

Bartram Trail Backpacking Plan

Departure Destination: Use MapQuest to get to Scaly Mt., NC. Then, turn South onto Hale Ridge Rd, and follow that 2 miles until it forks. Continue on Hale Ridge Road. It becomes gravel, and in three-tenths of a mile you'll see the Bartram Trail sign on the right hand side.

Park: There's parking for about two vehicles. You can use a shuttle from the Buckeye Creek parking area.

MapQuest Car Drop Destination: Russell Bridge, Mountain Rest, SC Parking Area, off GA-28, just south of the SC/ GA state line.

Rating: Moderate

Distance: 30.6 miles

USGS Quadrangles: Rabun Bald, Satolah, Rainy Mountain, Whetstone

Shuttle Service: See list from FTC at:

<http://www.foothillstrail.org/permanent/shuttledrivers.htm>

Emergency Numbers: 911

U.S. Forest Service, Chattooga River District

Dave Jensen - District Ranger 706 782-3320

Water Availability:

Stream crossings first 14 miles

Warwoman Dell 18.4 miles

Small streams, just off trail 21.3 miles

Dicks Creek Falls 27.1 miles

Day 1: 9.7 miles Bartram Trail

Metal Yellow Diamond Blazes

Trail changes with double blazes

Cross many very slick footbridges and streams, arriving Hale Ridge Rd.

0.1 mile

A small waterfall appears to the right.

0.4 mile

Traverse a mature hardwood forest to Bee Gum Gap, house 50 feet on left. Cross the road.

2.1 mile

Along the way the trail crosses a narrow dirt road, and turns left onto an old fire tower road an mile

0.1 mile

Begin a long and moderate climb to the second highest peak in Georgia Rabun Bald (4,696 ft).

2.0 mile

Descend via a series of switchbacks along the Tennessee Valley Divide to Saltrock Gap, (3,700 ft).

1.3 mile

Enter the site of a controlled burn in 1997.

0.9 mile

Pass a small stream and tiny campsite trailside. An unmarked side trail leads to campsite beside stream.

0.1 mile

A short side trail leads 65 feet to an impressive overlook of the valley known as Ramey Field.

0.2 mile

Pass a dry campsite and climb a series of switchbacks to Flat Top Mountain (3,740 ft).

0.3 mile

Arrive at an unnamed gap (3,370 ft) with a few dry campsites to the left.

0.2 mile

Cross a dirt road to reach Wilson Gap (3,200 ft), turn sharply right onto a Gravel Road, FS 153, AKA Walnut Fork Road.

0.6 mile

Cross a small stream. A large camping area appears to your left.

0.1 mile

Cross two small streams in Rhododendron.

0.3 mile

CAMP in one of two sites along the stream.

