

# Sports

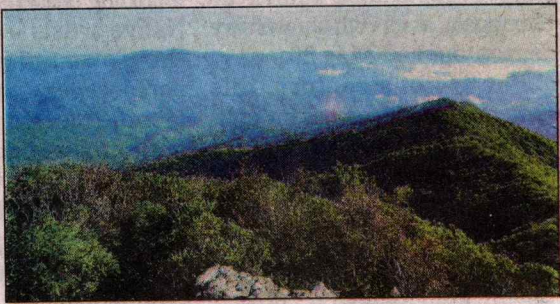


Photo courtesy of Philip Arnall/Contributing Photographer

The popular "Hangover" in Graham County is located along the Benton MacKaye Trail.

## Benton MacKaye Trail resolution passes House

WASHINGTON — The Benton MacKaye Trail Association celebrated the successful June 2 passage of the H.R. 2768 Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2025 — as amended — by the full House of Representatives.

The bipartisan bill requires the feasibility study to be completed within two years.

The passage is a step forward towards permanent protection for the 288-mile Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT). The House bill is sponsored by Reps. Chuck Fleischmann (Tenn.), Steve Cohen (Tenn.), Chuck Edwards (N.C.), and Lucy McBath (Ga).

The Senate now will need to approve the amended version of the bill. "We are grateful for the leadership from Representatives Fleischmann, Cohen, Edwards, and McBath for advancing this legislation to protect the Benton MacKaye Trail and set it on the path to becoming our country's 12th National Scenic Trail (NST)," said Benton MacKaye Trail Association President Bob Cowdrick.

"We also extend our thanks to the members of the House of Representatives for passing this legislation.

"We urge the Senate to act swiftly to bring it to the floor for consideration."

The last time a National Scenic Trail designation was approved by Congress was 15 years ago, in 2009. Ninety-five percent of the 288-mile-long Benton MacKaye Trail already is on public land. One hundred seventy-three miles of the trail already enjoys the enhanced protection provided by the 1964 Wilderness Act for Wilderness Areas.

The designation of the Benton MacKaye Trail as a National Scenic Trail will ensure the entire trail is protected for future generations and will remain a premier recreation destination for hikers. More than 100,000 visitors hike the trail annually and a National Scenic Trail designation will ensure the already-positive economic impact on nearby communities will increase substantially.

For more details, visit [bmta.org](http://bmta.org).