

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina

Big Bend Trail



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 4/12/2004

Highlights

Starting from the Cherry Hill Recreation Area, a moderate 2.7 mile trail affords views of the biggest drop on the Chattooga River, a rumbling 30-foot hydraulic known as Big Bend Falls. Even though this is a mountainous locale, you will find the hiking on this trail is fairly straightforward. Red blazes guide you through a predominantly hardwood forest of hemlocks, white oaks, mountain laurel, and galax. The Big Bend Trail runs parallel to Big Bend Road (FS 709) for some distance and eventually ends at a junction with the Foothills Trail. You need to hike approximately .6 mile south on the Foothills/Chattooga Trails (the Foothills and Chattooga Trails run concurrent in this area) for a nice view of Big Bend Falls from a ridge overlooking the river.

Surrounding Area

- Oconee State Park (864) 638-5353
- Whitewater Falls, Nantahala National Forest (704) 257-4200

For More Information

Andrew Pickens Ranger District

112 Andrew Pickens Circle

Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Phone: (864) 638-9568

Fax: (864) 638-2659

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Directions: From Walhalla, drive west on SC 28 for 7.5 miles and veer right onto SC 107. Drive 8.8 miles to the Cherry Hill Recreation Area on the right. The trailhead is just south of the entrance to the recreation area.

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed. Choose a site at least 50 feet from the trail, 50 feet from the river or any tributary stream and ¼ mile from the road. Please respect specific limitations when posted.

Difficulty level: easy

Length: 2.7 miles

Safety: When you arrive at the waterfall, stay on dry areas with good footing.

Waterfalls can be very dangerous.

Surface type: dirt

Season: year-round

Trail Blazes: red

Volunteers for trail maintenance are always needed and welcome. Contact the district office.

Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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Big Bend Hiking Trail

