



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA 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

Temporary Closures Due to High Water at Watauga Lake

Shook Branch Beach and the lower road at Watauga Point Recreation Area

UNICOI, TENN., May 21, 2018 – USDA Forest Service Officials at the Cherokee National Forest announced that due to high water Shook Branch Beach Recreation Area and the lower road at Watauga Point Recreation Area along Highway 321 at Watauga Lake are temporarily closed. The lower road at Watauga Point is currently under 1-2' of water. The recreation area remains open, as does the pavilion and bathrooms.

These areas will remain closed until the water has receded and conditions are safe for public use again. Watauga District Ranger Keith Kelley said, "The temporary closures are for the safety of our visitors. We appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation while these areas are closed. We will monitor the situation closely and reopen the lower Watauga Point road and Shook Branch Beach as soon as it is safe to do so."

For more information about these temporary closures contact the Watauga Ranger Station at (423) 735-1500.

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