

# CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



Report: 7—November 6, 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 extremely difficult.

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 2,000'. Some color is still showing in scattered pockets at lower elevations..



**Horse Creek Pond**

#### South Cherokee NF

**Ocoee & Tellico Districts:** Wind and rain have taken a toll on leaves . However, there is still color showing in isolated areas at lower elevations.



**McKamy Lake**

For more information call:

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



Tellico River Road



## 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.





November 6, 2015 Report

### National Weather Service Information:

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

### Morristown, TN — Extended Forecast for NOV 6 – Nov 9, 2015

**Friday Afternoon:** A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Friday Night:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 60. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

**Saturday:** Showers likely, mainly before 1pm. Cloudy, with a temperature falling to around 54 by 4pm. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 58. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

**Monday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 60.

**Monday Night:** A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3821151.pdf)



Cherokee National Forest



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