

## Route Description:

- 0.0 Start/Finish at same point at Stone Door parking lot.
- 0.1 access trail at end of parking lot
- 1.2 turn left on Big Creek Rim trail
- 2.6 Stone Door Overlook. Take Big Creek Gulf trail down through the Stone Door.
- 3.4 turn left onto Connector trail
- 6.3 turn right onto Collins Gulf trail
- 6.9 water crossing
- 9.4 **Collins West Checkpoint** (food and water) continue on Collins Gulf/Rim trails
- 15.6 turn left onto Stagecoach Rd. Historic trail
- 17.1 **Sawmill Checkpoint** (food and water; cutoff point) continue to Connector trail
- 17.5 Connector trail turns right (begins re-run portion)
- 20.4 continue straight to Big Creek Gulf trail (ends re-run portion)
- 23.3 **Alum Gap Checkpoint** (water only) continue on Laurel trail
- 26.1 turn right onto Stone Door road
- 26.2 Finish

## Detailed Description:

Start at Stone Door parking lot and run to the access gate at the edge of the lot. The dirt and gravel road leads you towards the old steel ladder access off of the bluff of Big Creek Bluff. The road is wide enough for a vehicle to travel. At 1.2 miles you will make a left onto Big Creek Rim trail. The single track trail is right on the bluff edge. Be careful not to fall off! At 2.6 miles you will come to the Stone Door Overlook. Make a right down through the Stone Door. The stone steps lead you to the base of the cliff. Continue down the wooden steps and hook left at the large boulder. Be prepared to maneuver around many large boulders until you hit your next junction. At 3.4 miles you will make a left onto the Connector Trail. In a half mile you will cross the Laurel creek bridge and continue running down the trail/access road. You will make a sharp right following the trail and start a down hill run through a bouldery section to the Big Creek bridge. The trail will then climb uphill to an old road bed that will lead you past the old Decatur Savage Historic site on your left. A half mile past Decatur Savage you will cross the Collins River bridge and immediately turn right onto the Collins Gulf Trail(6.3 miles). About a half of a mile up the trail you will come to a possible water crossing. In the event of flood waters there will be a rope system setup and this could potentially be a bottleneck. In another mile and a half you will come to a second creek crossing. A rope system will be setup if necessary to cross. After you pass the side trail to HorsePound Falls you will begin your ascent towards Suter Falls. Keep your eyes out for wild flowers, this area is know world wide for them. At Suter Falls you will need to cross over a bridge and stay to your left. Watch out for ice in cold weather! At 9.4 miles in you will hit your first Checkpoint that has both food and water. Continue up the trail to a very bouldery section of trail. Continue across the suspension bridge and up to the Collins East

Campground. Catch the Collins Rim Trail heading towards the Stage Coach Road. At 15.6 miles turn left onto the Stage Coach Road Historic Trail. This down hill section of trail turns into a wide roadbed. Be careful in this area, there is a lot of loose rock. At 17.1 miles you will hit the Sawmill campground and the 2<sup>nd</sup> checkpoint with food and water. This will also be our cut off point. Cut off times will be listed at a later date. Continue back to the connector trail. This section will be an area that you have already run. You will run back to the intersection of the Big Creek Gulf and Connector trail junctions (20.4 miles). Continue on the Big Creek Gulf trail at a half of mile in you will pass the Ranger Falls trail junction. Continue straight past the Ranger Falls trail. You will run through several small boulder fields and run parallel to the creek. You will then begin running up hill towards Alum Gap Campground, passing the Greeter Falls trail along the way. At 23.3 miles you will be at the Alum Gap Check point (water only). Make a left onto the Laurel trail and run 2.8 miles to the Stone Door Road. Make a right onto the pavement for your final .1 mile run to the finish line. Cross the finish line and unleash your Savage Howl!!