AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS IN LEE COUNTY

ATV Trails Exists

County: Lee

Excellent terrain for developing motorized trails similar to West Virginia's Hatfield and McCoy Trail System. There are numerous existing trails currently being used, some of which cross into Kentucky. Two very popular areas include Yellow Mountain towards Wagon Hole and along the ridge crossing into Kentucky and connecting with their trails. Trailhead is already in existence that provides parking and access to the trails.

Recommendation: Working with ATV Club, the existing trails need to be mapped and permission obtained to open trails for public use.

ATV Trails In the works and funded

A multi-use trail for both motorized and nonmotorized has been funded. *See Multi-Use Trails below for more on this.*

Bicycle Route: Benge's Revenge Century Ride Exists

County: Lee/Wise/City of Norton

http://www.wisecountychamber.org/benge's revenge.htm

This 100 mile route starts at J.I. Burton High School in the City of Norton then proceeds to The Town of Appalachia and then through Big Stone Gap then proceeds onto towards Pennington Gap traveling through several of the original coal camps onto Keokee then back to Appalachia and again through Big Stone Gap heading up to the head of Powell Valley back to the City of Norton then the steep climb up High Knob Mountain past "Benge's Rock". The ride ends at Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Greenway: Town of Pennington Greenway In the works

County: Lee

A one mile walking trail that connects downtown shopping center to local park along the Powell River. Funding received. Contact: Tina Rowe for detailed information on this project.

Hiking Trails: Cave's Spring Hiking Trails Exists

County: Lee

http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=15187

Hiking trails developed in the Cave Spring area include one that leads to the cave and stone overlook and loops back to the parking lot. Another trail leads to the Stone Mountain Trail that follows the crest of the mountain for 14.3 miles and ends at Roaring Branch, near the Town of Appalachia.

Hiking Trails: Cumberland Gap Hiking Trails Exists

County: Lee

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (in MiddlesboroVA) consists of approximately 20,000 acres and 70 miles of hiking trails. (See individual listings)

Hiking /Biking Trails: Boone Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1.9 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service.

Hiking Trails: Cave Springs Loop Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1 mile non-motorized trail in the Jefferson National Forest Managed by the U.S. Forest Service

Hiking/Horse Trails: Ewing Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

4.3 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Fort McCook Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.80 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking/Horse Trails: Gibson Gap Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

4.8 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Greenleaf Nature Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.70 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Honey Tree Spur Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Indian Ridge Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1 mile non-motorized trail in Wilderness Road State Park. Managed by Virginia State Parks

Hiking/Horse Trails: Indian Rock Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.60 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking/Biking Trails: Lake Keokee Loop Exists (SAGA 06) and expanding

County: Lee

3.7 mile non-motorized trail in Jefferson National Forest. Contact: Gerald Garrett to find out more information (276) 546-3011. The 3.7 mile trail around the 92 acre lake can be used for hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching.

Hiking Trails: Lewis Hollow Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1.7 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking/Horse Trails: Ridge Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

16.5 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Tennessee Road Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.20 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Tri-State Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.90 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Wagon Tunnel Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

4 mile non-motorized trail in Cranks Creek Wildlife Management Area. Managed by State of Virginia

Hiking Trails: White Rock Foot Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.6 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Hiking Trails: Wilderness Road Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1.4 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Horse Trails: Cave Springs to Lake Keokee Exists

County: Lee

Contact: Bill Sage - President of Cumberland Horse Association. Currently Cumberland Horse Association is using this trail for trail rides.

Mountain Biking: Cave Springs area of Jefferson National Forest

County: Lee

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/flash_file/gwjmap.swf

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike): Colson Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1/2 mile non-motorized trail in the Cumberland Gap National Forest. Managed by National Park Service

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, horse): Olinger Gap Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

1.1 mile non-motorized trail in Jefferson National Forest. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, horse): Payne Branch Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

2.30 mile non-motorized trail in Jefferson National Forest. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, ATV, horse): Pennington Gap -Stone Mountain Trail System

County: Lee In the works - Phase IContact: Tina Rowe Pennington Gap - Stone Mountain Trail The Town of Pennington Gap has been funded \$400,000 to develop 10 miles of multi-use trails (both motorized and nonmotorized). Environmental issues must be addressed first at a cost of \$30,000.

Recommendation: A portion of the awarded \$400,000 should be used to conduct the environmental study.

