

USDA Forest Service Cherokee National Forest

Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District

Route 1, Box 348-D
Benton, TN 37307



NEWS

News Contact:
Andy Gaston
423-338-5201

New Horse Camp To Open By May 26

Benton, TN - May 19, 2006 ... A new horse camp will soon be open in the Ocoee – Hiwassee Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest. Lost Corral Horse Camp is located in Polk County off FS Road 27 near the Hiwassee Ocoee Scenic River State Parks Office.

Lost Corral will feature 20 developed campsites, each with its own picnic table, fire ring, lantern post and horse hitching area. Each site will accommodate up to five people and two vehicles. Potable water and vault toilet facilities are located in the campground. The fee for camping is \$15.00 per site per day.

USDA Forest Service officials report that they intend to have at least 5 of the 20 campsites available by the Memorial Day weekend. Ocoee-Hiwassee District Ranger Monte Williams said, “If work continues to progress on the campground we may very well be able to open more than five campsites by May 26th. We’d like to open them all if possible. This is a nice facility and we are pleased to make it available to equestrian users.”

Lost Corral Horse Camp is near the Starr Mountain Horse Trail Complex, Gee Creek Wilderness, Spring Creek Shooting Range and Hiwassee River. “Lost Corral is in a great location near a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities,” said Ranger Williams.

The Starr Mountain Horse Trail Complex consists of over 30 miles of trails ranging from short loop trails to long overnight rides. The trail complex can be accessed directly from the Lost Corral Horse Camp and Trailhead via the Coffee Branch Trail #105, 7.9 miles to Iron Gap. This trail presents a moderate challenge due to the grade and rocky condition of the old roadbed. Combined with the Chestnut Mountain Trail #104, 3.8 miles, horseback riders can make a loop back to Lost Corral through Gee Creek Wilderness.

For additional information about Lost Corral Horse Camp contact the Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District at 423.338.3300.

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Directions to Lost Corral Horse Camp:

When coming from the South: From the intersection of US Highways 64 and 411 drive north on HWY 411 12.7 miles to Spring Creek Road - Forest Development Road 27 (FDR 27) and turn right. The turnoff is 7.0 miles north of the traffic light in Benton. There is a Hiwassee Ocoee Scenic River State Park sign marking the turn. After turning off HWY 411 continue on Spring Creek Road, Lost Corral is just past the State Parks Office and across the road from Gee Creek State Park.

When coming from the North: From Etowah travel approximately 5 miles south on US Highway 411. Continue on Hwy 411 .8 of a mile south of the junction of US HWY 411 and State Route 163 (Benton Banking Company located on the right at this junction) and look for Spring Creek Road and the Hiwassee Ocoee Scenic River Park turnoff sign (turnoff is on the left). After turning off HWY 411 continue on Spring Creek Road, Lost Corral is just past the State Parks Office and across the road from Gee Creek State Park.

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