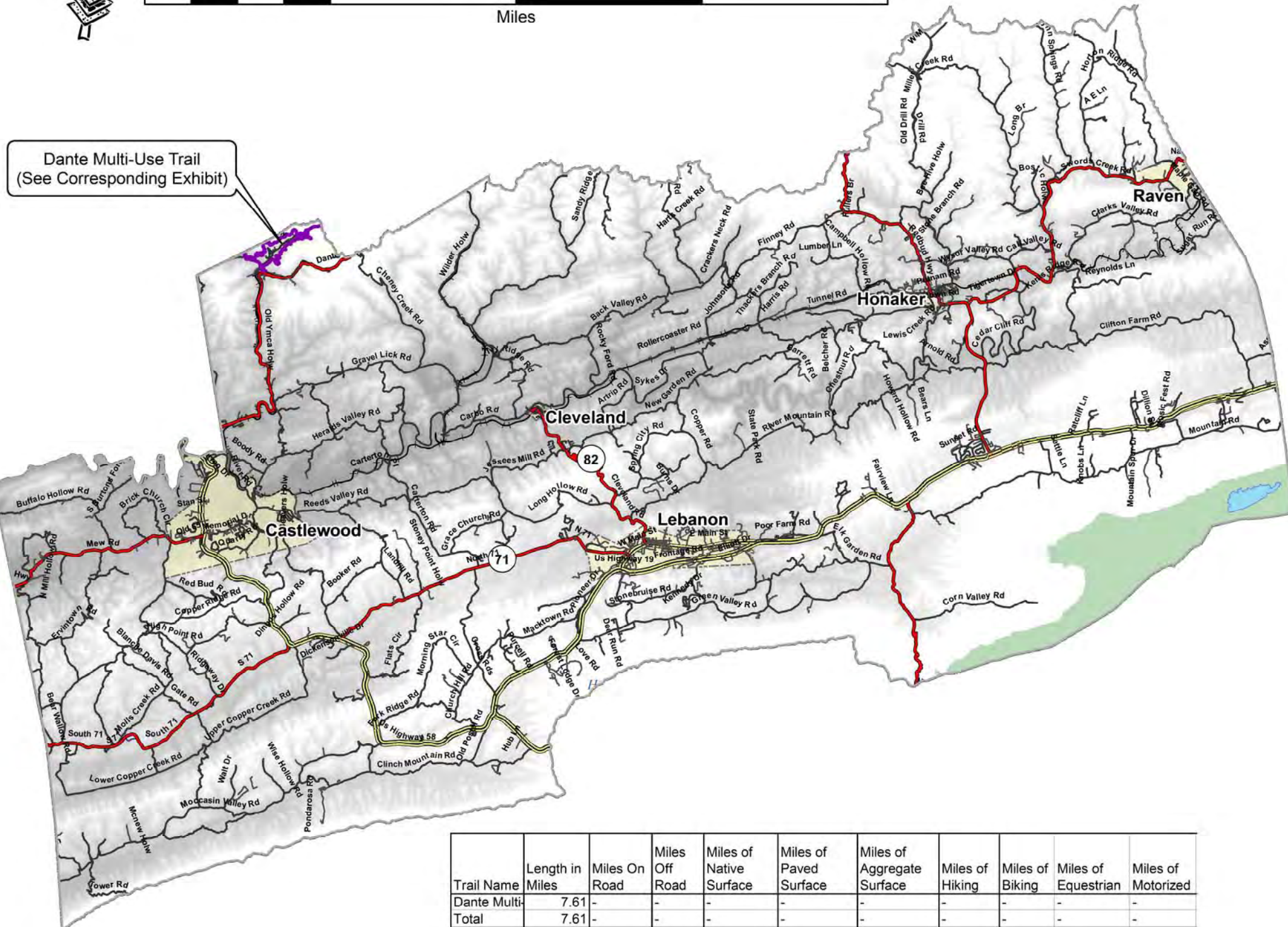
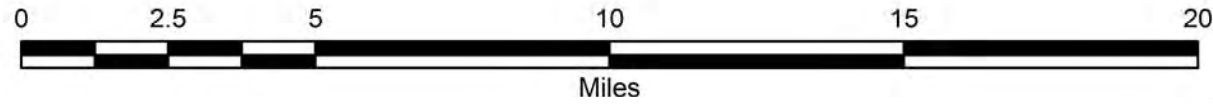
This is Clinch River country. The Heart of Appalachia route offers vistas of mountain valleys and a river crossing on a swinging suspension bridge. Since the ride uses both paved and unpaved secondary roads, experienced riders say that knobby tires on a road bike or hybrid tires on a mountain bike are the way to go. Approach the Heart of Appalachia as a self-supported ride; there are few businesses along the way to provide supplies. Plan ahead, and stock up in the towns of Tazewell, Lebanon and St. Paul.

The Heart of Appalachia Bike Route is the only state bicycle route in Virginia. It was officially recognized by the General Assembly in 1999, when legislators allocated \$50,000 to provide signage for the bike route and scenic drive in an effort to promote tourism and economic development.