Day 2:	11.4 miles Bartram Trail Metal Yellow Diamond Blazes	Trail changes with double blazes	
Climb the Eastern flank of Rattlesnake Knob and Black Creek Knob (3490 ft).			0.5 mile
Crest Black Creek Knob with nice views of Rock Mountain to the south.			0.1 mile
Descend easily along the east side of Black Creek to Windy Gap (3180ft).			0.3 mile
Dry campsites dot the trail along the divide.			0.3 mile
Pass through a rhododendron thicket.			1.3 mile
Begins a southwest descent along the divide to the skirt of Rabun Knob.			0.5 mile
Pass between 2 dry campsites along the ridgeline. Then, begin paralleling the boundary of the Warwoman Dell WMA, marked by frequent yellow signs nailed into trees to the left.			0.4 mile
Descend along the Divide reaching Courthouse Gap, marked with a sign nailed to a tree.			1.0 mile
Cross Courthouse Gap and continue on an old roadbed. Leave the old road at a set of log stairs just before crossing a rivulet.			0.4 mile
Cross another small stream in a ravine via a foot bridge.			0.2 mile
Pass a rock seeping water.			0.1 mile
Pass another small stream.			0.3 mile
Drop down several log steps. Rock-hop across another small stream.			0.1 mile
Break sharply away from Martin Creek, by a waterfall, and nearly doubles back across the ridge into a hardwood cove.			0.5 mile
Descend into a campground alongside a tributary of Martin Creek.			0.1 mile
Cross Martin Creek on a wooden bridge with a T-shaped viewing platform, walk up the other side to view a fantastic waterfall, cross Martin Creek again on a wooden bridge, and return to nearly the same place you crossed previously.			0.1 mile
Drop down into a large camping area before rock hopping another stream.			0.5 mile
Rock-step a small stream and then crosses another via a footbridge a short distance further.			0.5 mile
Follow a small rivulet and then crosses a gravel road before crossing Becky Branch.			0.1 mile
From the wooden observation platform at the falls, the trail descends to Warwoman road and the historic trail sign. Cross Warwoman Dell, and the picnic tables and good water. The town of Clayton is 3 miles west.			0.7 mile
Cross stream on wooden bridge.			0.6 mile
Reach Green Gap. Follow Green Gap Road for 65 yards before reentering the forest on the right.			0.8 mile
Intersect Goat Trail marked with metal goat-shaped blazes attached to trees.			0.3 mile
Make a 90 degree turn off an old jeep road, skirting Rainy Mountain to the north. Water is in small streams, just off trail, listen.			0.8 mile
Cross Pool Creek Road, at Bob Gap. There are a couple dry campsites in the next 2 miles in the Virginia Pine and Blackjack Oak forest.			2.3 mile
CAMP in a dry camp.			

Day 3: **9.5 miles Bartram Trail** **Metal Yellow Diamond Blazes** **Trail changes with double blazes**

Cross road at carved rock, Speed Gap. 1.4 mile
 Cross Sandy Ford Road, where a carved rock says Bartram Trail. 1.9 mile

6.2 miles Chattooga River Trail White Diamond Blazes

The trail follows the river northeast along its' Georgia bank, sharing the Chattooga River Trail. The blue blazes mark the boundary of the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River corridor. 0.1 mile

Cross Dick's Creek and enter a clearing. To see the spectacular 60 ft. falls, cross a small bridge and follow old road 200 yards. 0.3 mile

Cross 66 ft. metal bridge. 0.1 mile

Cross Earl's Ford Road. There are some established, flat campsites here. 0.2 mile

Come to the Chattooga River. 0.7 mile

Cross another wooden bridge over a stream, with campsite. 1.5 mile

Cross Bynum Branch on wooden bridge. Water was scanty here, but there's a campsite on left hand side of trail. 1.1 mile

