

BMTA evaluation guidelines

- 1) Treadway condition:** The treadway standard is 18" wide, with a slight tilt to the outside. Does the sidehilling need refreshing? Are the water diversions clear and working? Significant erosion damage? Signs of ATV or horse use? ATV or horse damage? Are there muddy or wet areas.
- 2) Corridor Vegetation Clearance:** The BMT standard is 4'x8' clearance. But this ideal is not always sustained throughout the growing season. The operative question is whether a tall hiker with a big pack can walk the trail comfortably without snagging or ducking? Also, are briars and poison ivy cut back enough for a person in hiking shorts to comfortably pass? Where these standards are not maintained, note problem spots.
- 3) Blazes:** Where the trail is well defined and there are no intersections, blazes should be crisp, clear, easily visible, and about 150 yards apart. Are intersections clearly blazed? Try to check intersections from both directions. This is a key area where your new set of eyes can be helpful to the maintainer.
- 4) Tree blowdowns:** Report any blowdowns too high to step over, that block the trail. Provide location as near as you can, and indicate the smallest cutting tool sufficient to clear it: Folding pruning saw, bowsaw, or chainsaw?
- 5) Signs and trailmarkers:** The BMT standard in GA is a road sign (each way) at each trail crossing of a public road. Also, Carsonite posts and trailmarker decals about 50 to 100 yards into the woods from each trailhead. Are signs or trailmarkers, damaged or missing? TN/NC standards vary with the district. Please suggest locations for wood routed BMT signs, especially in wilderness where blazing is not allowed.

Return this sheet

When completed, send ASAP, to the appropriate BMTA Maintenance Director:

* For GA, plus Section 11 to US 64: Barry Allen, 5350 Overbend Trail, Suwanee, GA 30024, call (770-294-7384) or email the form to bmtabarry@gmail.com

* For TN north of US 64 and NC: Richard Harris, 533 Shaw Mountain Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385, call (423-253-6358 or 513-260-1184), or email to HarrisRi@aol.com