Bethel Creek Campsite... relocated

A great little campsite about in the middle of the Pine Mountain Trail....

On January 25, 2014 volunteers with the PMTA relocated Bethel Creek Campsite in name 2310’ or about .45 of a mile east of the old location (east of Mile 13 marker 600’.) The new campsite location is somewhat smaller than the old one and will accommodate at most 5 tents. The site is located in sight of the Pine Mountain Trail a short distance off the trail, south side. This is 737 feet west of the BootTop Trail/Pine Mountain Trail intersection. Note: there is only one fire-ring authorized here (so like all PMT backcountry campsites please don’t add fire-rings or move them.) The one grand fire ring is the best of all the PMT campsites (thanks to Joe Skinner building it.) There is a lot of downed wood near the site, and with water nearby campfires are permitted at present time (unless a fire-ban park wide comes up.)

Joe Skinner

Directions to the site: From the west once you pass Molly Hugger Hill Parking Lot (Mile 11.2) continue to travel east on the trail past Mile 12, through the tornado damage areas to just 600’ past Mile 13 to the site. Coming from Dowdell Knob Trailhead (Mile 14.5) come west past Mile 14 downhill on the trail, past the BootTop Trail intersection 737’ on west to the site. There is a wooden sign by the trail leading off PMT to camp, and a carsonite sign on the opposite side of trail with arrows pointing to camp and down to the water source.

New wooden sign installed 2/7/2014...
The water source is a year round spring head just 140’ west of the campsite (just 27’ off the trail.) This is the start of Bethel Creek.
OLD BETHEL CREEK CAMPSITE LOCATION

As of February 7, 2014 ......Old Bethel Creek Campsite has an engraved sign there noting it is closed (no camping or fires there.) It was located 1710’ west of Mile 13. Old Bethel Creek Campsite was first closed after extensive damage to the general area in and around it from the tornado that hit the trail on April 28, 2011. The site was cleared as an Eagle Scout Project and was back open as of March 9, 2012. But the summer of 2012 weeds again took over. The camp was cleared again as of May 11, 2013 but the site was not used much and again the weeds took over (thus leading to its permanent closing at its old location).