

Meadow Creek Mountain Trail From Cedar Creek Cave Road to the Summit of Chuckey Mountain

2.8 Miles One Way - Strenuous - Elevation Gain 1431 Feet

This is a very good winter hike and the 360 degree vistas of the Appalachians on one side and Greene County on the other are fabulous.

Muddy Footpath on the FS Road - Horse Trail - 1 Easy Creek Crossing

There were several blowdowns present at the time of hiking and the trail is badly in need of maintenance especially at the top but was fairly easy to traverse.

Hiked December 31, 2011

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Directions to Trailhead: Leave Greeneville on Hwy 70, locally known as the Asheville Highway. Drive approximately 9 miles out the highway, across the Nolichucky River bridge at the dam until you reach South Greene High School on your left. Immediately across the road from the school on your right take the Cedar Creek Road for 3.5 miles. Turn left on the Garrett Hill Road for .2 of a mile, then turn right on the Cedar Creek Cave Road. Follow this road for about a mile and a half to the trailhead on your left. There was no trailhead sign present but there is a forest service road on your left which immediately crosses a small creek. You can drive up this road with a 4WD but it is not recommended as it is very muddy and rough. There is space for a couple of cars beside the road and space on the right for several more vehicles..

Follow the old FS Road which immediately crosses a small creek. There is a maze of old roads so you must be careful. Just after the crossing, you will come to a road that bears off to the right. Stay straight. Further on down there is another road going left but you want to avoid it and stay straight again. There are occasional faint yellow blazes marking the old road which is very muddy and rutted. After you have covered about three quarters of a mile, you will see a carsonite sign marking the singletrack Meadow Creek Mountain Trail on the right. Follow this trail and climb steeply up the ridge through a winding path with several switchbacks. The trail is very narrow in places and, at the time of this hike, there were several blowdowns which had to be either climbed over or crawled under but nothing very difficult or dangerous.

After covering almost two miles, you will reach the top of the ridge and "T" into a trail. The trail to the left is the remnants of the old Meadow Creek Mountain Trail before the relocation. For this hike, you will take the path to the right. The trail here is undulating and climbs up and down a minor summit, then there is a section with a lot of small pine blowdowns which is fairly easy to get through.

When you have gone a total of nearly 3 miles, you will reach the narrow, knife-edge summit of Chuckey Mountain. There is a marker in the trail which points you to the original USGS survey marker which shows the highest point in the area.

If you wish for a longer hike, you can arrange for a shuttle and continue on the Meadow Creek Mountain Trail. There are several options here. You can descend from the ridge on the Gum Springs Trail into Houston Valley or down into the Tweed Springs road via the old Yellow Springs Hotel. You can also remain on the ridgeline and continue to the Meadow Creek Fire Tower or to the end of the trail on the Long Creek Road near Parrottsville. The total length of the Meadow Creek Mountain Trail is over 12 miles.

For this hike, just return to your vehicle by the same route.

SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

Mile	Elevation	Description
0	1663	Trailhead on the Cedar Creek Cave Road.
.7	2004	JCT FS Road and Singletrack Trailhead.
1.89	2807	Top of Ridgeline. JCT old Trail to left. Take the right.
2.8	3094	Summit of Chuckey Mountain.