Cross Adline Branch on wooden bridge, best water for next 3 miles. 0.7 mile

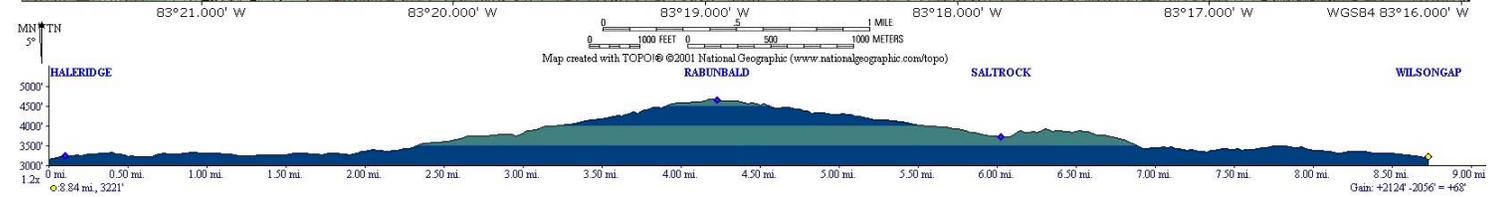
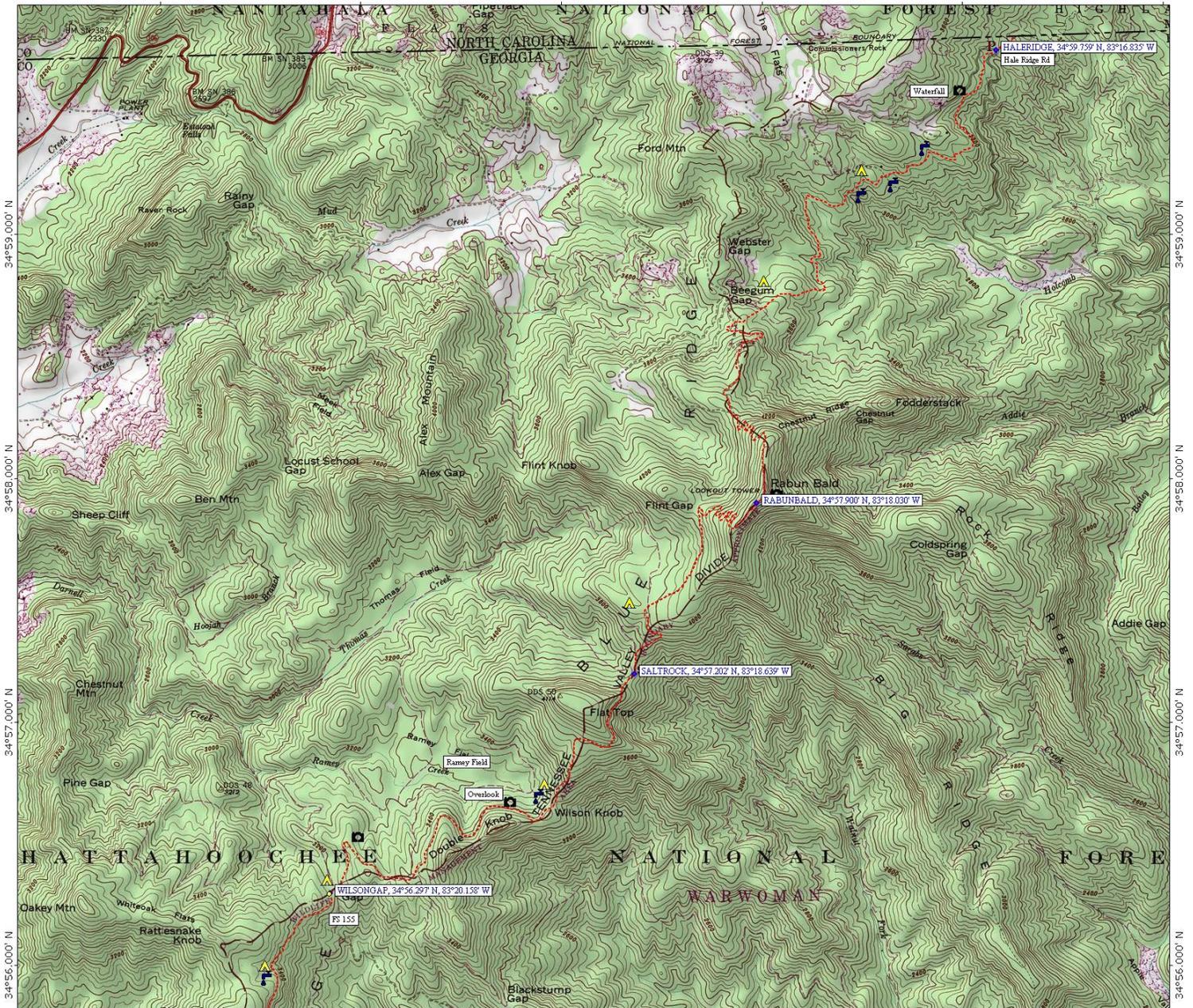
Pass a rusty baler on left and ruins of an old home site on right. 0.5 mile

Cross 112 foot metal footbridge over Holden Branch. 0.7 mile

Reach Highway 28 and the parking lot. 0.3 mile

A typical carved rock trail sign.



