



New Release

News Release

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The Appalachian Trail Is Relocated at Wesser, North Carolina

The Appalachian Trail at Wesser, North Carolina has been relocated. The trail had come down a steep side slope into Highway US 19 for many years. This is a very busy US highway. In March, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will begin to widen the road, and build a new turning lane and bridge across the Nantahala River at Wesser. The location of the work is just down stream from the existing bridge. This would have cut off the trail ingress and egress into US 19. The new trail location is on the left of Silvermine Road (SR 1103) just past the first bridge. The trail has been relocated for approximately a quarter of a mile. Several foot bridges were also constructed to protect the habitat of the federally threatened noonday snail (*Mesodon clarki nantahala*). Silvermine Road provides a much safer access point to the trail than US 19 provided. The trail is also located on a much better grade that prevents soil erosion.

The relocation funding was provided by the NCDOT. This construction was made possible with a lot of people working together. Wayah Ranger District employees, students from the Macon Program for Progress, students from the Wayah Ranger District Youth Conservation Corps program and members of the Nantahala Hiking Club all worked on the trail relocation. One day we had people from the ages of 14 to 87 working together to finish the project.

