



**Forest Service**

Cherokee National Forest.

**Watauga Ranger District**

4400 Unicoi Drive

Unicoi, TN 37692

(423) 735-1500

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/cherokee>

# News Release



Media Contact: Lynn DiFiore

\* (423) 735-1500

## ***National Forest Seasonal Road Management Schedule***

**UNICOI, TENN**, August 30, 2016 – U.S. Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest announced the annual schedule for opening and closing certain roads through May 18, 2017. These roads are located in the northern portion of the Cherokee National Forest (Cherokee Wildlife Management Area) in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan and Johnson counties.

Certain roads in the Cherokee National Forest are systematically closed to motorized vehicle use to protect wildlife habitat, decrease wildlife disturbance and reduce road maintenance costs. 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 or fire danger. 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. 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 – Phone: 423-638-4109; Watauga Ranger Station, Unicoi, TN - Phone: 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.

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**Cherokee National Forest  
Unaka and Watauga Ranger Districts  
2016-2017**

Cherokee National Forest announces a schedule of systematic road openings and closures through May 18, 2017. These roads are located in the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan and Johnson Counties in East Tennessee.

**Fall Road Openings**

Roads open September 20, 2016 thru December 19, 2016

| <b>ROAD</b>                   | <b>NUMBER</b> | <b>COUNTY</b> | <b>COMMENTS</b>                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Fishdam SE                    | 87A           | Sullivan      | To Second Gate                         |
| Pine Mountain                 | 4002          | Sullivan      |  |
| Gouge Tract (Colorado Gap)    | 602101        | Johnson       |  |
| Parks Branch                  | 6049          | Johnson       | 1.0 mile to second gate                |
| Robbins Hollow                | 4052          | Johnson       | 4.6 miles to 2nd gate. In Bear Reserve |
| Moffit Laurel                 | 4331          | Carter        | Open to Second Gate                    |
| Cedar Gap                     | 293A          | Carter        | In Bear Reserve                        |
| Piney Grove                   | 53351         | Carter        |  |
| Fishdam NE                    | 87B           | Sullivan      | Open to second gate                    |
| Rich Mountain                 | 190           | Unicoi        | 7.0 miles to earth barrier             |
| Tellico Branch (Deacon Creek) | 53711         | Washington    | Open to Gap                            |
| Greystone                     | 88            | Greene        | From Round Knob to dead end            |
| Upper Rough Branch            | 93            | Greene        |  |
| Horse Cove Gap (Cherokee Mtn) | 5352          | Washington    |  |

**Fall Road Closings**

| <b>ROAD</b>  | <b>NUMBER</b> | <b>COUNTY</b> | <b>COMMENTS</b>        |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Cherry Flats | 50A           | Carter        | Closed for Timber Sale |

### Winter Road Closures

Roads closed December 19, 2016 thru March 15, 2017

| ROAD                        | NUMBER    | COUNTY     | COMMENTS      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mtn)  | 188       | Washington | And all spurs |
| Little Oak                  | 87G       | Sullivan   |               |
| Big Creek                   | 87C       | Sullivan   |               |
| Frog Level                  | 50F       | Carter     |               |
| Mill Creek/Holston Mountain | 56/202    | Carter     |               |
| Bitter End                  | 293       | Carter     |               |
| White Rock                  | 5314      | Carter     |               |
| Little Pond Mountain        | 6034      | Carter     |               |
| George Creek                | 53301     | Carter     |               |
| Irishman's Branch           | 313       | Unicoi     |               |
| Little Mountain             | 359       | Unicoi     |               |
| Unaka Mountain Road         | 230       | Unicoi     |               |
| Rich Mountain               | 190       | Washington |               |
| Little Paint Creek          | 31B       | Greene     | And loop 31C  |
| Old Forge (Jennings Creek)  | 331       | Greene     |               |
| Shad Road                   | 422       | Greene     |               |
| Rough Branch                | 422A      | Greene     |               |
| Wolf Creek                  | 96-1      | Cocke      |               |
| Meadow Creek Mountain       | 142 & 404 | Cocke      |               |
| Weaver Bend Road            | 209C      | Cocke      |               |
| Rattlesnake                 | 3242      | Cocke      |               |

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

- Unicoi County:** NFSR 410 Martin Creek; NFSR 4365 Long Branch.
- Sullivan County:** NFSR 4431 Dogwood Bench
- Johnson County:** NFSR 124 Whetstone Branch
- Greene County:** NFSR 358 Firescald (Kennedy Cabin)

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### Spring Road Openings

Roads open March 22, 2017 thru May 18, 2017

| ROAD         | NUMBER | COUNTY  | COMMENTS              |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| Gouge Tract  | 602101 | Johnson |                       |
| Parks Branch | 6049   | Johnson | 1.0 mi to second gate |
| Cedar Gap    | 293a   | Carter  | In Bear Reserve       |
| Piney Grove  | 53351  | Carter  |                       |

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