



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: Keith Kelley
(423) 735-1500

North Cherokee National Forest Seasonal Road Opening Schedule

UNICOI, TENN, March 1, 2018 – USDA Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest recently announced the annual schedule for opening some roads that are closed seasonally. 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 National Forest System Roads (NFSR) in the Cherokee National Forest are systematically closed to motorized vehicle use for public safety, 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 hunting, and other activities.

Roads may be opened later 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.

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.

-More-



Seasonal Road Opening Schedule
 Unaka and Watauga Ranger Districts
 Spring 2018

Roads open March 19, 2018 – May 14, 2018

| ROAD | NUMBER | COUNTY | COMMENTS |
|--------------|--------|---------|---|
| Parks Branch | 6049 | Johnson | 1.0 mile to 2nd gate |
| Cedar Gap | 293a | Carter | Will be periodically closed for powerline maintenance during this period. |
| Piney Grove | 53351 | Carter | Open to second gate. |

Roads open March 19, 2018 – Mid December 2018

| ROAD | NUMBER | COUNTY | COMMENTS |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|--|
| Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mtn) | 188/4354/4354a | Washington | FS 188 to double gate at upper parking area. |
| Horse Cove Gap | 5352 | Washington | |
| ATV Parking lot | | Washington | Open March 14-January 2, 2019 |
| Little Oak | 87G | Sullivan | Opens April 2, 2018 |
| Big Creek | 87C | Sullivan | |
| Gouge Tract | 602101 | Johnson | |
| Frog Level | 50F | Carter | |
| Mill Creek/Holston Mountain | 56/202 | Carter | |
| Bitter End | 293 | Carter | Open to 2nd gate |
| White Rock | 5314 | Carter | |
| George Creek | 53301 | Carter | Open to 2nd gate |
| Irishman's Branch | 313 | Unicoi | |
| Little Mountain | 359 | Unicoi | |
| Unaka Mountain Road | 230 | Unicoi | |
| Rich Mountain | 190 | Unicoi | |
| 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 | |

-More-



Seasonal Road Opening Scheduled

Active Timber Sales

| ROAD | NUMBER | COUNTY | COMMENTS |
|----------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|
| Cherry Flats | 50A | Carter | Closed for Timber Sale |
| Little Pond Mountain | 6034 | Carter | Closed for Timber Sale |

The following roads are not scheduled to be opened due to resource or storm damage:

- Unicoi County: NFSR 4365- Long Branch Road, NFSR 410 Martins Creek
- Greene County: NFSR 358 – Firescald (Kennedy Cabin); NFSR 93 Upper Rough Branch
- Sullivan County: NFSR 4431 –Dogwood Bench
- Johnson County: NFSR 124 -Whetstone Branch Road

#



Forest Service