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, horse): Stone Mountain Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

14.30 mile non-motorized trail in Jefferson National Forest. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, horse): Wallen Ridge Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

6.9 mile non-motorized trail in Jefferson National Forest. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service

Multi-Use Trail (bike, hike, horse): Wilderness Road State Park Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

10 mile non-motorized trail in Wilderness Road State Park. Managed by Virginia State Parks

Public Fishing Lakes: Keokee Lake Exists (231)

Counties: Lee/Wise

Keokee Lake is a 92-acre impoundment located in Lee County. The lake is surrounded by National Forest lands. The lake offers fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish. Flooded standing timber is the dominant habitat type for this lake. Navigation routes were cleared while the lake was drawn down in 2003, but boaters should still use caution. The latitude and longitude coordinates for this lake are 36.8454, -82.8668.

Statewide trunk line trails: Great Eastern Trail In the works (288)

County: Lee/Wise/Dickenson/Buchanan (Concept maps available)

Great Eastern Trail - Major trunkline trail traverses the northern border of Virginia and connect with trails in both Alabama and New York. Anticipated to use the Cumberland Mountain Trail which comes out of Tennessee at the Cumberland Gap, cuts west to connect with the Pine Mountain Trail on its way to Breaks Interstate Park then continues northeast across the state.

Statewide trunk line trails: Beaches to Bluegrass Trail In the works (288)

Counties: Lee/Scott

Trans-Virginia Southern Trail - Major trunk line trail system that traverses the southern part of Virginia from the Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay using existing trails where possible including portions of the Wilderness Road Trail and Daniel Boone.

Thematic Trail: Crooked Road Driving Tour Exists (290)

Counties: Lee/Scott/Wise/Dickenson

http://www.thecrookedroad.org/ - 250 mile Virginia's Heritage Music Trail

Map: http://www.virginia.org/images/CRmap2big.gif

Bike across Virginia Event: http://www.bikevirginia.org/2008/

Thematic Trail: Wilderness Road Trail Exists plus Proposed Expansion (88)

County: Lee

Wilderness Road Trail has been developed between the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and the Wilderness Road State Park using portions of an abandoned railroad. This was once part of the famous Wilderness Road Trail blazed by Daniel Boone in the 1780's and traveled by over 300,000 settlers heading west. It is a 10-mile biking, hiking and equestrian trail. Wilderness Road Trail extension will connect the developed trail between Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the Wilderness Road State Park to Rose Hill. The trail can then be looped through the Park to rejoin the existing trail at Cumberland Gap.

Recommendation: The abandoned railroad corridor continues east of the trail terminus. This should be extended, and other abandoned railroad segments in the region should be incorporated into this trail system where linkages are practical.

Thematic Trail: Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Exists (88)

Counties: Lee/Scott

Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail follows Routes 23 and 58 to connect Scott and Lee counties to the states of Tennessee near bristol and Kentucky at the Cumberland Gap, portions of which overlap the Wilderness Road Trail. This route can become part of the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail as improvements are made to enhance user safety.

Recommendation: Historically significant sites along the route should be identified with interpretive signage and informational material.

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail: Big Stone Gap Loop Exists

Counties: Lee/Wise

Website: "The quaint Town of Big Stone Gap offers a glimpse into the rich culture and heritage of early life in western Virginia. It is home to the "Trail of the Lonesome Pine," the official state outdoor drama, and the Harry Meador Coal Museum. All of the sites within this loop are in close proximity. Visitors are also encouraged to take the Walking Tour of Big Stone Gap, which includes some of the sites on this loop, as well as additional museums and historic sites. A short walk around Fraley Park or a tour of the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park is sure to be pleasant and fruitful. For those with more nature-exploring time on their hands, Roaring Branch is known among local birders as a secret birding treasure. With its spectacular rhododendron thickets, cascading waters, and moss-covered rocks, expect to experience a treasure at this site. Visit Lake Keokee to view dragonflies in summer or waterfowl during winter months."

