



Cherokee National Forest

## Forest Service News Release

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### National Forest Seasonal Road Management Schedule

**UNICOI, TENN., Sep. 13, 2023**— Cherokee National Forest officials announced the annual seasonal closures of certain roads to motorized vehicles on the northern portion of the forest to protect wildlife habitat, decrease wildlife disturbance, and reduce road maintenance costs.

These seasonal road closures are from Sep. 11 to Dec. 20 on specific roads in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan, and Johnson counties. However, some of these roads are temporarily opened for short periods to provide seasonal public access for various uses including fall color viewing, hunting, and other uses.

Roads may be closed earlier than scheduled due to poor road conditions brought on by extreme weather conditions. These weather conditions may include freezing/thawing, extreme drought, fire danger, or storm damage. In some cases, roads sustain severe damage from vehicle use and are closed to protect the various resources.

Forest visitors are asked to leave all gates free of obstructions and to not block gates when parking. Hunters are reminded it is illegal to discharge firearms from or across a National Forest System Road. For additional information, contact the following Forest Service offices: Unaka Ranger Station, Greeneville, TN at (423) 638-4109; Watauga Ranger Station, Unicoi, TN at (423) 735-1500.

For information regarding hunting seasons and regulations, contact the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region IV, Morristown, TN- Phone: 1 (800) 332-0900.

#### **Cherokee National Forest Unaka and Watauga Ranger Districts Road Openings and Closings, Fall/Winter 2023-2024**

The Forest Service announces a schedule of systematic road openings and closures through December 20, 2023. These roads are in the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area - Cherokee National Forest in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan, and Johnson Counties in East Tennessee.

#### **Fall Road Openings**

Roads open September 11 – December 20, 2023

##### **Carter County**

- Moffett Laurel - NFSR 4331 - Open to second gate
- Jenkins Mountain - NFSR 53102
- Piney Grove - NFSR 53351 - Open to second gate
- George Creek - NFSR 53301 - Open to second gate
- Little Pond Mountain - NFSR 6034

##### **Greene County**

- Greystone - NFSR 88 - Open from Round Knob Picnic Area to dead end
- Rough Branch - NFSR 422A - Dead end at MP 2.6 due to road failure. No access to Shad Road (NFSR 422)

##### **Johnson County**

- Parks Branch - NFSR 6049 - 1.0 mile to second gate
- Robbins Hollow - NFSR 4052 - Open to 4.6 miles to second gate. In Bear Reserve.

##### **Sullivan County**

- Pine Mountain - NFSR 4002 - From US Highway 421 to middle gate. From Wyatt Hollow side to second gate

##### **Washington County**

- Ramsey Creek - NFSR 4355 - Spur (NFSR 4355a) is closed
- Tellico Branch - NFSR 53711 - Open to second gate

#### **Fall Road Closings**

##### **Carter County**

- Cedar Gap - NFSR 293A - Closed for timber sale
- Griffith Branch - NFSR 5081 - Closed for timber sale

##### **Sullivan County**

- Flatwoods - NFSR 87 - Closed for construction from MP 6.56 to MP 12.95 (Cross Roads)
- Camp Tom Howard - NFSR 6099 - Closed for timber sale
- Fishdam SE - NFSR 87A - Closed for construction
- Fishdam NE - NFSR 87B - Closed for timber sale

**Unicoi County**

- Unaka Mountain - NFSR 230 - Closed for construction starting Oct. 2

**Winter Road Closings**

Roads closed December 20 - March 18, 2024

**Carter County**

- Frog Level - NFSR 50F
- Holston Mountain - NFSR 5202
- Mill Creek (Panhandle Road) - NFSR 56
- Bitter End - NFSR 293
- White Rock - NFSR 5314
- George Creek - NFSR 53301

**Cocke County**

- Wolf Creek - NFSR 96-1
- Big Clifty - NFSR 404
- Meadow Creek Mountain - NFSR 142
- Weaver Bend Road - NFSR 209C
- Rattlesnake - NSFR 3242

**Greene County**

- Little Paint Creek - NFSR 31B
- Old Forge (Jennings Creek) - NFSR 331
- Shad Road - NFSR 422
- Upper Rough Branch - NFSR 93D/93E
- Firescald (Kennedy Cabin) - NFSR 358/358A

**Johnson County**

- Gouge Tract (Colorado Gap) - NFSR 602101

**Sullivan County**

- Little Oak - NFSR 87G

**Unicoi County**

- Irishman's Branch - NFSR 313
- Little Mountain - NFSR 359
- Unaka Mountain Road - NFSR 230
- Long Branch/Dark Hollow - NFSR 4365

**Washington County**

- Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mountain) - NFSR 188 - And all spurs
- Rich Mountain - NFSR 190
- Horse Cove Gap - NFSR 5352

The following National Forest System Roads are **not** scheduled to be opened due to resource or storm damage:

**Sullivan County:** Dogwood Bench (NFSR 4431)

**Johnson County:** Whetstone Branch (NFSR 124)

**Unicoi County:** Martin Creek (NFSR 410) and Rocky Branch (NFSR 4343)

**Carter County:** Cherry Flats (NFSR 50A) – Permanently Closed

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