
Mapping and Identifying Land Owners along proposed Adventure Tourism Trails

Study Funded by an ARC Grant through the Kentucky Department of Local Government



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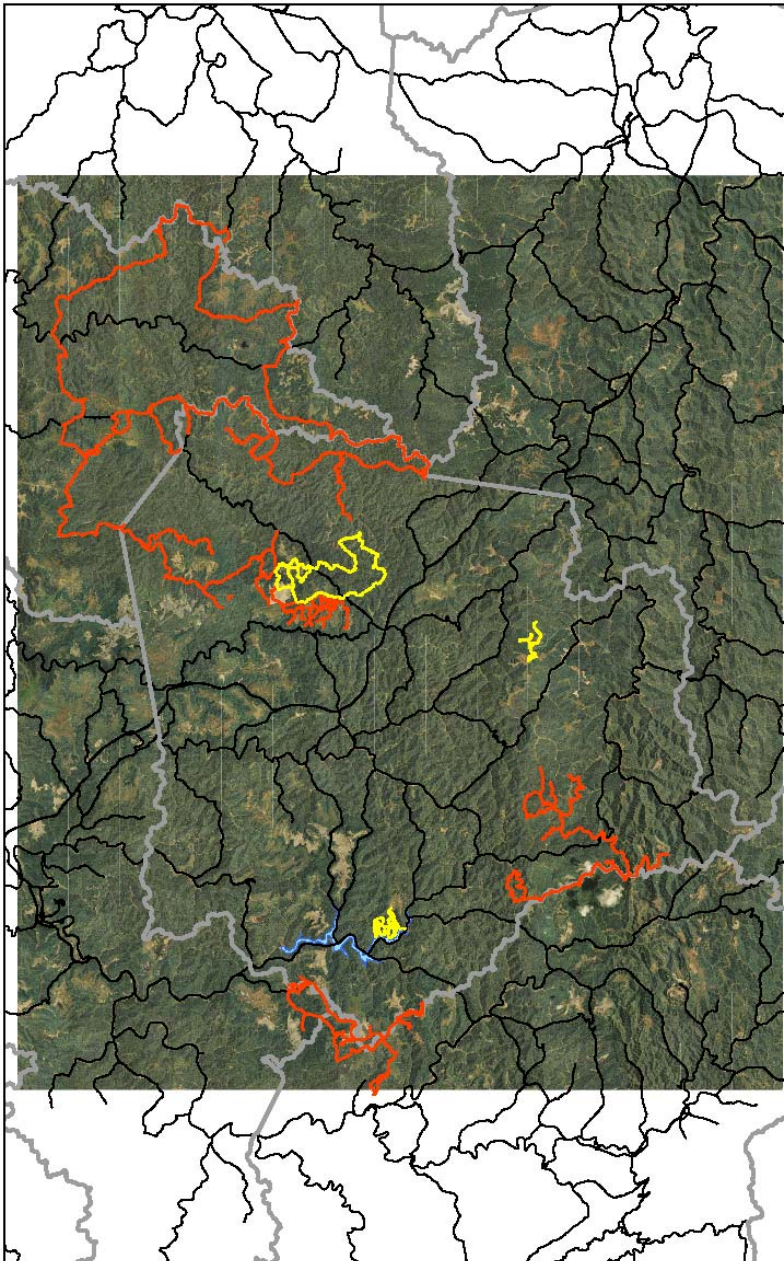
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Trail Mapping and Owner Identification Study

Develop additional trails as part of the vision of establishing a “county-wide adventure tourism park system”.

In 2006, Judge Randy Thompson and the Knott County Fiscal Court decided to develop a county-wide adventure tourism park system made up of a series of trails throughout the county. In 2008, the Knott County Youth County submitted and was awarded an ARC Flexi-grant from the Kentucky Department of Local Government that provided funding to GPS map potential ATV and horse trails within the county and identify ownership in order to obtain permission from the property owners to open the trails for public access. Over the past eight months, three ATV trails and three equestrian trails were identified.

Below is a map of Knott County which displays the location of each of the trails being developed within the county. Horseback riding trails are featured in **yellow** and ATV trails are in **red**.