Map: http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/loop.asp?trail=2&loop=MBS

Walking Trails: Cumberland Bowl Park Walking Trail Exists (SAGA 06)

County: Lee

.60 mile non-motorized trail in Cumberland Bowl Park. Managed by Town of Jonesville

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail: Daniel Boone Loop VBWT Exists

Counties: Lee/Scott

Website: "The sites on this loop are located in the westernmost section of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. Many of these sites carry historical significance to early frontier passage to the West, led by Daniel Boone. Although the sites on this loop do not trace the exact steps of Daniel Boone, the passageway that led to the opening of the West did include some of these sites, and the historical Daniel Boone Trail traverses parts of this loop. The furthest western site on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail is the Wilderness Road entrance to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. It was through this Gap that Boone and fellow pioneers found their way to bluegrass Kentucky. Driving this loop will take visitors through small towns, long stretches of scenic roads, and pockets of lush, maturing forests. In addition to the wonderful wildlife that abounds throughout this area, visitors will enjoy the rich history of these lands."

Map: http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/loop.asp?trail=2&loop=MDB

Water Trails: Powell River Exists (120/155/289)

Counties: Lee

Potential for being designated a Scenic River and establishing a Blueway trail on the Powell River. The shortage of public access sites limits the duration and types of trips that can be offered. Facilities for canoein camping and public rest stops are also needed at appropriate distances along each river.

Suggestion: State and local officials should work with river user groups to develop a canoe trail for the Powell and Clinch Rivers, and develop a management plan that addresses law enforcement, education, camping, sanitation, access management and maintenance. Powell River also needs additional public boat launching and bank fishing opportunities.

OTHER NOTED INFORMATION OR ATTRACTIONS

Archaeological Survey Exists (132)

Good in most areas of Lee County

Architectural Survey Exists (132)

Portions in Lee range from good to excellent.

Biodiversity Ranking Exists (247)

Varies in Lee from outstanding, very high, high and moderate to general interest.

Conservation Lands: Federal Exists
Counties: Lee/Scott/Wise/Dickenson

Conservation Lands: Local Exists

County: Lee

Full time parks & recreation director: Lee has full time director (267)

(So does City of Norton/Scott/Tazewell)

National Forest: George Washington & Jefferson National Park Exists (212)

Counties: Lee/Scott/Wise/Dickenson http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/flash_file/gwjmap.swf

Outdoor Environment Education Facilities: Cumberland Gap National Historic Park Exists

County: Lee

VA DCR - State/National Park with Environmental Education Facilities. The first great gateway to the west, Cumberland Gap is a mountain pass that was used by wildlife, Native Indian tribes, and later by settlers moving west. Daniel Boone was hired to blaze a trail beginning in Southwest Virginia through Cumberland Gap known as the Wilderness Road. It became the route westward for pioneers who travelled west through the mountains into the wilderness of Kentucky. Both the North and the South vied for control of the Cumberland Gap during the Civil war. Today the park consists of approximately 20,000 acres and 70 miles of hiking trails. There are numerous scenic and historic features in the park and ranger led programs are offered throughout the year including tours of Gap Cave and the historic Hensley Settlement.

Recreation Area and Campground: Cave's Spring's Campground Exists

County: Lee

http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=15187

As one of the largest campgrounds in the Jefferson National Forest, Cave Springs offers a small lake for swimming that is fed by a spring that originates in the mountains above in a cave. There are 41 camping sites, twenty-one of which have electrical hookups.

Recreation Area: Keokee Lake Counties: Lee/Wise

The lake features a paved boat launching ramp, four picnic units with tables and grills, and a 3.7 mile lakeshore loop trail that provides access for shore fishing and wildlife walking. The lake is home to bass, sunfish, tiger, catfish, muskie and a variety of other fish and wildlife. Boating is limited to non-motorized or electric motor boats only.

Recreational Planning Regions: Lenowisco - Region 1 Exists (286)

Counties: Lee/Scott/Wise/City of Norton

State Natural Area Preserves: Cedars Natural Area Preserve Exists (251)

County: Lee

State Natural Area Preserve: Unthanks Cave Natural Area Preserve Exists (251/290)

County: Lee

Unthanks Cave is an exemplary cave noted for the diversity of life that it supports. It is one of the most biologically significant caves in the southern Appalachians. The streams in Unthanks Cave provide subterranean drainage for a large karst area south of the Powell River. The cave was protected by the Virginia Office of the Nature Conservancy and was generously given as a gift to the Department of Conservation and Recreation in 2004.

