



North Carolina's *Mountains-to-Sea Trail*

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1,000 Miles from the Mountains...



Adam Warwick, On Shortoff Mountain overlooking Linville Gorge

To the Sea.



Danny Bernstein, Sharon on the Beach

A tourist destination that can draw one million visitors per year.



Left: Chris Johnson, MST in Smithfield; Right: William Dunn, OFHC starts Wednesday morning hike

MST travelers experience the diversity of North Carolina. Most are day-hikers...



Official White House Photo of Day.

**And more and more people are now hiking
across the state.**



Charlie Peek, Trevor and Tennille 10 miles from Jockey's Ridge .



**MST travelers
experience
wilderness...**

***Matt Mutel, Relaxing at lunch
after a long climb near Mt.
Mitchell 2008***

Wildlife...



*Jim Hallsey, Green Tree frog
on MST Sign*

Small towns in the West...



Downtown Sylva NC

And small
towns in
the East...



*Train depot in
downtown
Burgaw on
Osgood
Canal
Greenway*

Rural farm communities...



Glenn Strouhal, Road in Coastal Plain.

Historic sites...



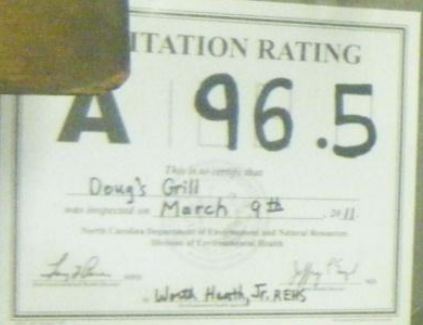
NC Culture, Bentonville Battle reenactment.

Places to learn about nature & history...



Douglas Prouty NPS Volunteer

And
people
who call
North
Carolina
home.



**THIS IS NOT
BURGER KING
YOU DON'T GET IT
YOUR WAY.
YOU TAKE IT MY WAY,
OR YOU DON'T GET
THE DAMN THING.**



*Lora Arrington, Doug's
Grocery & Grill.*

**The MST is primarily a
footpath built and
maintained by volunteers**



2011

Margaret Lillard, Volunteers at Falls Lake.

