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Title:

Comments: This comment applies to the Jake/Bull Multi-use Trail System in Lumpkin County

We disagree with the information provided by the Blue Ridge Ranger District (BRRD) in the Scenery & Recreation Report Foothills Landscape Project September 2019 Appendix D AP46 page 2 of 4 "Trails Rapid Assessment. The BRRD lists the "Designated Use" of all the trails at Jake/Bull as "Horse". Our understanding is these trails are "Multi-Use" designated for the enjoyment of mountain bikers and hikers as well as Horse riders. If these trails are indeed classified as Horse, Bike, Hike then the BRRD should make the correction on this chart and resubmit it for inclusion in the Foothills document. The omission of mountain bikers and hikers in this chart could be viewed by some that mountain bikers and hikers are not valued at Jake/Bull.

We also disagree with the Resource Protection and Visitor Satisfaction classification the BRRD gave for the trails at Jake/Bull. Northeast Georgia SORBA performs hundreds of volunteer hours on these trails annually. It is our opinion and that of the majority of mountain bikers/hikers that visit these trails that they are the best maintained bike trails in the CONF. Visitor satisfaction is high on all but a few short sections on this system. The BRRD lists Trail 223M as a Horse trail. This is incorrect. 223M is the only "bike/hike only" trail segment at Jake/Bull. BRRD says this 0.5 mile segment of trail is Moderate in Visitor Satisfaction. We believe it rates High in visitor satisfaction based on mountain bikers we have interviewed.

We disagree with the Resource Protection rating for Trail 223L (Turner Creek). BRRD listed this trail as Low Resource Protection. While there are a few short segments that need a little repair it does not deserve a rating of Low in resource protection. Rather it meets the definition of Moderate as outlined in your guidelines. The same goes for Trail 223E (Jones Creek Dam Trail). BRRD rated this as Low Resource Protection and Low Visitor Satisfaction. This is simply not true. This trail has been reworked by a grant in 2019 and at a minimum would rate Moderate/Moderate.

The trails at Jake/Bull are in much better condition than the BRRD reports.