Limited Access: Unthanks Cave has been gated to protect the delicate natural communities and species which inhabit the cave passage. Access to the cave is limited to data collection and monitoring purposes. Suggestion: Develop a Virginia Karst Trail and include Unthanks Cave as a stop along the way to help educate the public about karst resources in the Commonwealth. Provide interpretive signs outside the cave to educate visitors as to the sensitivity of the site and to allow them to "see inside" without having to actually enter the cave. *See Thematic Trails for more on this.*

State Park: Wilderness Road Exists (Web)

County: Lee

http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?AttrID=29463

Wilderness Road State Park is one of Virginia's newest state parks. About 200 acres are open for picnicking, hiking and living history programs. Visitors can enjoy the reconstructed Martin's Station, an outdoor living history museum depicting life on Virginia's 1775 frontier and hike the 12-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with the 50 miles of trails within the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The late 1870s mansion is available for weddings, meetings and other special functions. Unique regional gifts are available at the Wilderness Road Outpost. The park offers seasonal living history programs depicting life in the mid-1700s on Virginia's frontier. Special events: Raid at Martin's Station in April and Wilderness Road Festival in October. Location: 5 miles west of Ewing, off U.S. 58, at the intersection of Route 923.

State Parks: Wilderness Road Exists (220)

County: Lee

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state parks/wil.shtml

Wilderness Road State Park was purchased in 1993. The park is about 310 acres that lie astride the Wilderness Road, a route carved by Daniel Boone in 1775. The route, which followed a buffalo trace, opened America's first western frontier. Most notable in the park are the Karlan Mansion built in the 1877, a state-of-the-art visitor center and Martin's Station, a replica of a colonial frontier fort that was on this site in 1775.

Please Note: Karlan Mansion is unfurnished but may be rented for special events. Bikes can be rented to ride the Wilderness Road Trail, an eight-mile multi-purpose trail that passes through the park. The park also has the Indian Ridge Trail, a self-guided trail that offers interpretive and environmental educational programs. Snacks and other merchandise are available year-round at the Powder Horn Gift Shop in the visitor center.

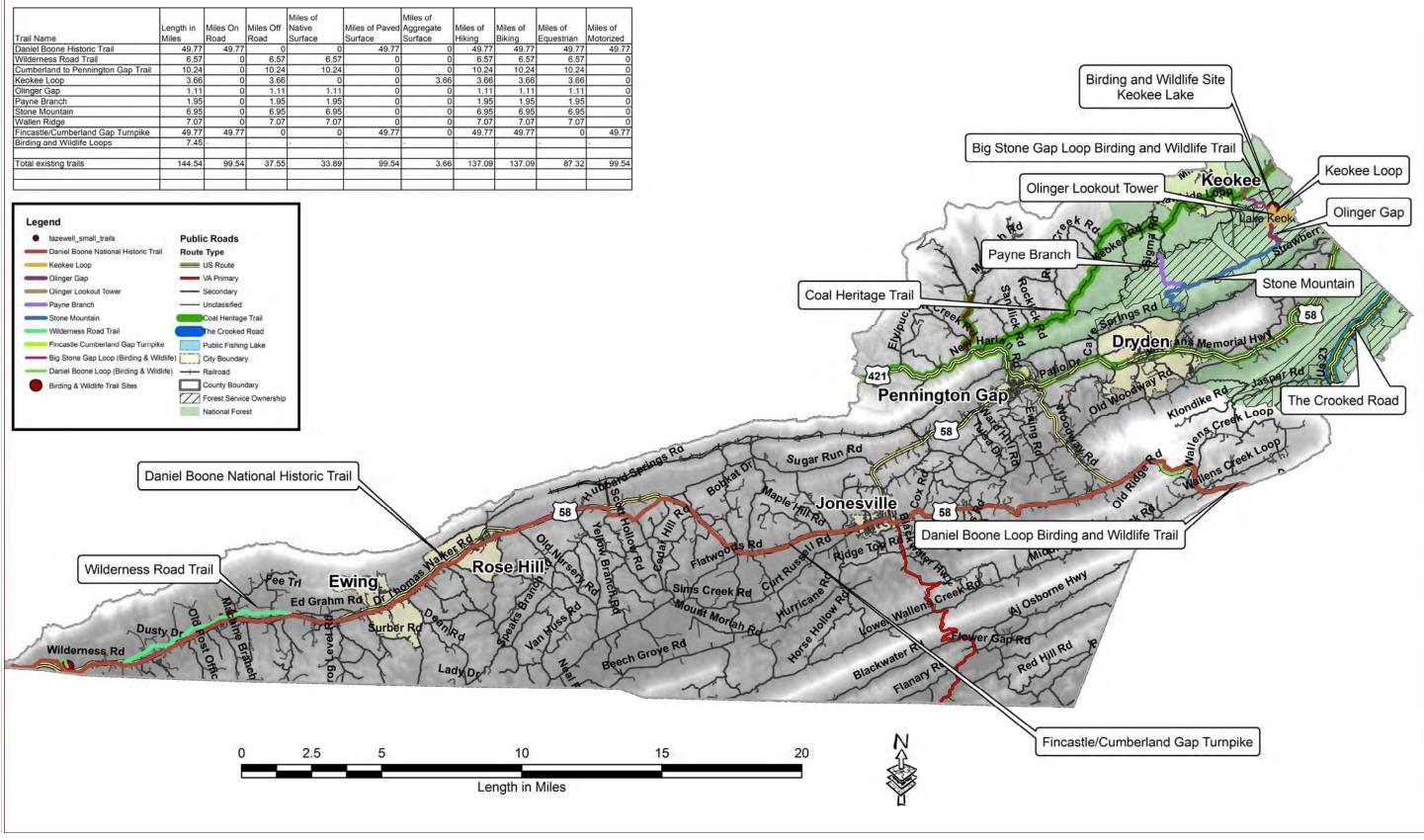
TNC Preserve: Beach Grove Cliff TNC Preserve Exists (297)

