

USDA Forest Service *Cherokee National Forest*

NEWS

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Cherokee National Forest - 2014 Recreation Season *Plan a trip soon!*

CLEVELAND, TENN – May 5, 2014... U.S. Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest (Forest) have been preparing for another busy outdoor recreation season. The Forest receives approximately 2 million site visits annually. People come from near and far to experience a variety of outdoor recreation activities including camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, bike riding, water play, fishing and much more.

The Cherokee National Forest is home to: 30 developed campgrounds; 15 boating access sites; 17 observation sites; 4 swimming area; 16 picnic areas; 5 shooting ranges; 2 Forest Service scenic byways; 500 miles of cold water streams; 7 whitewater rivers; Over 600 miles of trails; Ocoee Whitewater Center – site of the 1996 canoe & kayak slalom events; And more!

Like many Federal agencies, the Forest Service has made some changes to reduce spending in the Cherokee National Forest. It was necessary to make changes in the way the recreation program operates in some areas.

As a result, you may notice some of these changes—reduced services and infrastructure, less maintenance and shorter open seasons at recreation sites. Our staff is committed to spend each dollar carefully as we seek creative solutions.

The majority of recreation sites throughout the 650,000 acre Cherokee National Forest will continue to operate as usual. Following are changes that have been made to 7 sites:

OCOEE RANGER DISTRICT:

- **Sylco Campground** (4 camp sites): Site will be open & managed as a dispersed camping area - no trash pickup, no vault toilet, 4 tables, 4 fire rings.
- **Jacks River** (4 camp sites): Site will be open & managed as a dispersed camping area - no trash pickup, no vault toilet, no tables, no fire rings.
- **Quinn Springs Campground:** (25 camp sites) Closed for the 2014 season; Day-use area will remain open
- **Tumbling Creek Campground:** (8 camp sites): Site will be open & managed as a dispersed camping area - no trash pickup, no vault toilet, no tables, no fire rings.
- **Spring Creek Corridor:** No trash pickup

WATAUGA RANGER DISTRICT:

- **Low Gap Campground:** Open -No vault toilet
- **Twin Springs Picnic Area:** Parking area open—no vault toilet

The Cherokee National Forest can be your destination for outdoor recreation. Enjoy a scenic drive through the mountains, the pursuit of wildlife, the thrill of whitewater, a night under the stars camping, or solitude on a backcountry trail—visit soon!

For additional information contact:

Ocoee Ranger District – Benton, Tenn.: 423-338-3300

Tellico Ranger District – Tellico Plains, Tenn.: 423-253-8400

Unaka Ranger District – Greeneville, Tenn.: 423-638-4109

Watauga Ranger District – Unicoi, Tenn.: 423-735-1500

Forest supervisor's Office—Cleveland, Tenn.: 423-476-9700

<http://fs.usda.gov/cherokee>

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