

A.T. MEGA-Transect Chestnut Project

Checklist for Data Collection:

- ___ Segment Map(s) for count area of A.T.*
- ___ Chestnut Count Form(s)* (Chart that corresponds to Map—both maps and charts are found at <http://sfr.psu.edu/public/chestnut/reports/mega-transect/at-maps> or http://www.vatacf.org/at_mega-t_chestnut/mega-t_resources.shtml (S of VA))
- ___ Large Tree Report Forms
- ___ Copies of National Park Service Permits
- ___ Clipboard
- ___ Data Collector Kit
- ___ Trail Segment #s and Start and End Points if GIS maps and corresponding “Chart” report form are not available - <http://sfr.psu.edu/public/chestnut/reports/mega-transect/data-files/segments-trail/view>

Optional But Helpful:

- ___ Trail Maps
- ___ Hand lens or microscope
- ___ GPS
- ___ Digital Camera

Data Collector Kit:

- ___ Large ziplock bag – to protect forms from rain
- ___ Map & Chart (Chestnut Count Report Forms – record count for each sub-segment or, if Map and chart are not available, complete separate Chestnut Count Report Form for each Data Book Segment)
- ___ Large Tree Report Forms – complete one report for each tree 13 inches or more in circumference at 4.5 feet above ground
- ___ NPS Permits
- ___ Measuring tape – to measure circumference of “large” trees
- ___ 15 foot length of cord – to check distance from edge of trail
- ___ Set of 8 laminated cards to assist in identification of American chestnut trees
- ___ Pencil
- ___ Return envelope

Please return all original forms, count tallies and notes made in the field to:

**Kathy Marmet
6163 Enon School RD
Marshall, VA 20115**

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Map/Chart Issues: The route of the A.T. changes over time, and we have encountered a few problems as a result of trail changes. We have been working with ATC and the Park Service to either revise or delete those maps that are no longer accurate, but there is no simple process for tracking changes. If you encounter a problem or inaccuracy with one of the maps you are using, please let us know! Also, use your best judgment to determine sub-segment breaks, and note any issues or changes on your chart form (or by using a blank form). Suggested trail breaks (sub-segments) are other trails, roads, shelters and marked parking locations. We encourage you to check this website link for current updates of trail locations and changes: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/hiking/trail-updates> .

Please don't hesitate to count an area that has previously been counted-- counts at different times and by different data collectors will assist scientists in analyzing data reliability issues and looking at changes in the chestnut population over time.

Recording Counts and Returning Count Reports: Please use the Map and corresponding Chart to report data if it is available when you decide to do your count. You need not complete counts for all areas on a map. Please record a separate count for each subsection and complete all subsections of a Data Book Segment if possible. Please record all requested data for each count area and mail your original data collection sheets (the ones you write on in the field while you are doing the counting) to: K. Marmet, 6163 Enon School RD, Marshall, VA 20115. Emailing a high resolution scan in either PDF or JPEG format is also OK.

County tally: A suggested method for keeping track of your count as you go is to note the first four as dots that make up the four corners of a square. Record the next four by connecting two of those dots for each count (total of 8). The next two are recorded as the diagonals of the square.

IMPORTANT - RECORDING TRAIL VISIBILITY ESTIMATES: In order to calculate the population density of American chestnut trees based on your data, the amount of trail that was visible during the count must be recorded. This is why your estimate of the percentage of the trail where you could not see the full 15 foot count-corridor is important. For example, if you were always able to see for 15 feet on either side of the trail, enter "0" for the requested percentages and leave the estimates of average visible distance blank. However, if during the trail segment walked, 10% of the trail had only a 7 foot visibility on the right hand side, record 10 for the requested percentage and 7 in the "ft. to right" blank. BE SURE TO ENTER YOUR DIRECTION OF TRAVEL! Your rough estimate while collecting the data is much better (and more accurate) than our guess from a distant office.

Large Tree Reports: Please complete one report for each tree with 13 inches or greater circumference. You can print a couple of the "Large Tree" Table Report forms to use in case you encounter a lot of large trees, but please try to include all the same information. Be sure to include Section # and Subsection if your section has been divided into subsections, number sequentially and note direction of travel. If you have a GPS unit with you, please record location. If not, please give approximate distance from a landmark that would be identifiable to someone hiking the trail to find the tree.

NPS Permits: Be sure to print, carry with you and comply with conditions!

If you have questions, please contact TACF Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Marmet at kathymarmet@gmail.com (540-364-6292)

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