County: Lee

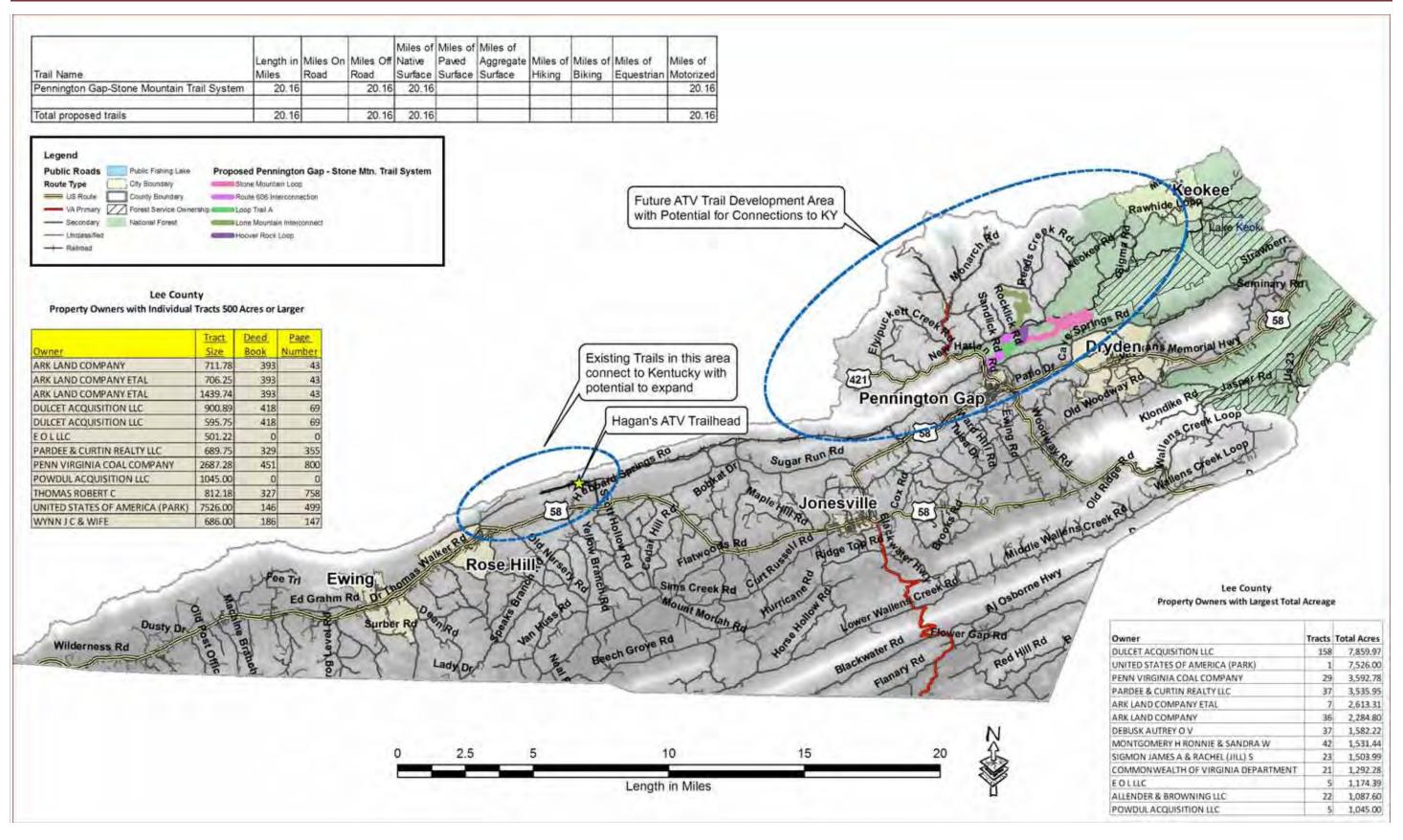
TNC Preserve: Fletcher Ford TNC Preserve Exists (297)

