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New River Trail State Park (Foster Falls)
Buck Dam to Ivanhoe Map - Blaze Color:



1. GPS: Lat. 36° 48.301, Lon. -80° 55.897
 Buck Dam Parking Area: From SR 94 in western corner of Carroll County, take SR 602 east about 3 miles to river. Take SR 737 north to Buck Dam.
2. GPS: Lat. 36° 48.534, Lon. -80° 56.612
 80' Bridge over Big Branch Creek. Pause here for views of the Buck Dam Powerhouse and Little Mountain.
3. GPS: Lat. 36° 49.185, Lon. -80° 57.067
 MP 33.0: The trail crosses Carbide Rd. SR658.
4. GPS: Lat. 36° 49.264, Lon. -80° 57.062
 60' Bridge over Carbide Rd.
5. GPS: Lat. 36° 49.626, Lon. -80° 57.09
 As you cross the Wythe County line, you also mark your arrival or departure from the town of Ivanhoe. Near here you may see evidence of the area's industrial past. Street and places names are often references to past industries such as the National Carbide Co., who's former site is visible near the trail just south of town. These photos from 1947 show the extent of the operation at the time. Locally mined carbide had many uses, among those the on-demand production of acetylene gas for welding and cutting torches. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries acetylene gas generated from carbide was an important source of subterranean illumination for mining and a means of producing gas illumination for some homes and even lighthouses!
6. GPS: Lat. 36° 49.781, Lon. -80° 57.172
 150' Bridge over Shady River Dr. SR764
7. GPS: Lat. 36° 50.344, Lon. -80° 57.217
 MP 31.6: Welcome to Ivanhoe Depot. This site is the former home of the town's Norfolk & Western railroad depot and several outbuildings that supported the railroad's operations. Just south of the old depot site is a 270 foot long trestle that carries the trail into Ivanhoe. Not far from here, the 1901, 40,000-pound Allis-Chalmers rock crusher once ground large slabs of limestone into smaller pieces for a local quarry. Another industry in the area was the smelting of iron at furnaces near Ivanhoe and in other locations along the river. Mr. George L. Carter was a successful business man in the area who developed a new quality iron known as "Dora Pig" for the Dora Iron Furnace in Pulaski, where the metal was first produced. As you proceed along the trail you will occasionally spot the remains of these old stone furnaces.
8. GPS: Lat. 36° 50.35, Lon. -80° 57.228
 Parking for Ivanhoe Area: Go east on Route 639 off Route 94.

This project made possible in part by a grant from: