



***North Cherokee National Forest***

4400 Unicoi Drive

Unicoi, TN 37692

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

# News Release

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## **National Forest Seasonal Road Management Schedule**

**UNICOI, TENN – September 2, 2014 ...** US Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest recently announced the annual schedule for opening and closing certain roads through May 11, 2015. 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 roads in the Cherokee National Forest are systematically closed to motorized vehicle use 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 fall color viewing, hunting, and other uses.

Roads may be closed earlier 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.

Forest visitors are asked to leave all gates free of obstructions. Hunters are reminded it is illegal to discharge firearms from or across a Forest Service Road. 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.

For information regarding hunting seasons and regulations, contact the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region IV, Morristown, TN- Phone: 1-800-332-0900.

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**Cherokee National Forest  
Unaka and Watauga Ranger Districts  
2014-2015**

Cherokee National Forest announces a schedule of systematic road openings and closures through May 11, 2015. These roads are located in the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan and Johnson Counties in East Tennessee.

**Fall Road Openings**

**Roads open September 18, 2014 thru December 14, 2015**

ROAD	NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Gouge Tract	602101	Johnson	
Parks Branch	6049	Johnson	1.0 mi to second gate
Robbins Hollow	4052	Johnson	4.6 mi to second gate. In Bear Reserve
Cedar Gap	293a	Carter	In Bear Reserve
Piney Grove	53351	Carter	
Fishdam NE	87B	Sullivan	Open to second gate

**Fall Road Closings**

**Roads closed through end of sale**

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

These two roads are seasonally opened, but will remain closed for this fall. These roads will remain closed until management activities are completed.

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### Winter Road Closures

#### Roads closed December 15, 2014 thru March 18, 2015

ROAD	NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Briar Creek	188	Washington	And all spurs
Little Oak	87G	Sullivan	
Big Creek	87C	Sullivan	
Frog Level	50F	Carter	
Mill Creek/Holston Mountain	56/202	Carter	
Bitter End	293	Carter	
White Rock	5314	Carter	
Irishman's Branch	313	Unicoi	
Little Mountain	359	Unicoi	
Unaka Mountain Road	230	Unicoi	
Little Paint Creek	31B	Greene	And loop 31C
Old Forge (Jennings Creek)	331	Greene	
Firescald	358	Greene	And 358A
Shad Road	422	Greene	
Upper Rough Branch	93	Greene	
Wolf Creek	96-1	Cocke	
Big Clifty	404	Cocke	
Meadow Creek Mountain	142	Cocke	
Weaver Bend Road	209C	Cocke	
Rattlesnake	3242	Cocke	

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

**Unicoi County:** FS road 410 Martin Creek; FS road 4365 Long Branch; FS road 190 Rich Mountain.

**Washington County:** FS road 53711 Tellico Branch; FS road 5352 Horse Cove Gap

**Carter County:** FS road 53301 George Creek

**Sullivan County:** FS road 87A Fishdam SE; FS road 4431 Dogwood Bench; FS road 4002 Pine Mountain

**Johnson County:** FS road 124 Whetstone Branch

### Spring Road Openings

#### Roads open March 19, 2015 thru May 11, 2015

ROAD	NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Gouge Tract	602101	Johnson	
Parks Branch	6049	Johnson	1.0 mi to second gate
Cedar Gap	293a	Carter	In Bear Reserve
Piney Grove	53351	Carter	