County: Lee









to access someone else's land.





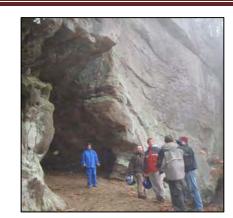
1) Proposed Trailhead at Leeman Field



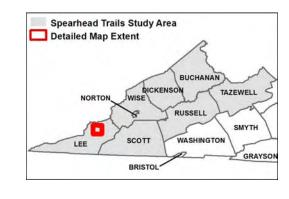
2) Utilizing bridge on Rte. 606 and existing at-grade RR crossing

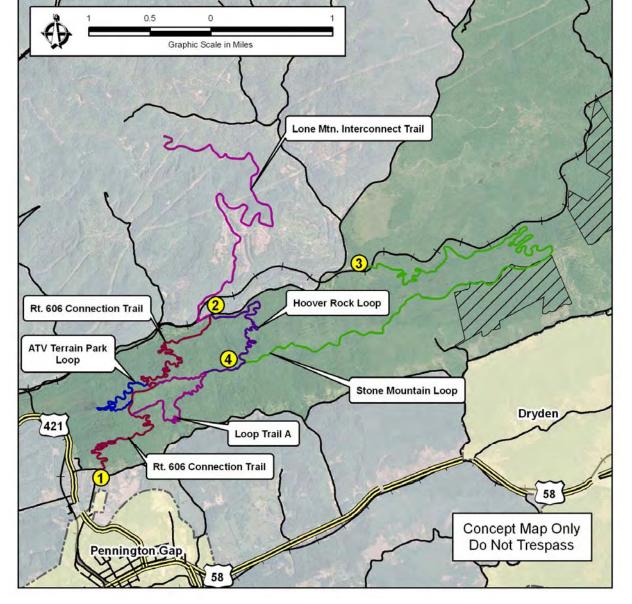


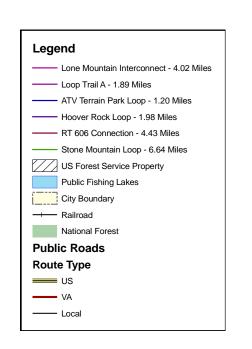
3) Proposed trail crossing under existing railroad trestle



4) Geological Feature-Rock outcropping







DESCRIPTION:

The Community Design Assistance Center worked with the town of Pennington Gap, Lee County, and the Stone Mountain ATV Club to develop a conceptual master plan for a recreational ATV trail system. The trail system is intended to serve a broad skill range of users, from beginners to more advanced. Additionally, the trail would meet not only the needs of the town but the larger county area as well. The proposed trail system could also serve to generate economic development and entrepreneurship for the area, bringing visitors to enjoy the trail as well as local restaurants, shops, and overnight accommodations. The Pennington Gap-Stone Mountain ATV Trail System aims to be the first of many in the larger network of trails in Southwest Virginia. The Hatfield-McCoy Trail in West Virginia is an excellent example of how an ATV trail can positively affect the economy of adjacent local areas.

LENGTH/TYPE OF TRAIL:

The Proposed Pennington Gap-Stone Mountain Trail System is a total of 20.16 miles long and is intended for OHV travel.

LEAD AGENCY/PARTNERS:

The Town of Pennington

DESCRIPTION/CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The 20.16 mile trail will cross numerous individual property owners. The current layout minimizes the number of tracts involved. At this time, no land acquisition is planned; all access will be sought through easements. Gap

RECONDITIONS/CHANGES:

With the support of the Lee county Board of Supervisors, submit the PER and funding application to all applicable funding agencies. When funding is secured, a licensed, Professional Engineer should be procured and begin design of the proposed project.