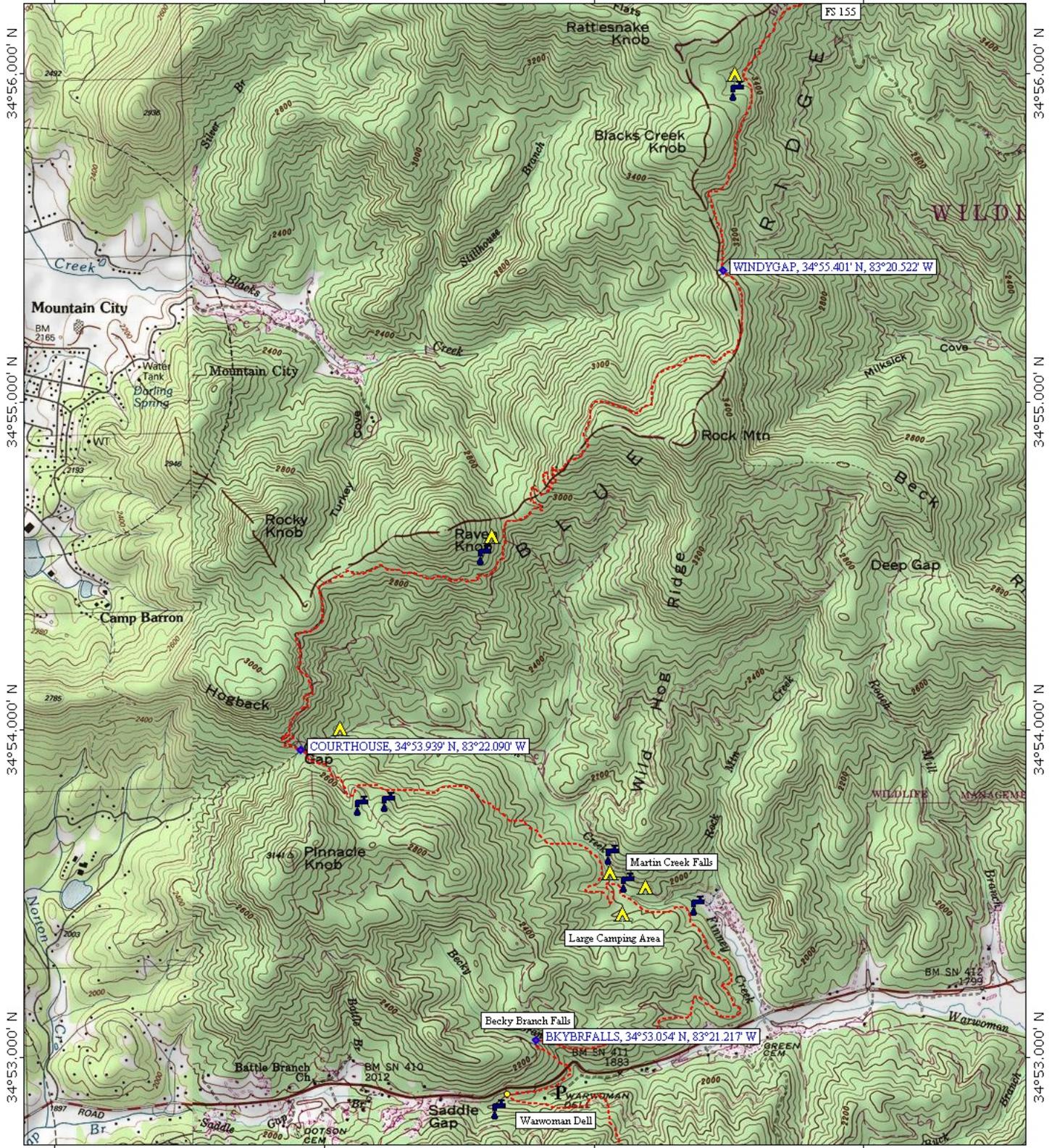


83°23.000' W

83°22.000' W

83°21.000' W

WGS84 83°20.000' W



83°23.000' W

83°22.000' W

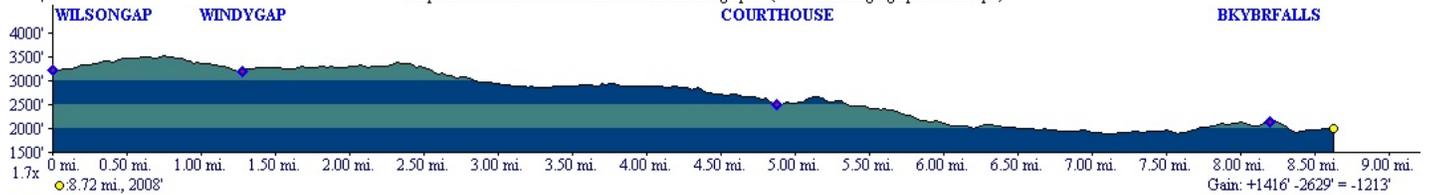
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WGS84 83°20.000' W