KNOTT COUNTY OVERALL TRAIL MAP:

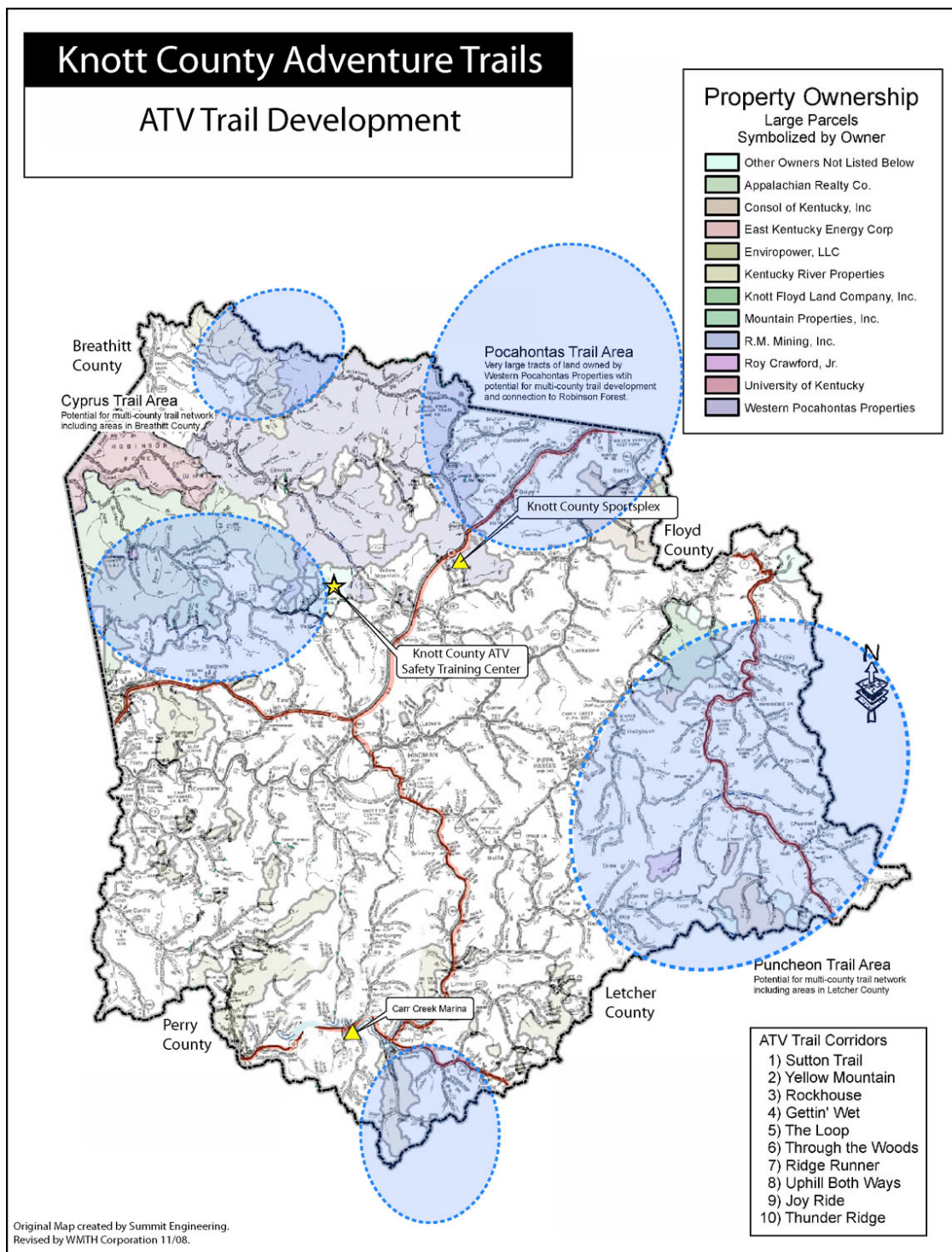
Trails* noted on the map include:

- Red Fox ATV Trail #4 in S.E. quadrant leads into Perry & Letcher Counties.
- Fire ATV Trail #2 in East quadrant leads into Letcher County.
- Sutton’s Elk View ATV Trail #1 in northwest quadrant leads into Breathitt County.
- Shingle Branch Horse Trails around Carr Creek Lake near Litt Carr.
- Martin’s Branch Horse Trails near Mousie will eventually lead into Floyd County.
- Additional horse trails developed on Western Pocahontas property in the northwest quadrant of the county.

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ATV TRAIL DEVELOPMENT: Potential ATV trails (highlighted in blue below) were identified in the 2006 Knott County Strategic Plan. The ARC Flexi-grant provided the funds to map and identify property owners to determine willingness to open the trails for public use. Best site locations for trailheads, camping, and basic infrastructure such as water and restroom facilities were also considered.