COST ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCES:

Route 606 Connector - \$189,281.40 ATV Terrain Park Loop - \$51,674.70 Loop Trail A - \$63,190.05 **Hoover Rock Loop - \$71,563.80** Lone Mountain Interconnect - \$167,706.00 Stone Mountain Loop - \$257,680.50 **Total Construction Cost - \$801,096.45** Total Project Cost - \$1,046,703.37

CONNECTIONS AND DESTINATIONS:

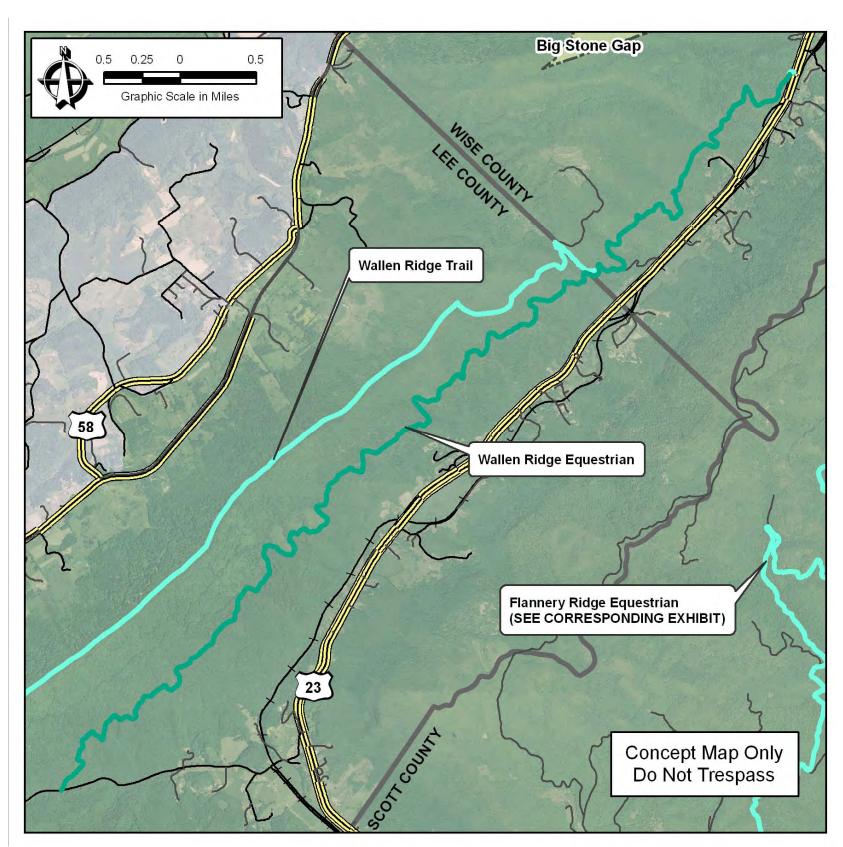
Proposed trail begins at Leeman Field, to Ridge of Stone Mountain to State Route 606, then to existing Lone Mountain trail system.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND AWARENESS:

The Area of Potential Effect are the lands immediately adjacent to the trail system--National Forest Areas













DESCRIPTION:

Being part of the proposed Scott County Trail Riders' Equestrian Trail System, the Wallen Ridge Equestrian Trail provides an alternate trail riding opportunity for horseback riders in the proposed area.

The Wallen Ridge Equestrian Trail, shown in the map to the left, parallels the existing Wallen Ridge Trail. This equestrian- dedicated trail will provide scenic trail rides leading into both Lee and Wise Counties.

LEAD AGENCY/PARTNERS:

Scott County Trail Riders. Cooperation from the National Forest Service would be required since the entire trail is located within the boundaries of the Jefferson National Forest.

LENGTH/TYPE OF TRAIL:

The proposed Wallen Ridge Equestrian Trail is approximately 9.5 miles in length and is intended for horseback riding only.

CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The proposed trail follows along Wallen Ridge on an existing U.S. Forest Service road. Establishing the trail would cost little to nothing since the trail will basically be the using the old road bed.

The only notable costs would be for adding trail signage as well as general maintenance costs.

CONNECTIONS:

The trail connects Lovelady Gap to Big Stone Gap running Along Wallen Ridge into both Lee and Wise counties.





