

## **Categorical Exclusion**

### **Rabun Beach Bathhouse Construction**

#### **Chattooga River Ranger District**

#### **USDA Forest Service -Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Rabun County, Georgia**

##### **DECISION & PURPOSE AND NEED:**

I have decided to approve the proposal to construct two new bathhouses at the Rabun Beach Campground to replace two old toilet buildings and two bathhouses. This project is needed to reduce maintenance costs, provide for visitor safety and comfort, and improve the accessibility component of this campground.

The bathhouse in Area 1 will be built on campsite 21. After it is constructed, the two old toilet buildings will be demolished and their sites rehabilitated (See Map). To replace the lost campsite, a new campsite will be constructed next to one of the old toilet locations. (Refer to attached map)

The construction of the new bathhouse in Area 2 will require the demolition of the "Dead End" bathhouse prior to the construction of the new one. The new bathhouse will be constructed on the same site as the "Dead End" bathhouse. To meet the accessibility guidelines an access road will be built to the site. After completion of the new bathhouse, the older toilet on the hill will be demolished.

After completion of construction, many of the trails that accessed the old buildings will be obliterated and restored. At least two new trail sections (approximately 1000 feet) will be constructed to provide access to the new bathhouses.

This project will occur in Compartment 80 stand 5. This stand is located within Management Prescription Area 7.E.1, Dispersed Recreation Areas as described in Chapter 3 of the 2004 Land and Resource Management Plan (FLMP) for the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests.

I have determined that this action falls within Category 5 of the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 31.12, "repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities." for categorical exclusions. This action has been determined to have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually or cumulatively, and is therefore categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment.

Based on the results of internal and external scoping, I have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist that could cause the action involved with this project to have significant effects.

##### **Public Involvement**

A scoping letter was mailed on November 30, 2007 to those individuals and organizations that have requested notification of this type of project. Four comments were received during the scoping period, none of which identified any issues or concerns with the proposed project. (Project File).

##### **Findings Required by Other Laws**

This action is consistent with the FLMP for Management Prescription Areas 7.E.1, Dispersed Recreation Areas. This project adheres to the applicable standards and monitoring requirements in Chapter 2 of the FLMP for Developed Recreation Sites.

This project complies with the seven requirements of 36 CFR 219.27(b) by following the Forest-wide standards as mentioned above. These requirements include goals for the area; potential effects on residual biota and adjacent biota; site productivity and the conservation of soil and water resources; and the desired effects on the environment.

No Proposed, Endangered, Threatened or Sensitive (PETS) plants or animals were present in the project locations during inventories. (Project File).

The biological evaluation completed for this project determined that there would not be any adverse effects on species of special concern. (Project File).

This action complies with the National Historic Preservation Act. (Project File).

The area of construction does not contain any wetlands, is outside the 100 year floodplain and though part of a municipal watershed, will have no impact on the water quality with the use of State approved Best Management Practices. The project also meets the guidelines set forth in Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management.

State-approved Best Management Practices will be employed and this project will comply with the Clean Water Act.

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f)

**Implementation Date**

This project may be implemented immediately. This project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008.

**Contact Person**

For further information concerning this decision contact Allen Smith by phone, letter, e-mail, or in person. The address of the Chattooga River Ranger District office is 809 Highway 441 South, Clayton, GA 30525, and the phone number is (706) 782-3320. Contact Allen by e-mail at [asmith02@fs.fed.us](mailto:asmith02@fs.fed.us).

**SIGNATURE AND DATE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL**

/s/ David W. Jensen  
David W. Jensen  
District Ranger, Chattooga River Ranger District

April 23, 2008  
Date