Come explore the natural beauty of the Cherokee National Forest, located in the Southern Appalachian Mountains of east Tennessee. Take special note of the forest’s 15 recreation zones, each brimming with sites and activities that are as unique as the mountains or waters that define it.

The Cherokee National Forest is the perfect place for a scenic drive through the mountains, solitude on a backcountry trail, the thrill of whitewater, a night under the stars or an opportunity to catch wild trout.

Plan your visit by activities or locations using the recreation zones referenced throughout the Journal ... Big Frog Mountain, Ocoee River, Hiwassee River, Starr Mountain, Coker Creek, Tellico River, Citico Creek, Pigeon River, French Broad River, Bald Mountain, Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain, Watauga Lake, Iron Mountain and Holston Mountain.

Enjoy your visit. Please do your part to conserve these exceptional places.

Layers and layers of blue mountains, blending into the sky ... Thundering cascades of water rushing over ancient boulders ... Hoot of an owl on a starlit night ... Crunch of frost on a winter day ... Twitter of a songbird, high in the treetops ... Splendor of a jewel-colored mountainside in autumn sunlight ... Heady aroma of evergreens, wafting through the air.

These are a few of the wild sensations you can experience in the Cherokee National Forest.

Has more than 500 miles of cold-water streams
Has more than 600 miles of trail including more than 150 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Is the second most visited tourist attraction in Tennessee
Has more than 30 developed campgrounds and 45 day use sites
Is the site of the world’s only Olympic whitewater venue on a natural river
Contains a portion of one of the nation’s oldest travelways
Home to 11 designated Wildernesses, totaling nearly 67,000 acres

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Tennessee’s Cherokee National Forest stretches from Chattanooga to Bristol along the North Carolina border. The 640,000-acre federal forest is the largest tract of public land in Tennessee. National forests are lands of many uses. Their original purpose was to protect water quality and provide a continuous supply of timber. Today, national forests are managed to provide outdoor recreation, wildlife and fish habitat, wilderness, water, minerals, wood products and much more.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the federal agency that manages our nation’s national forests and grasslands.

Because of the Cherokee’s majestic mountains, tumbling streams and diverse vegetation; recreation opportunities are plentiful. Visitors come to explore the 600 miles of trails, hundreds of miles of cold water streams, seven whitewater rivers, 30 developed campgrounds, water streams, seven whitewater trails, hundreds of miles of cold water streams, seven whitewater rivers, 30 developed campgrounds, 45 day-use sites and the abundant populations of wildlife that live here.

Waterfalls

Some of the forest’s waterfalls are hidden inside a Congressionally designated Wilderness:
• Falls Branch Falls in Citico Creek Wilderness
• Squibb Creek Falls in Sampson Mountain Wilderness
• Rock Creek Falls in Unaka Mountain Wilderness
• Laurel Fork Falls in Pond Mountain Wilderness

If you are seeking a primitive recreation experience, check with the nearest Forest Service office for directions to these falls. Be familiar with Wilderness regulations including group size limitations.

Falls in the Wilderness

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Waterfall Safety

Although beautiful to see, waterfalls and cascades can be very dangerous. Remember that wet, moss-covered rocks are slick and hazardous, no matter which season of the year. It is also easy to underestimate the strong flow of water. Use common sense.
• Never swim, wade or play in the water above a waterfall.
• View the falls looking up from the bottom or side rather than trying to look over brink of the falls.
• Supervise children and keep pets leashed.
• Stay on the developed trails.
Tellico River Road: Take TN 165 from Tellico Plains to Forest Road 210. The route follows Tellico River past Bald River Falls, where you can pull off to view the magnificent falls. A few miles farther, stop to view pools of teeming trout at historic Pheasant Fields Fish Rearing Pools. Small campgrounds, picnic areas and trailheads flank this scenic route. (Tellico River Zone)

Hiwassee River Road: Sun-dappled forests surround TN 30 and Forest Road 108 as they follow Hiwassee State Scenic River. Leave TN 30 to cross the bridge to the historic community of Reliance and turn east to Forest Road 108. Climb the mountain toward Big Bend and Apalachia Powerhouse. Pack a picnic and enjoy the views from Hood Mountain overlook and other spectacular sites along the corridor. From Reliance, TN 30 continues through the community of Greasy Creek to US 64, Ocoee Scenic Byway. (Hiwassee River Zone)

Tellico River: A drive through Tellico corridor provides interesting river views.