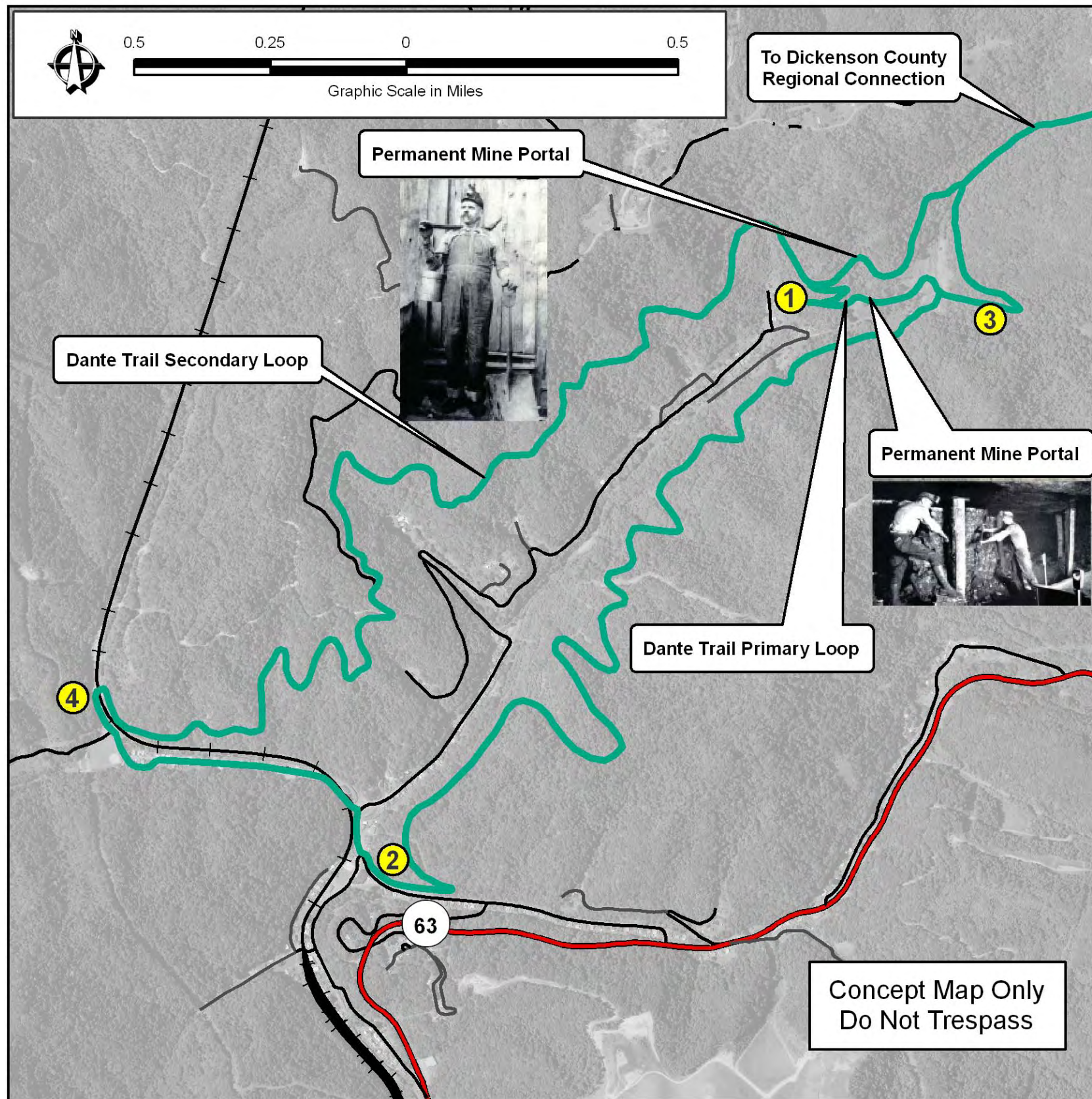
Information obtained from <http://www.virginia.org/site/features.asp?featureid=364>

Legend

- Dante Multi-Use Trail
- Public Roads**
- Route Type**
- US
- VA Primary
- Secondary
- Unclassified
- Public Fishing Lake
- City Boundary
- Railroad
- County Boundary
- National Forest



Trail Name	Length in Miles	Miles On Road	Miles Off Road	Miles of Native Surface	Miles of Paved Surface	Miles of Aggregate Surface	Miles of Hiking	Miles of Biking	Miles of Equestrian	Miles of Motorized
Dante Multi-	7.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



1) Water Tower



2) Dante Coal and Railroad Museum



3) Possible Trailhead Location



4) Baseball Field

DESCRIPTION:

Dante is rich in history and has many stories to be told. This trail offers one a means of connecting current residents and visitors experientially with history.

Trail users will walk along contour benches originally cut for mining operations. Resting points along the trail have been combined with opportunities for interpretive signage and observation of mining remnants. The way-points educate the trail user on particular aspects of Dante history, from its beginnings to present day.

LENGTH, TYPE OF TRAILS:

The proposed Dante multi-use non-motorized trail is actually two looped trails. The primary loop is 1.3 miles long and follows an old coal road. The secondary loop runs along the contour bench and is 6.7 miles. Both trails are designed for hiking, biking and walking.

LEAD AGENCY:

Dante Lives On Corporation.

DETAILED PLAN AVAILABLE

A conceptual Master Plan has been developed for the proposed Dante Multi-purpose trail by Community Design Assistance Center, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The master plan provides excellent maps and details about the initiative.

Legend

- Proposed Trail
- Public Roads**
- Route Type**
- US
- VA
- Local
- Unclassified
- Railroad
- National Forest
- Public Fishing Lakes
- City Boundary

Legend

Public Roads

Route Type

- US
- VA Primary
- Secondary
- Unclassified
- Public Fishing Lake
- City Boundary
- Railroad
- County Boundary
- Forestland Group Property
- National Forest

Digital parcel mapping is available for Russell County, but could not be obtained at the time of publication of this document. SRRA should obtain the mapping as soon as possible, so that land ownership patterns in Russell County can be evaluated.

Mapping of Forestland Group properties illustrated on this map was provided by the company.

Expand Existing Mountainview ATV Club Trails to Dante (See Wise County Proposed Trails Exhibit)

