



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Blue Ridge Ranger District

1881 Highway 515
Blairsville, GA 30512
(706) 745-6928
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File Code: 2720-1

Date: November 20, 2007

Dear Forest User:

The Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest is seeking public comments on a proposal which would grant short-term special use authorization to a qualified concessionaire business to provide retail sales and shuttle services atop Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. One concessionaire would be selected and issued special use authorization, for a period of three years, to operate a one and one-half story log cabin/gift shop located within the parking level of the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center, and to operate a shuttle transportation service within the recreation area. The purpose of this proposal is to better serve the recreating public by providing beverages, food, gifts and transportation at one of the most frequented areas on the Chattahoochee National Forest. Such services have been provided in the past by partnering organizations and concessionaires for more than 30 years.

Brasstown Bald is located on the Towns County/Union County line in the Blue Ridge Mountains of north Georgia. The Visitor Center complex is surrounded by thousands of acres of National Forest, including the 13,000 acre Brasstown Wilderness. Three hiking trails, including one which connects with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, terminate at the Visitor Center parking area. The Visitor Center is open April through early November, weather permitting. Visitation during the operating season in 2007 was approximately 90,000-100,000 visitors.

We would like to hear from you regarding this proposal before continuing with the development of a formalized solicitation. Responses should contain relevant facts or comments along with supporting reasons that we would then consider in reaching a final decision on this proposal. **To have your comments considered in our decision process, we would appreciate receiving your response by December 20, 2007.** Send your written comments to the U.S. Forest Service at P.O. Box 9, Blairsville, GA 30514. You may also comment by phone or fax (see letterhead), by e-mail to akoopman@fs.fed.us, or in person at our office at 1881 Highway 515, Blairsville, GA 30512. Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on this proposed action *only* if you comment or request further correspondence on the requested use.

This letter is being sent to organizations and individuals who have previously participated or been interested in our project proposals, specific areas, or specific uses of the National Forests. This letter assumes that you have some familiarity with the planning process as conducted by the Forest Service in accordance with NEPA. If you are receiving this letter and are unsure of the



context or how to participate, please contact us. Management of the National Forest is a public trust and is best conducted with broad participation.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alison Koopman (for)

ALAN POLK
District Ranger

Enclosure