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NEW ATV TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

One of the first steps taken by the consultant was to meet with members of the Knott County Trail Riders ATV Club to discuss the proposed trail sites and request both assistance and support in the initiative. A complete list of members is provided in APPENDIX A.



It was recommended by the Club that we concentrate our efforts on the three ATV trails located in the southeast, east and northwest quadrants of the county. As a part of the study, each have now been GPS mapped and a number of the property owners identified. These include the Red Fox ATV Trail in the southeast quadrant of the county (which goes into both Letcher and Perry Counties), the Fire Trail in the eastern quadrant (which is being expanded into the Big Branch area of Letcher County) and the Sutton Memorial Trail in the northwest quadrant. (Larger maps are included in APPENDIX B)

PROPOSED ATV TRAILS IN KNOTT COUNTY RECENTLY MAPPED



Red Fox ATV Trail 4 in S.E. quadrant leads into Perry & Letcher Counties



Fire ATV Trail #2 in East quadrant leads into Letcher County



Sutton's Elk View ATV Trail #1 in northwest quadrant leads into Breathitt County

Please Note: All of the ATV Trails lead into other counties. Agreements will need to be made with these counties to allow this and possibly establish additional trailheads to the trails that enter from their counties.

On the following page is a list of landowners along just the southern section of the Fire ATV Trail #2 located in the southeast quadrant of the county, portions of which goes into Letcher County. Property owners in both Letcher and Knott County have now been identified and a number of them contacted to determine willingness to open the trails for public access. A landowners meeting was held at the ATV Training Center in November. Attendees included Fairly Mullins, Tommy Thomas, Randall "Moose" Slone, Jimmy Mullins, Corbett Mullins, Connie Holliday, Kenneth Amburgey, and Donald Slone. *Please Note: Donald and Kenneth's properties are located on the northern section of the Fire Trail on the north side of Hwy 582. The rest of the property owners are located on the south side of Hwy 582 and are noted on the "Property Owner Identification Map" on the following page.*



Prior to this meeting, the consultant, Deputy Judge Philip Champion and Fairley Mullins drove the entire Fire Trail route. They also met with Rudolph Honeycutt property owner who has agreed to establish a trailhead/parking area that will serve both the northern portion of the ATV Fire Trail and the southern portion. The trailhead site is strategically located just off Hwy 582 at the beginning of both the North and South Fire Trails. The Mullins family gave additional land along the Fire Trail to the Knott County Fiscal Court who will use the property for a second trailhead and campground. The property is strategically located on the Letcher/Knott County line and within a short distance of the Floyd County line and encompasses a portion of the Fire Trail. A Recreational Trails Program Grant application has been submitted to the Kentucky Department of Local Government requesting funding to build a trailhead/restroom facility at this site. Entrepreneurs in the area plan to develop a public campground in close proximity to the site.

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IDENTIFIED TRAIL OWNERS
 FIRE TRAIL – ATV

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP CODE</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
Martha	Greer	P.O. Box 45	Jeremiah	KY	41926	
Jimmy	Gibson	351 Holder Branch	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-5676
James E.	Haywood	314 Willard Branch	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-5160
Fairly	Mullins	847 Upper Carr Road	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-4371
Dennis Earl	Mullins	P.O Box 354	Monroe	NC	28111	
Corbett	Mullins	1787 Wiley Fork Road	Leburn	KY	41831	606-785-4002
Destry	Mullins	1331 Vest Talcum Road	Vest	KY	41772	606-785-0135
Persa	Combs	293 Millers Crossing	Shepherdsville	KY	40615	502-543-4390
Herb	Stapleton	247 E. Dorton Blvd	Staffordsville	KY	41256	606-297-6557
Doris	Beams	308 Jessamine Station Road	Wilmore	KY	40390	859-858-3168
Donna	Roe	134 Isom Drive	Isom	KY	41824	606-633-4306
Dana	Richardson	72 Isom Drive	Isom	KY	41824	606-633-4306
Robert	Adams	79 Sycamore Lane	Hindman	KY	41822	606-785-4986
Carl	Hall	2837 Highway 931 N	Whitesburg	KY	41858	606-633-9385
Tommy	Thomas	P.O. Box 134	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-4429
Gracie	Gibson	1216 Sherman Street	Bucyrus	OH	44820	419-562-8903
Ruby	Gibson	General Delivery	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-5528
Lawrence & Tim	Amburgey	1536 Kurt Lane	Clearwater	FL	33756	
April Hazel	Slone	1064 Upper Carr Road	Pinetop	KY	41843	
Connie Sue	Holiday Tax	1436 Big Branch Road	Hindman	KY	41822	606-785-5186
Consol of KY	Department	1800 Washington Road	Pittsburg	PA	15241	
Ronnie	Hall	7700 Hwy 582	Pinetop	KY	41843	
Rudolph	Honeycutt	112 Carr Lane	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-5149
Roy	Amburgey	Call to discuss				606-447-3265
Noah	Amburgey	Call to discuss				606-447-2589