MIN TN

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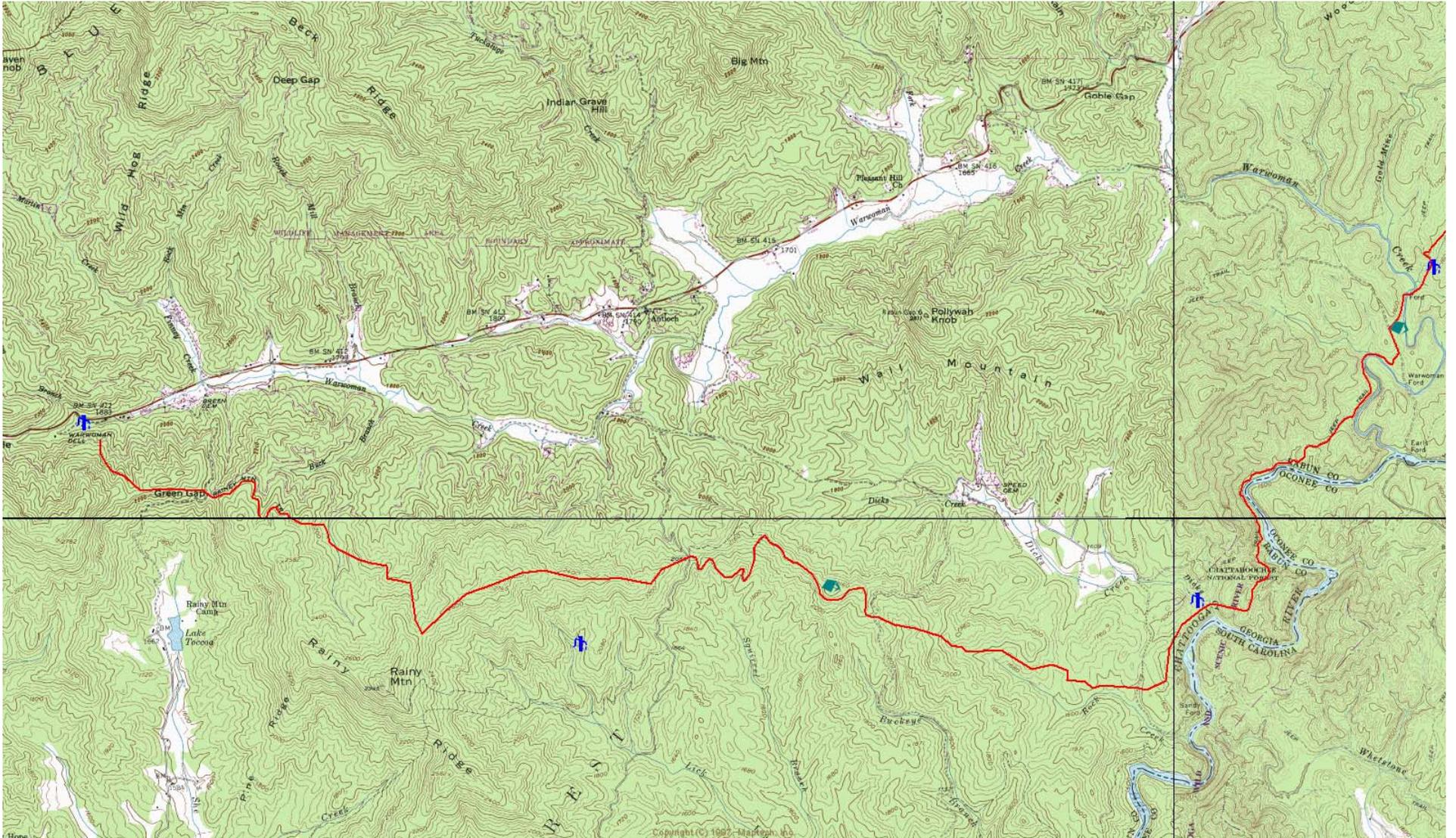
Map created with TOPO!® ©2001 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)



