



**\*Forest Service**

Cherokee National Forest.

**Watauga Ranger District**

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Unicoi, TN 37692

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

# News Release



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

Cherokee National Forest

**UNICOI, TENN**, September 12, 2017 – U.S. Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest announced the annual schedule for opening and closing certain roads through May 17, 2018. These roads are located in the northern portion of the Cherokee National Forest (Unaka & Watauga Ranger Districts - 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  
2017-2018**

Cherokee National Forest announces a schedule of systematic road openings and closures through May 17, 2018. 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, 2017 thru December 17, 2017

<b>ROAD</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Fishdam SE	87A	Sullivan	Open to second gate
Fishdam NE	87B	Sullivan	Open to second gate
Pine Mountain	4002	Sullivan	Interior gates are closed.
Gouge Tract (Colorado Gap)	602101	Johnson	
Parks Branch	6049	Johnson	1.0 mile to second gate
Robbins Hollow	4052	Johnson	Open 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	Open to second gates
Rich Mountain	190	Unicoi	Open 7.0 miles to earth barrier
Tellico Branch (Deacon Creek)	53711	Washington	Open to gap
Greystone	88	Greene	Open from Round Knob to dead end
Upper Rough Branch	93	Greene	Highway 70 entrance closed.

**Fall Road Closings**

<b>ROAD</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Cherry Flats	50A	Carter	Closed for timber sale
Little Pond Mountain	6034	Carter	Will close if timber sale work is initiated prior to December 18th, 2017
Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mtn)	188	Washington	Temporarily closed at 1.5 miles mark for repairs. Will open when work is completed.
Rough Branch	422a	Greene	Will close if timber sale work is initiated prior to December 18th, 2017

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### Winter Road Closures

Roads closed December 18, 2017 thru March 14, 2018

ROAD	NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mtn)	188	Washington	And all spurs
Horse Cove Gap	5352	Washington	
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	
Big Clifty	404	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:

**Greene County:** NFSR 358 Firescald (Kennedy Cabin Road)

**Unicoi County:** NFSR 410 Martin Creek; NFSR 4365 Long Branch.

**Sullivan County:** NFSR 4431 Dogwood Bench; NFSR 87 Big Creek (Keenburg Road) – Closed from approximately 3 miles NE of U.S. Highway 19E and approximately 5 miles SW of the Intersection with NFSR 251 Hickory Tree Road due to sink hole.

**Johnson County:** NFSR 124 Whetstone Branch

**Greene County:** NFSR 358 Firescald (Kennedy Cabin)

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**Spring Road Openings**

Roads open March 21, 2018 thru May 17, 2018

<b>ROAD</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
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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**Forest Service**