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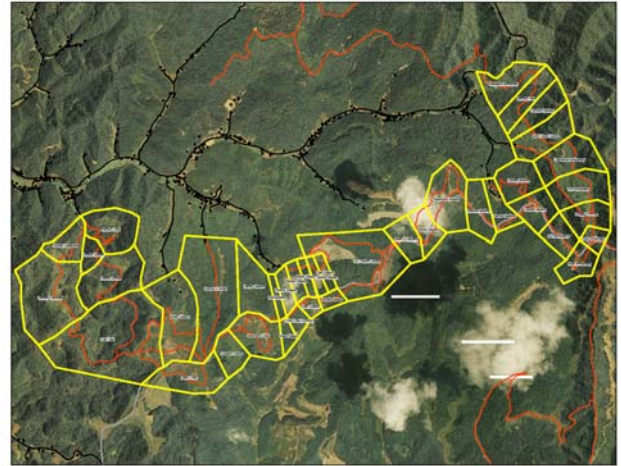
Dan	Gibson	6160 Hwy 582	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-3148
John D.	Holliday	687 Meadow Lark Rd	Pinetop	KY	41843	606-785-3429
Peggy	Thomas	1798 Mallie Road	Mallie	KY	41836	606-785-9352
Thurmond	Holland	110 Wildcat Drive	Pinetop	KY	41843	Unlisted

MAP OF LANDOWNERS ALONG FIRE TRAIL

(Larger map on following page)



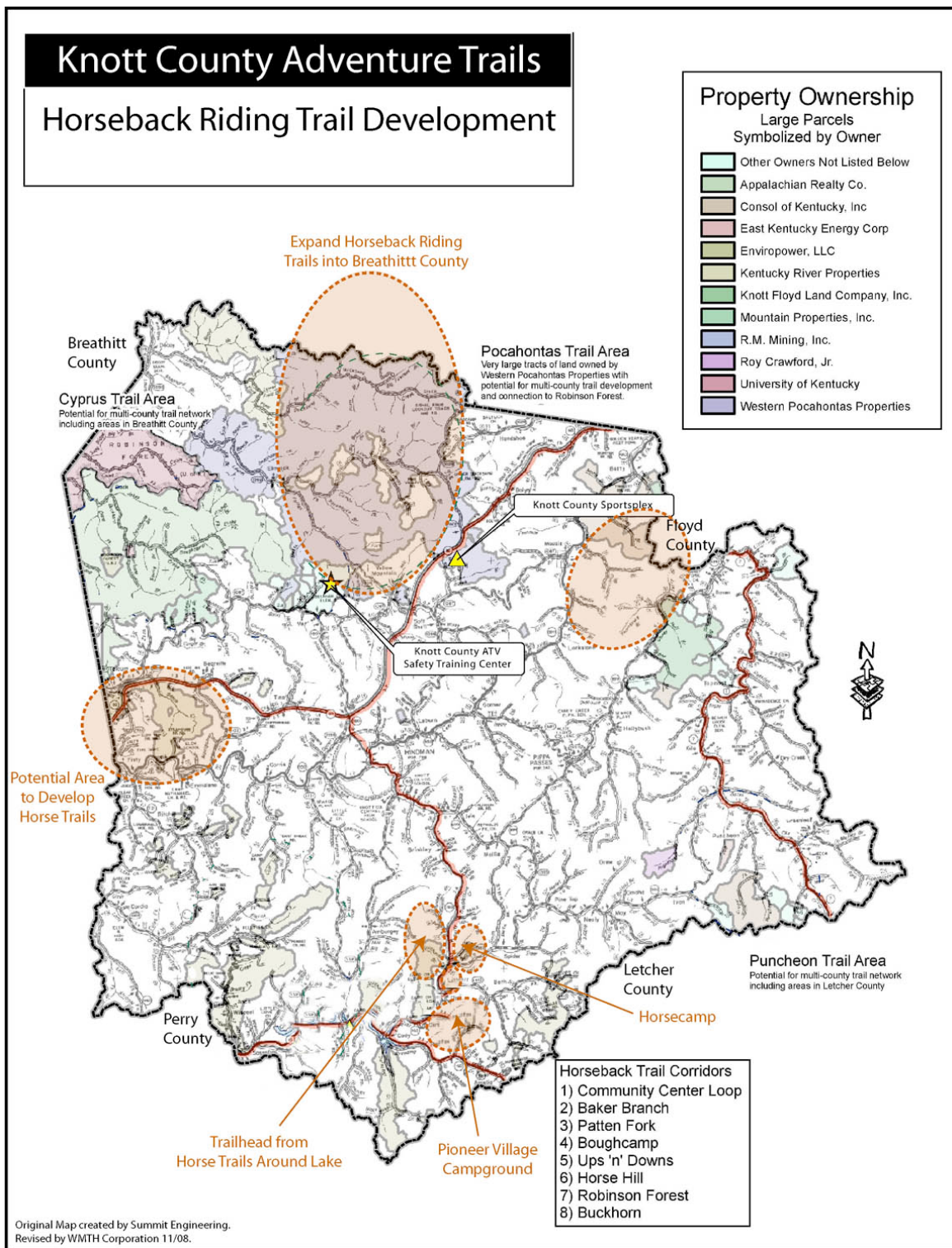
Fairly Mullins and his son acted as guides for Ron Cardwell with KRTA who help with some of the original mapping of the Fire Trail.