**Sometimes the volunteers
need help.**

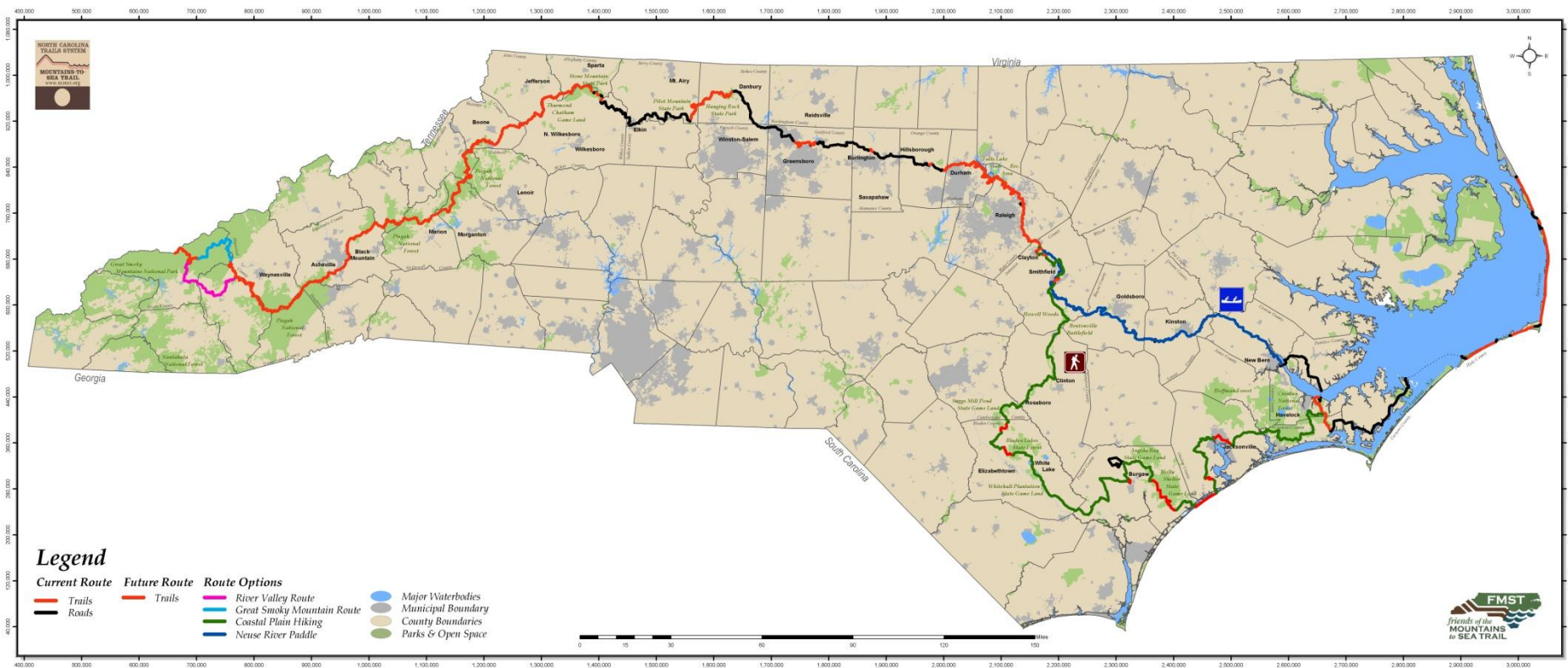


Gregory Scott, Installing the bridge at Falls Lake 2011

North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail - Statewide Status

Current Trail/Road Route and Future All Trail Route

March 12, 2014



FMST acknowledges the following data providers: United States Census Bureau; Protected Areas Database of the US (PAD-US); NC Division of Parks and Recreation; North Carolina Corporate Geographic Database; NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis; Piedmont Trail Council of Governments; Alamance County; Guilford County; Johnston County GIS; Jones County GIS; Onslow County GIS; Surry County; The Southwest North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission; Town of Hillsborough; Town of Smithfield; Haw River Trail; GPS data provided by Don Walton, Joe Miller and Carolina Mountain Club; Parks Lake GPS data provided by Jeff Fisher; Neuse River Trail data provided by John J. Janssens; Coastal Plain Alternative routes provided by Emily Dutton. Map created March 12, 2014 by Curtis Beyers.



Counties and Towns on the MST

❖ 37 counties from Swain to Dare

❖ Route goes through small towns including:

Sylva/Dillsboro

Roseboro

Elkin

Burgaw

Danbury

Surf City/North Topsail

Stokesdale/Summerfield

Jacksonville

Swepsonville/Saxapahaw

Otway/Smyrna/Davis/Stacy

Hillsborough

Towns from Ocracoke to Nags Head on

Smithfield

Outer Banks

Kinston

New Bern



Mountains-to-Sea Trail – FAQ

- ❖ 1,150 miles from the Great Smokies to the Outer Banks.
- ❖ Proposed in 1977.
- ❖ Added to State Park system in 2000.
- ❖ More than 620 miles of trail now built.
- ❖ With temporary connectors on back roads, people walk across the state.



MST is a public-private partnership

- ❖ **State Parks**
- ❖ **Segment Manager (Landowner) – often federal, state or local government**
- ❖ **Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail (FMST)**



State Park Role

- ❖ **Helps communities plan route**
- ❖ **Designates trail as MST when it is complete**
- ❖ **No dedicated funding or staffing**
- ❖ **MST has priority within grant programs**



Segment Manager (Landowner) Role

- ❖ **Determines users and type of trail**
- ❖ **May build/maintain or ask FMST volunteers to do it**



Friends of MST Role

❖ What is FMST

- 501(c)3 nonprofit
- Volunteer board of 13
- Two full-time staff
- 1000 volunteers
- \$250,000 annual budget

❖ Primary source of information about trail

❖ Volunteers build & maintain 530 miles

❖ Provides backroad route to allow hikers to complete trail across state

❖ Raises private \$



Recent Progress

- ❖ **140 miles opened in last six years**
- ❖ **Increases in**
 - Visibility
 - Number of hikers
 - Individual and corporate support
- ❖ **Strong, effective volunteer corps – More than 25,000 hours in 2013**
- ❖ **“Trail Town” program to encourage businesses and towns to support hikers**



MST has great economic potential if partners can...

- ❖ **Raise national (international) awareness**
- ❖ **Provide information to make it easy for people to plan their trip**
- ❖ **Local people and businesses provide services**
 - Restaurants and food
 - Lodging and camping
 - Supplies
 - Shuttles
- ❖ **Keep trail safe and in great condition**
- ❖ **Continue to build and open new trail**



Economic Impact of Trails – Examples

Appalachian Trail (2100+ miles – Maine to Georgia)

- ❖ 2 to 3 million hikers per year
- ❖ \$125 to \$168 million impact

Virginia Creeper (34 mile rail-trail – rural Virginia)

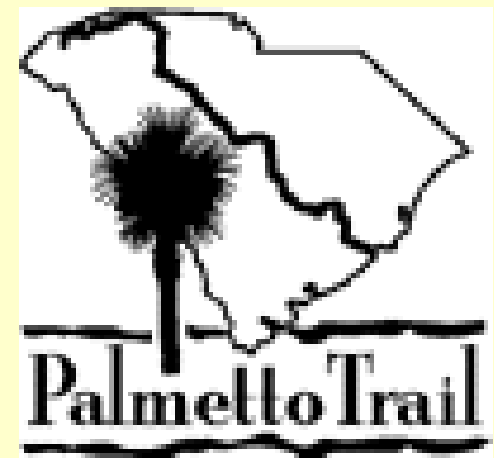
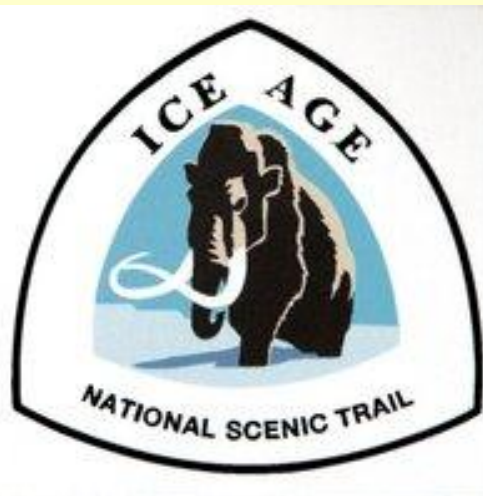
- ❖ \$1.6 million (2007 study)

Great Allegheny Passage (132 miles – Cumberland MD to Pittsburgh)

- ❖ \$40 million (2008 study)



Five Trails Studied





How to Draw One Million Visitors?

Successful Trails Have...

- ❖ Great routes with sites that people want to visit
- ❖ A clear vision and plan for what the trail will be and how to get there
- ❖ Dedicated staff and funding
- ❖ Strong partnership between the lead government and nonprofit

Questions?

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