

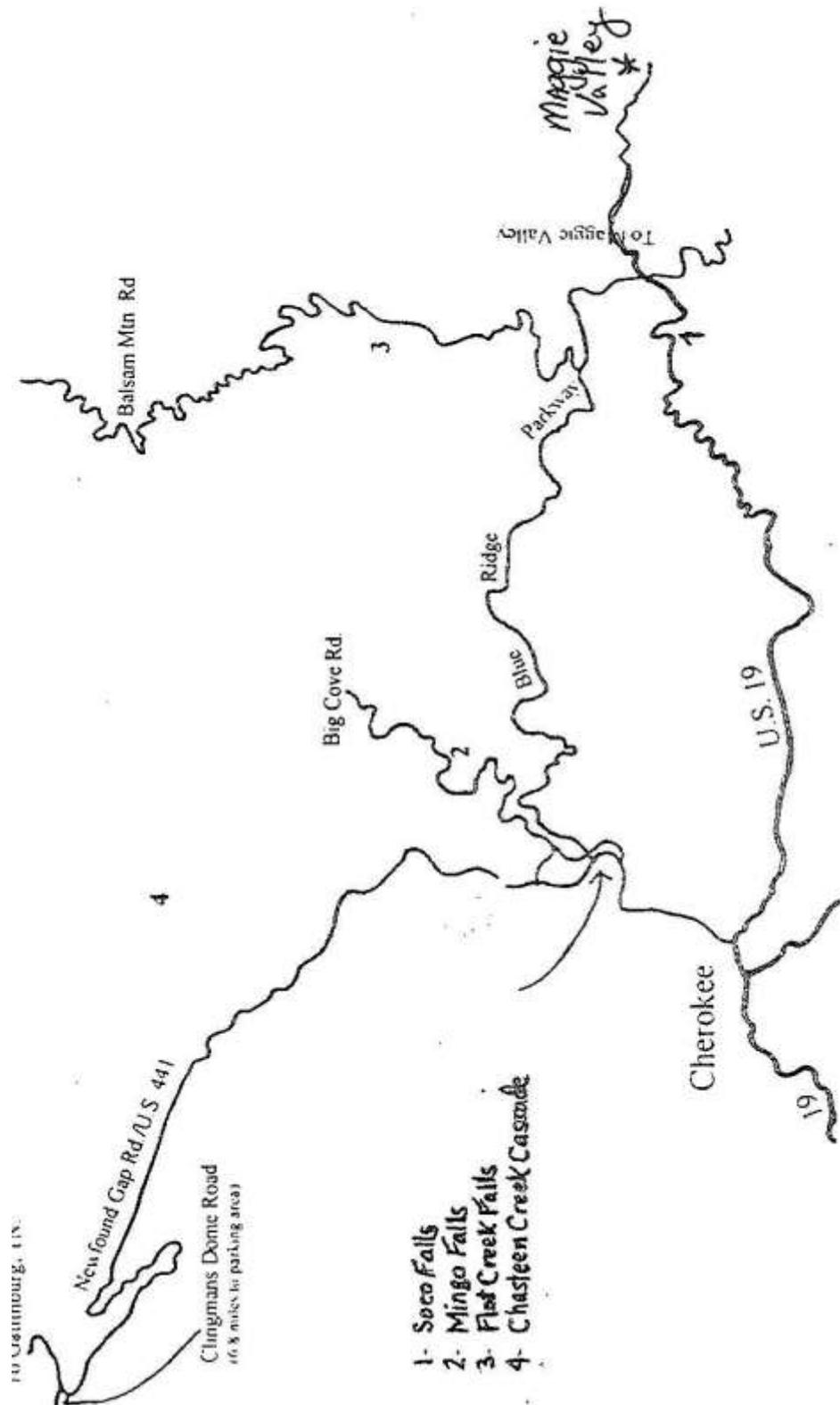
Waterfall Trip (Cherokee region)

Take highway 19 south to towards Cherokee. After you pass the Blue Ridge parkway you will see an old gem mine on the right side of the road and Suttons fish pond and motel on left. Go approximately one mile. There will be a long guard rail on the left. Part way down it you will see a pull off area. Facing the opposite direction is a small sign stating "Gem Mine in one mile". The trail down to Soco Falls starts at this point. This is a short but very steep trail to the bottom where you need to view the falls. Do not attempt the climb down unless you are capable of scrambling up and down.

After leaving Soco Falls proceed down the mountain into Cherokee (about 10 miles). Take 441 west and turn right at the Job Corps Center sign and go .6 miles to Big Cove road, turn left and proceed 3.3 miles until you see **Mingo Falls Campground** on the right. Go into their parking lot and park in the front. The trail to the falls is to the left of the water station. This is a fairly steep trail however there are steps and places to rest, making it fairly accessible. The trail is only about 1/4 of a mile. **Mingo Falls** is about a 150 foot fall.

After seeing Mingo Falls proceed back to highway 441 and head west. From the junction of The Blue Ridge Parkway drive 3.8 miles northwest on 441 and turn right at the sign for **Smokemont Campground**. Cross the **Oconaluftee River** and turn left into the campground. Drive to the far end of the campground and park at the gate. **Bradley Fork Trail** begins beyond the gate. After 1.2 miles turn right onto **Chasteen Creek Trail**. After 3/4 mile you will come to a hitching post on the left. Walk past the hitching post and pick up a small trail leading 100 yards to **Chasteen Creek Cascade**. This is a 30 foot cascade. The falls is smaller but it is a very pretty trail and worth the hike.

Coming back if you want to take the scenic way, backtrack to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and head north until you hit Highway 19 and take back down to Maggie Valley. This is a very pretty stretch and you will have some good pullover spots for views.



Fountainburg, TN

Newfound Gap Rd / U.S. 441

Clingmans Dome Road
(6.8 miles to parking area)

Balsam Mtn Rd

Big Cove Rd

- 1- Soco Falls
- 2- Mingo Falls
- 3- Flat Creek Falls
- 4- Chasteen Creek Cascade

Parkway

Blue Ridge

Mingie Valley

To Mingie Valley

Cherokee

U.S. 19

19