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HORSE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT: Potential equestrian trails (highlighted in purple below) were also identified in the 2006 Knott County Strategic Plan. Once again, the ARC Flexi-grant provided the funds to map and identify property owners to determine willingness to open the trails for public use.



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EXISTING HORSE TRAILS:

There are three horse trails in Knott County that have been developed, GPS mapped, and signage added. They are located on Western Pocahontas property in the northwest quadrant of the county using the Sutton Memorial Park near the Knott County ATV Training Center as the trailhead. These trails are currently being used for both the Spring and Fall Knott County-sponsored Trail Rides held annually. This year's Fall Trail Ride attracted over 2,500 horses and 4,000 riders who stayed 3.5 days on average in the area and spent \$92.83 per day which resulted in a \$1.2 million dollar economic impact on the area.

See APPENDIX C for Economic Impact Study of 2008 Knott County Fall Trail Ride.



A few photos from annual Knott County Trail Ride that attracts thousands of riders to southeast Kentucky.

NEW HORSE TRAILS

Through the flexi-grant, three new trails were GPS mapped. They include the Shingle Branch Trail in the southwest quadrant of the county, the Martin Branch Trail in the eastern quadrant and an additional trail in the northwest quadrant of the county near Sutton Memorial Park. *Larger maps of each are provided in APPENDIX D.*



Shingle Branch Horse Trails around Carr Creek Lake near Litt Carr

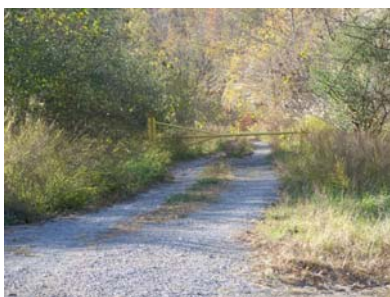


Martin Branch Trails near Mousie will eventually lead into Floyd County



Additional horse trail developed on Western Pocahontas property.

The six mile Shingle Branch Trail is located near Carr Creek Lake primarily on Corps property. A proposed trailhead at the entrance to U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Littcarr Recreational Area is being considered by the Knott County Fiscal Court. Easy access, ample parking plus overflow parking and restroom facilities within 200 yards of the trailhead make this site ideal.



