



***Cherokee National Forest***

2800 Ocoee Street N.

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

# News Release

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## **Online Reservation System Available for Recreation Sites Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District**

**Benton, TENN – February 12, 2015...** USDA Forest Service Officials at the Cherokee National Forest announced that some recreation sites can be reserved online soon. The campgrounds at Parksville Lake RV and parts of Chilhowee Recreation Area in Polk County can be reserved through **Recreation.gov**, a national service utilized by land management agencies and the public across the country. Quinn Springs Pavilion and the Chilhowee Group Camp in Polk County were added to the reservation system last summer.

Online reservations are expected to be available for National Forest visitors in mid-March. The date that reservations will begin at Parksville RV Campground is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservations in Chilhowee Recreation Area will begin July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ocoee/Hiwassee District Ranger Mike Wright said, “Although I recognize that this may take some getting used to for some users, I have received overwhelming feedback from campers looking forward to the benefits of being able to reserve sites in advance. National Forest visitors who travel and camp with RV’s require an extraordinary amount of effort to plan and camp, with no guarantee that a campsite is available. Visitors are now assured that their site is available in advance of packing up and driving to the campground or pavilion. ”

Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, all 16 sites in Parksville RV will be reservable. Reservations in Chilhowee Recreation Area will be available for Loops A, B, E, and F this first year, loops C and D will remain first come, first serve for the 2015 recreation season. Approximately 70% of the sites at Chilhowee will be on the reservation system, while approximately 30% will remain first come, first serve.

The process is simple. National Forest visitors can go online to the Recreation.gov website and select the name of the facility they wish to reserve. An option is to call the reservation service at 1-877-444-6777. There is a single charge of \$9.00 per online reservation or \$10.00 for phone reservations added to the pavilion or camping fee. Payments are made by credit card or other money card. Reservations for pavilions can be made anywhere from 3 days to twelve months in advance. Reservations for camping can be made four days to six months in advance.

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Recreation.gov provides information on trip planning, information sharing and reservations for 12 federal participating partners. Recreation.gov also provides interactive maps to get information, plan a trip, or to initiate a reservation on-line.

For more information visit the Cherokee National Forest website at <http://fs.usda.gov/cherokee> or call the Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger Station at (423) 338-3300.

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