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## Construction Projects at Lost Corral and Chilhowee Recreation Area

**BENTON, TN – August 20, 2004 ...** Construction and significant upgrades are being made to recreation sites in the Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest. A horse camp is being constructed at Lost Corral near Gee Creek in Polk County, and four campground loops in the Chilhowee Recreation Area located off FS Road 77 in Polk County will be reconstructed and upgraded.

The Construction of Lost Corral Horse Camp is currently underway. Completion is expected in the first quarter of calendar year 2005. The campground will have 19 sites designed for overnight campers with horses. The project will also reconstruct and expand the existing equestrian trailhead. Fees will be required at the campground only. Day use will not require a fee. Camping fees have not been determined at this time.

Campground Loops C,D,E, and F of Chilhowee Recreation Area will be closed immediately after the Labor Day Holiday. Campground Loops A & B, the overflow camping area, and all day use facilities will continue to be open for public use. Reconstruction of all infrastructure in Loops C,D,E, and F will be undertaken with an expected completion date of May 2005. Significant upgrades to these loops will include a new bathroom/shower facility and converting Loop E to RV capable sites with electrical hookups.

The Chilhowee project will eliminate a significant deferred maintenance backlog while greatly improving user experiences. The Lost Corral Horse Camp will provide an equestrian camping opportunity that has been in demand for many years.

For more detailed information on these projects contact the Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District at 423-338-5201.