Gated trail entrance



Ample parking and easy access



Overflow parking, restroom facilities & playground nearby

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Another trail called the Martin Branch Trail encompasses Martin Branch, Dismal Branch, Pine Tree Hollow and Thornsberry near Mousie and may eventually be extended to include Bear Branch and the Triplett area into Floyd County. A landowners meeting was held in Mousie KY in November near the proposed trailhead. Food and meeting space was provided by the Jones Fork Fire Department. The following people attended:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Steve Farley | 606-946-2950 |
| Jerry Hall | 606-785-3616 |
| Kristy Fugate | 606-946-2638 |
| Charles Moore | 606-946-2638 |
| Courtney Slone | 606-785-3637 |
| Billy Slone | 606-785-3637 |
| Ronnie Owens | 606-946-2364 |
| Carl R.Jr & Doris Gibson | 606-946-2352 |
| Mark Conley | 606-946-2328 |
| Carolyn & Paul Sparkman | 606-946-2972 |
| Kathy & Reggie Hall | 606-946-2972 |
| Chris Conley | |
| Paul Conley | |
| Chris Hall | 606-946-2714 |
| Michael Hicks | 606-946-2246 |
| Brandon Selosy | 606-946-2787 |
| Carl Gibson Sr. | 606-946-2568 |
| Roger Wallen | |
| Bonnie & Alex Richie | |
| Lloyd Cox | |
| Brian Richie | |
| Polly Hicks | |



A few of the landowners in attendance at the Martin Branch trail meeting in Mousie KY.

Carl R. Gibson who owns property at the entrance to the trails off Hwy 550 has offered to develop a public trailhead and parking area on his property.



Carl Gibson, one of the property owners, provided assistance in mapping the trails and identifying other land owners on this reclaimed coal site.



An additional horse trail has been GPS mapped and added to the three existing trails developed on Western Pocahontas property in the northwest quadrant of the county near Sutton Memorial Park, the site of the Annual Knott County Spring and Fall Trail Rides. The goal is to develop additional trails in this area which will eventually connect to trails being developed in the South Fork area of Breathitt County.

New trail GPS mapped on Western Pocahontas land

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This project ended up to be much more work than any of us ever imagined. On just one of the five trails developed, over 25 different landowners were identified. Locating current addresses or contact information was another challenge.

FINAL OUTCOME:

- Six trails were GPS mapped in four different quadrants of Knott County.
- Landowners have been determined along a large portion of the trails.
- Preliminary meetings were held with landowners to obtain their concensus on opening up the trails for public use. Follow-up meetings will be held over the next few months with all of the landowners to obtain their written permission to access the trails and open them up for public use now that they have been identified.
- Trailheads were determined for all five of the trails and permission given by the landowners to use a portion of their property for parking and to add signage at the trailhead itself.
 - The Knott County ATV Safety Training Center at Sutton Memorial Park currently serves as the trailhead for both the ATV and the Equestrian Trails near Elk View Drive.
 - The County Fiscal Court is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a trailhead at Shingle Branch Trail off of Hwy 160.
 - Pioneer Park, recently given to the County, will serve as a trailhead for equestrian trails that will eventually connect with those being developed near LittCarr. Pioneer Park is located off Highway 15 near the Letcher/Knott County line. *See APPENDIX E*
 - And the county recently found out they have a long term lease to develop a campground at Red Fox. The U.S. Corps has agreed to allow for an ATV Trailhead to be established near this location for access to the Red Fox ATV Trails that lead into Letcher County.
 - Rudolph Honeycutt is providing land for a trailhead/parking area which will serve both the northern section and the southern section of the ATV trail known as the Fire Trail .
 - The Fairly family donated ½ acre of property to the Knott County Fiscal Court to serves as a second trailhead for the southern portion of the Fire Trail. The trailhead which is strategically located on the Letcher/Knott County line and in close proximity to Floyd Counties will include restroom facilities and meeting space. An entrepreneur plans to add a public campground next to the trailhead.
 - Another entrepreneur plans to build cabins and a zipline attraction on his property along the northern portion of the Fire Trail.
 - Carl & Doris Gibson have agreed to develop a trailhead and parking area at the start of the Martin Branch Horse Trail just off Hwy 550 near Mousie Ky.

As noted in previous reports, due to the magnitude of the project and the necessity to 1) complete the project in a timely manner, and 2) have assistance from individual knowledgeable of that particular trail, a number of volunteers knowledgeable of the trails stepped forward to volunteer their time to help clear the trails. Therefore our in-kind for this particular project was actually much more than the match required. Those that dedicated the greatest amount of time were listed to satisfy the match requirements. There were others who also provided their time, knowledge and expertise. We acknowledge and appreciate everyone's help in accomplishing the goals of this initiative.