

## **Starr Mountain ride**

This is a beautiful ride on unpaved Forest Service roads, suitable for ADV bikes. It takes you along streams and to spectacular overlooks.

### **Getting to the start:**

From **68** just N of Tellico Plains, Left on **39**, Mecca Pike, Left on **315**, Reliance Rd.

After 7.3 miles you will see a brown sign on the right, Starr Mountain. Turn right on **Bullet Creek Rd.**

At the next intersection, turn left (where the sign says horses). Not the hard left, just the ordinary left. You're still on Bullet Creek Rd.

After an open area near a farm, the paved road makes a sharp left. On the right is a dirt road, sign says **44**. Take 44.

### **Off Road section:**

44 climbs a few miles along a stream tumbling down Starr Mountain. The stream is to your right.

When you get to the "T" (just past a small bridge) there is no sign but this is Forest Road 220. Go right.

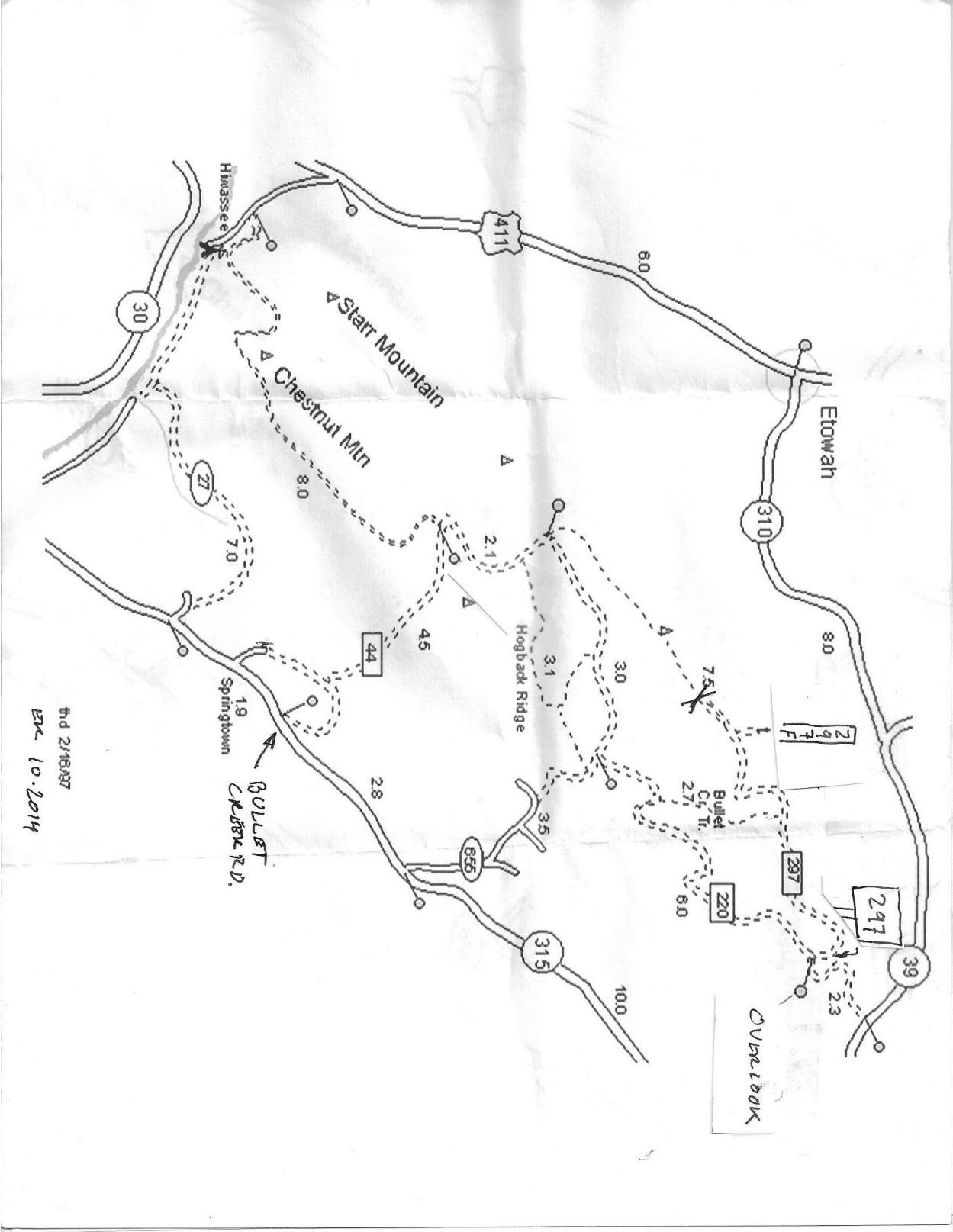
220 goes quite a few miles, generally northeast and climbing. Eventually you get to an intersection where there is a square brown sign on the left, **297**. Stop here and walk a few hundred feet up to the overlook on the right, it's worth it.

If you want you could continue forward down the hill on 220, to the paved road 39. Turn right on 39 to return to Tellico Plains and civilization.

Better yet, turn left from the overlook onto 297. It winds through a valley and is wetter and different than 220. Keep an eye out for a smaller road on the right, there is a brown vertical stick that says **297F**. You can go up here to an old fire tower. The first gate should be open but the second is closed. It's a very short walk from the closed gate to the fire tower. There is another great view on your left, just step through the gate where there is a sign about buried electrical wires.

If you continue on 297 you get to a closed gate, this marks the start of a 7-mile horse and mountain bike section, motorcycles not allowed. You could re-trace the ride going the other way, or as you go back you could stay on 220 past 44 and come out somewhere further southwest?

Write up by Hunt's Lodge regular guest, Erik K., Michigan



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BULLLET  
 CLUB RD.

OVERLOOK