



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212**

Contact: Michelle Burnett (803) 561-4091

May 8, 2008 (FMS 0804)

MEDIA ADVISORY

Forest Service to Unveil Historic Chattooga Town Marker

Who: U.S. Forest Service (Andrew Pickens District Ranger Mike Crane; Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas, U.S. Forest Service Region 8 Acting Regional Forester Tom Peterson) and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (representatives from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office).

What: Dedication of a South Carolina state historic marker commemorating the Cherokee village of Chattooga Town in Oconee County.

When: May 12, 2008. Ceremony starts at 10 a.m. Media is advised to arrive at the site no later than 9:45 a.m.

Where: Next to the Russell Farmstead site on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest.

Directions: From Walhalla, SC, follow SC Highway 28 north to Cuzzin's General Store. Take the left fork (Hwy. 28). The farmstead is on the left before the bridge crossing the Chattooga River into Georgia.

Background: This historic marker commemorates the Cherokee village of Chattooga Town which occupied the bottom lands along the Chattooga River for almost 160 years from the late 1500s until approximately 1740. The town was located near what is now the Russell Farmstead site on the Sumter National Forest. The Cherokees remained here until 1816 when the last Cherokee owner, Walter Adair, sold the land to William Clark who, in 1827, sold the land to Ira Nicholson. Ganaway Russell purchased the property in 1867 and built the Russell House. The Forest Service acquired the property in 1970.

The dedication of this marker recognizes that the Cherokee people inhabited this area long before the Russell Farm existed and almost 200 years before the Sumter National Forest was established. With this dedication ceremony, we recognize the importance of our nation's heritage, history and historic landscapes.

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