

**Four new backcountry campsites! In early 2024** the PMTA proposed to the FDR State Park manager the need for four new campsites along the trails. These would give first time backpackers/hikers with kids and those starting out late of a day a place to choose to camp. Also, they would “take the pressure” off other nearby sites and allow folks in general another few site choices. FDR Park Manager Desmond Timmons approved the request and passed it along to the GA Parks DNR folks who approved them in writing on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We set up a work day to began work on the sites on March 16, clearing Mountain Creek Campsite and Rock-Mark Campsite. Then March 20 Eddie Hall and Jim Hall established Chainsaw Campsite. Riffle Rocks was established March 21<sup>st</sup>. Established meaning wooden sign post and Carsonite signs at entrance to campsite put in place. A metal fire ring brought in to place in the cleared -out area for it. A small sign put on a tree with Tent/Campfire symbol sticker on them noting the designated fire ring/campsite area. Wooden signs had been ordered and prepared by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had to wait till the DNR reservations system had the new sites up and ready to permit out BEFORE putting the actual named campsite wooden signs on post. FINALLY on May 4<sup>th</sup> we got the ok the sites would be ready to permit out by May 6<sup>th</sup>. All four signs were placed on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Locations for all four new sites are shown on the NEW 2024 printed maps and display maps at the FDR State Park office and trailhead kiosk. Also we had to clear URGENT ACCESS ROUTES to each site which like Rock-Mark is some 2800’ of path for a RTV.

March 16 at Mountain Creek Campsite: Helen Hall (not shown), Bill Vang, Eddie Hall, Jim Hall, Malon Wickham and Mark Hughes.



Eddie Hall working on Chainsaw Campsite.



Craig Myers and Jim Hall on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

