

Watauga Ranger District
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Renovations planned for Little Oak Recreation Area

Unicoi, TN – February 12 , 2010 ... Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest say renovation of the Little Oak Recreation Area at South Holston Lake in Sullivan County is scheduled to begin this spring. As a result of these renovations portions of the facility will be closed while work is underway.

Little Oak is a popular recreation facility located in the Watauga Ranger District. The existing high-maintenance water treatment plant used at this site will be replaced by drilling new wells equipped with chlorinators. Work will also include replacement of current sand filter septic systems with prefabricated vault restroom facility buildings.

Watauga District Ranger, Don Palmer said, “This much needed renovation is being funded primarily by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The work on this facility will contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for national forest visitors. Once work is completed Little Oak Recreation Area will provide better service and amenities and save taxpayer money. I think folks will be pleased with the improvements made.”

While work is going on portions of the recreation area will be closed. Following is the 2010 Little Oak Recreation Area schedule:

Loop/Area:	Open:	Closed:	Fee:	Remarks:
Hemlock	March 12 (w/out water)		\$6/night	Portable toilets & no water until May 14th
Poplar & Hemlock	May 14 (with water)	September 27	\$10/night	Drinking water, no showers
Big Oak	September 27	December 6	\$6/night	Portable toilets & no water
Lone Pine	N/A	N/A	N/A	CLOSED ALL SEASON
Boat Ramp	March 12	December 6		

~more~

1st add--- Little Oak Recreation Area renovations

Ranger Palmer concluded by saying, “Although portions of the Little Oak Recreation Area will be impacted during the renovation efforts the Jacobs Creek Recreation Area also located on South Holston Lake will open April 16th, one month earlier than normal. Flush toilets and showers are available at Jacobs Creek and camping fees will be \$12 a night.”

For additional information please call the Unicoi Ranger Station at (423) 735 1500.

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