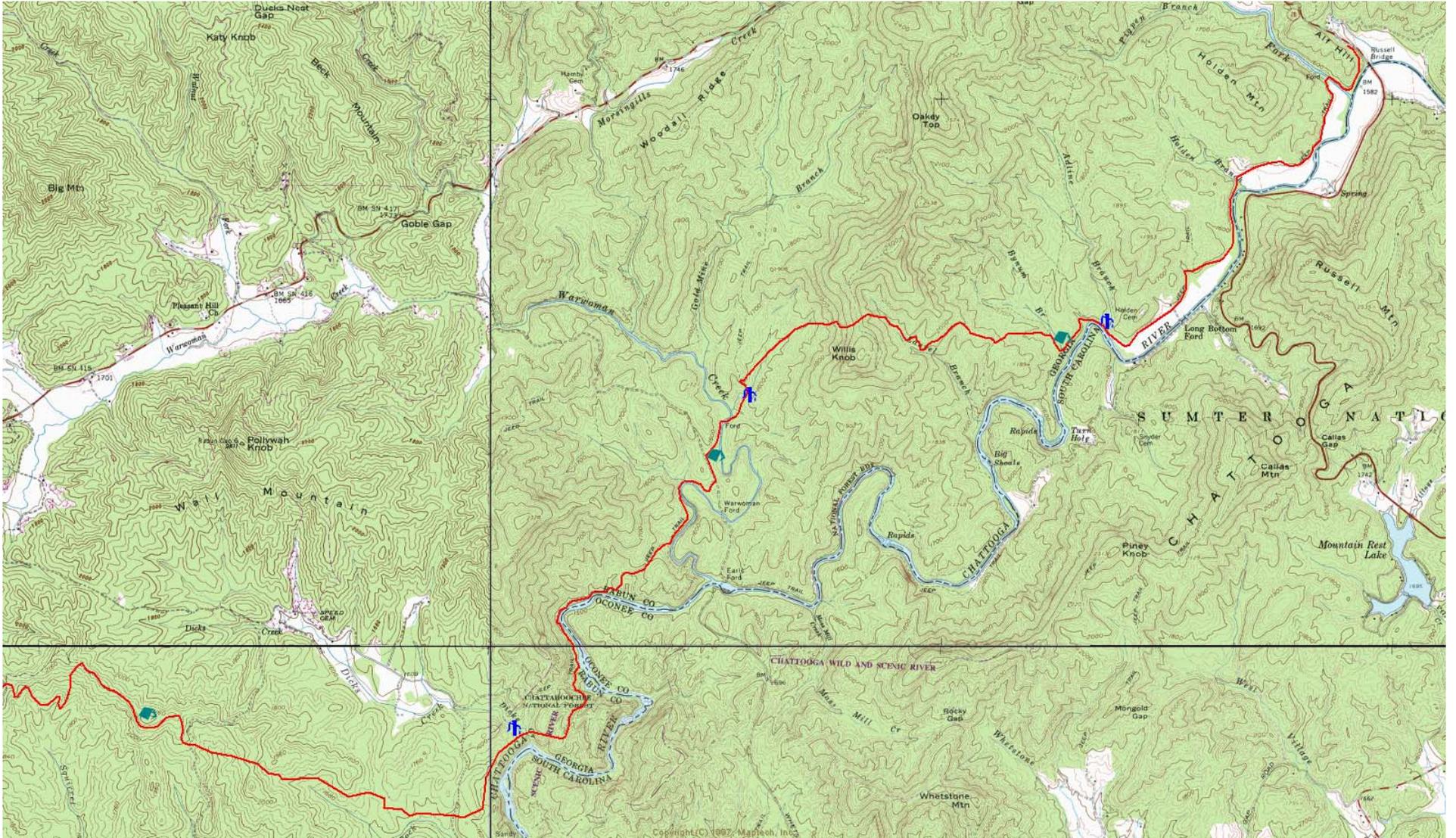
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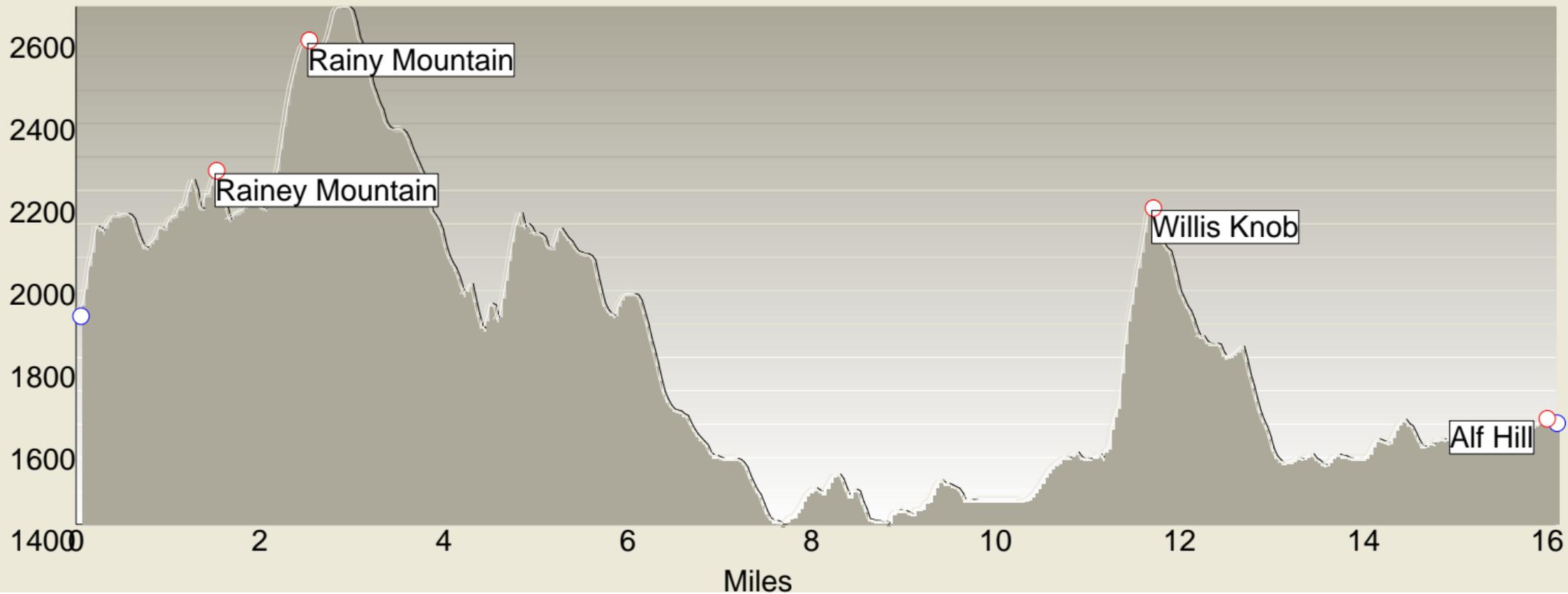
Gain: +1416' - 2629' = -1213'

Day 2: Warwoman Dell – Warwoman Creek



Day 3: Chattooga River Trail Overlap with Bartram NHT





Total distance: 16 miles, 459 feet

Climbing: 2831 feet

Latitude: 034° 55' 13.8" N

Ground distance: 16 miles, 904 feet

Descending: -3091 feet

Longitude: 083° 10' 12.4" W

Elevation change: -260 feet

Elevation: 1687 feet

Min/Max: 1440/2699

Grade: 1%