

206: TRAIL MAPS AND DATA BOOK

Florida Trail Map Series and *Data Book*

The location and description of the Florida Trail (a.k.a. Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)) is documented in the Florida Trail map 1:100,000 series and *The Florida Trail Data Book*. The map series is maintained and periodically updated by FTA and the USDA Forest Service. Trail corridor and *Data Book* information are compiled by FTA trail staff and volunteers—usually the Regional Representatives and Section Leaders.

FTA publishes and sells both the maps and *The Florida Trail Data Book*—which provides general information for the entire Florida Trail. The *Data Book* lists trail data and mileages from south-to-north and north-to-south. **The official Florida Trail maps and Data Book are copyrighted and are not to be copied for distribution.** FTA sells these maps to offset expenses related to updating the map series and the *Data Book*.

The primary purpose of the FTA trail maps and *Data Book* is to provide trail users with accurate and up-to-date information. This is not possible without an accurate record of the trail's centerline and features. Without current and accurate trail centerline data both the FTA maps and the *Data Book* are flawed. The procedure outlined below provides a format and guideline as to what and how changes to the trail's centerline and features should be recorded and submitted to FTA. Revisions of both the maps and the *Data Book* must be coordinated to ensure they reflect the same information.

Florida Trail Maps and *Data Book* Change Procedure

The procedure shown below is established in order to accurately publish map and *Data Book* updates. Map change requests should originate from Chapter Trail Coordinators, Regional Representatives, or Section Leaders and be submitted to the FTA Office within 30 days of a trail centerline or data change. Trail centerline changes or *Data Book* description changes should be submitted using the Map Changes Procedure. Trail centerline changes may also require the submission of a Notice to Hikers (Chapter 205).

Map Changes Procedure.

1. Requests for changes to maps or *Data Book* text must be submitted in writing to the FTA office and originate from the Chapter Trail Coordinator, the Section Leader, a Regional Representative, or VP-Trails.
2. Changes coming into the FTA Office from persons other than the Chapter Trail Coordinator, the Section Leader, a Regional Representative, or VP-Trails will be sent to the Chapter Trail Coordinator for confirmation.
3. To maintain an accurate database of the trail's centerline, lateral movements of 50 feet or more are to be recorded and forwarded the FTA Office at the e-mail address shown below.

4. GPS track data of the trail's centerline and data points should be submitted to FTA in GPX file format. GPX is the preferred file format intended to transfer point and line information to and from GPS receivers. Most mapping software products are able to read and write files using this format.

5. In addition to the trail's centerline data, submissions should record and identify trailheads, trail kiosks, parking areas, campsites, side trails, water sources, bridges, roads, highways, fence gates, fence crossings, property boundary, trail signage, trail junctions, resupply facilities, and other features or information of interest to users.

6. Regardless of who does the field work necessitating map and *Data Book* changes, it is the responsibility of the Chapter Trail Coordinator and the Section Leader to verify the correctness of changes and provide the data to the FTA Office in a timely manner.

Submit all changes to:
Florida Trail Association
Attn: Map Changes
5415 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32608-5037
mapping@floridatrail.org
(877) HIKE-FLA
(352) 378-4550 (FAX)

The FTA has a limited number of portable GPS units available for loan to chapters to record map and *Data Book* changes. Contact the FTA office at the above address for details.

Chapter Trail Maps and Brochures

Chapters may publish, at their own expense, trail information and maps specifically targeted to trails in their immediate area. Any such maps or brochures should state who produced the document and the last revision date. It is expected that any maps published will not diminish the need for trail users to purchase official Florida Trail maps and *Data Book*. Any independently developed maps which show part of the Florida Trail or the Florida Trail System and/or makes mention of the FTA should be accompanied by the official FTA disclaimer:

"The Florida Trail Association, Inc., its officers, directors, staff and members proclaim the information included has not been independently verified by the FTA. The FTA assumes no liability arising from the use of the information herein. Persons using the information do so at their own risk."