CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

http://fs.usda.gov/cherokee

Report: 5—October 23, 2015

FALL COLOR REPORT

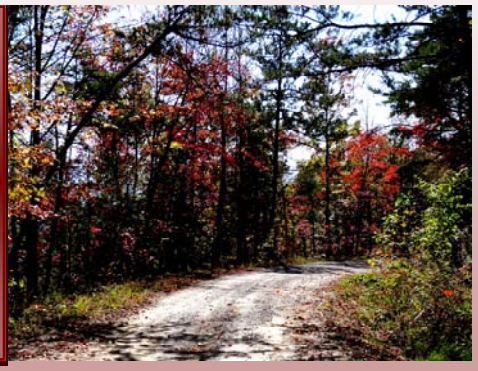
Fall Colors: The factors that influence fall leaf color are shorter day lengths, weather (primarily cooler temperatures and less moisture) and changing levels of leaf pigments. The only constant factor from year to year is the shortening day length. As days become shorter and nights grow longer, biochemical processes in the leaf initiate changing leaf color. Predicting peak color periods is nearly impossible.

The Cherokee National Forest (Forest) usually experiences a fall color season lasting several weeks . Elevations in the Forest range from approximately 1,000' to over 5,000'. Color change usually starts at the higher elevations and moves down the mountain sides from high to low over a period of several weeks.

Current Conditions

North Cherokee NF

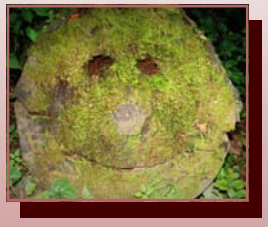
Unaka & Watauga Districts: Color has peaked at elevations above 4,000'. Considerable color is showing at lower elevations throughout the area.



Unaka District Oct. 19, 2015

South Cherokee NF

Ocoee & Tellico Districts: Color is starting to show at lower elevations and in the valleys. Color has peaked at elevations above 4,000'. Colors are near peak from 2,500'- 3,500' along the Cherohala Skyway.



The sights and sounds of autumn!

For more information call:

Forest Supervisor's Office	423-476-9700
Ocoee Ranger District	423-338-3300
Tellico Ranger District	423-253-8400
Unaka Ranger District	423-638-4109
Watauga Ranger District	423-735-1500
Ocoee Whitewater Center	423-496-0100

Ocoee Whitewater Center 2015

Recommended Scenic Viewing Routes

Northeast Tennessee

Paint Creek Corridor – Unaka RD, Greene County, TN
Latitude: 35.977583 - Longitude:-82.843763— Meander along 5-mile Paint Creek Corridor to historic paint Rock. Picnicking and many other recreation opportunities are available along scenic Paint Creek Corridor.

Unaka Mountain Scenic Drive – Unaka RD, Unicoi County,TN
Latitude: 36.117632 - Longitude:-82.333151—From Erwin, this drive makes a circle connecting TN 395, graveled Forest Road 230 and TN 107, a state scenic parkway, past Limestone Cove. The route winds from the valley floor in Unicoi County, TN to high -elevation spruce forests and balds atop Unaka Mountain.

TN State Route 143 to Carver's Gap – Watauga RD, Carter County, TN
Latitude: 36.106911 - Longitude:-82.111158. - This state scenic parkway climbs through Roan Mountain State Park to Carvers Gap, with numerous long-distance mountain vistas, picnic spots, rhododendrons and spruce-fir forests spectacular.

Brush Creek Mountain Loop – Unaka RD, Cocke County, TN
Latitude: 35.964287 - Longitude: -82.943475— Travel along TN 107, Forest Road 209 (some portions are gravel) and US 25/70. FR 209 meanders through a narrow canyon with rhododendron-covered bluffs.

Southeast Tennessee

Ocoee Scenic Byway – Ocoee RD, Polk County TN
Latitude: 35.102244 - Longitude:-84.557121—The first designated national forest scenic byway in the nation includes 26 miles of US 64 and Forest Road 77. The two-lane route winds past Parksville Lake, through the scenic rocky bluffs of Ocoee River Gorge and past the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Take a side trip up the 7-mile Chilhowee Scenic Spur, Forest Road 77, to Chilhowee Recreation Area.

Hiwassee River Road – Ocoee RD, Polk County, TN
Latitude: 35.198842 - Longitude:-84.473566—State Route 30 follows Hiwassee State Scenic River to the historic community of Reliance. Cross the bridge and turn east to Forest Road 108. Climb the mountain to Big Bend and Apalachia Powerhouse. Enjoy the views from Hood Mountain overlook and other spectacular sites along the corridor.

Tellico River Road – Tellico RD, Monroe County, TN
Latitude: 35.323117- Longitude:-84.175768—Take State Route 165 from Tellico Plains to Forest Road 210. The route follows Tellico River past Bald River Falls, where you can pull off to view the magnificent falls. A few miles farther, stop to view pools of teeming trout at historic Pheasant Fields Fish Rearing Pools.

Cherohala Skyway – Tellico RD, Monroe County, TN
Latitude: 35.324505 - Longitude:-84.177268—View some of the best mountain scenery in the world from this 43-mile National Scenic Byway through the Cherokee and Nantahala national forests. Drive along the sparkling rush of the Tellico River, stop at overlooks to take in expansive views of the Tennessee Valley and waves of mountain peaks, hike to high elevation mountain balds or nearby Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. Stop for a picnic at Indian Boundary Recreation Area.

October 23, 2015 Report

National Weather Service Information:

http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=36.21&lon=-83.3#.VhURqJiFN9M

Morristown, TN — Extended Forecast for Oct 23– Oct 26, 2015

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 75. Calm wind.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 75.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Sunday: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.

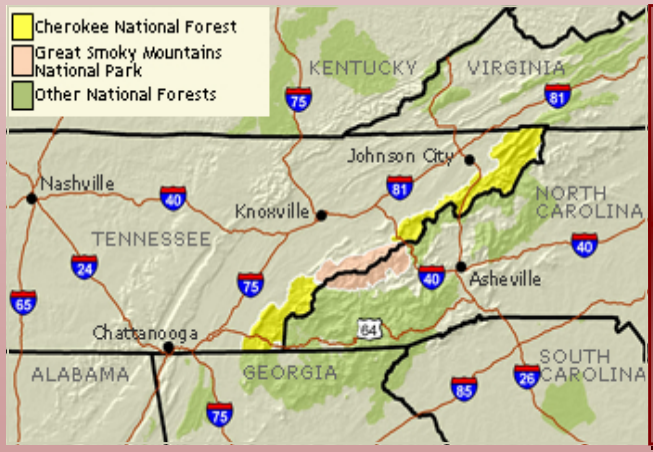
Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 67.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.

When visiting the national forest always be prepared for the unexpected. Don't hesitate to postpone a visit if weather forecasts aren't favorable —be safe and enjoy the outdoors!

For outdoor safety tips visit: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3821151.pdf



Cherokee National Forest

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U.S. Forest Service file photos