February: Blue birds search for nest boxes.
Do you like to fish for bass or bluegill in a warm-water pond in a wooded setting? Or just like to relax near water and watch damselflies and other aquatic wildlife?

**Allen Branch Pond:** Try your luck at fishing for bass, bluegill and catfish from the shoreline or from one of the fishing piers. Walk the accessible quarter-mile trail ringing the pond and enjoy the sights and sounds of a warm-water ecosystem. Water from this 2.5-acre pond is sometimes used to help put out wildfires. (French Broad River Zone)

**Dillard Ponds:** Grass meadows and wooded hillsides surround a string of four small ponds, fed by the cold waters of Paint Creek. Just off Upper Paint Creek Road, this area is a great place for the whole family to explore. (Bald Mountain Zone)

**Paint Creek Pond:** Among the cattails and other aquatic plants, watch for beavers and listen for frog calls. In the early morning, watch mist rise from the placid surface of the pond. The pond is an easy drive or bicycle ride from Paint Creek Campground. (French Broad River Zone)

**Scott-Booher Pond:** On the site of an historic homestead dating to the mid 1800s, the Scott-Booher Pond was enlarged in 1991 and is managed for bass and bluegill. Bring a blanket for a picnic near the pond or in the historic apple orchard. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is nearby. (Iron Mountain Zone)

**Mountain Zone National Scenic Trail** is nearby. (Iron Mountain Zone)

Visit any one of six lakes in the Cherokee National Forest for water recreation, fishing or just to enjoy the scenic shorelines.

**Parksville Lake:** The oldest lake in the Cherokee National Forest was created by Tennessee Rural Electric Company in 1910-11. Sometimes known as Lake Ocoee, this lake is controlled by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Scenic views of the 1,930-acre lake are highlights along the Ocoee Scenic Byway. The lake is popular for motor-boating against the backdrop of forested rolling hills; two public boat launches are located along US 64. Swim and picnic at Mac Point and Parksville Beach. Just below the dam is Sugarloaf Park, operated by the state of Tennessee, where visitors can picnic and view a scale model of the Olympic canoe and kayak course. Scan the shoreline for the gleaming white heads of bald eagles. Camp nearby at Parksville Campground, just off US 64 on TN 30. (Ocoee River Zone)

**Watauga Lake:** In 1942, TVA impounded Elk River, Roan Creek and Watauga River to create this 6,430-acre lake. Nestled between Big Laurel and Pond Mountain wildernesses, the deep blue waters and beautiful mountain vistas set the stage for fishing, boating and water skiing. A network of developed sites including boat launches, picnic areas and a campground are provided by the Forest Service. Hike the Appalachian National Scenic Trail #1 to follow the west and north sides of the lake. In late spring, listen for yellow-throated warblers and vireos at Rat Branch Boat Launch and Watauga Point Picnic Area. (Watauga Lake Zone)

**South Holston Lake:** Boat, kayak, water-ski and fish the meandering shoreline of this TVA lake. Launch your watercraft from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency’s ramp on US 421 or from Little Oak Campground off Forest Road #87. You can camp near the water at Little Oak and Jacobs Creek Campgrounds. Observation Knob at TVA’s South Holston Dam is a great place to view the lake against the backdrop of Holston Mountain. Look for bald eagles, reintroduced in the 1990s. Loons, buffleheads, mallards and ring-billed gulls are among the area’s waterfowl species. (Holston Mountain Zone)

If you’re looking for a quieter experience, try one of the forest’s smaller lakes.

**Ocoee #3 Lake:** With just 24 miles of shoreline, 360 acres of water surface and few developed facilities, this small TVA lake provides a rustic setting for fishing, nature study or a quiet smooth-water canoe trek. Ride your mountain bike or hike along Brush Creek and Boyd Gap trails for views to the lake. Tumbling Creek Campground offers primitive camping facilities. (Ocoee River Zone)

**McKamy Lake:** Visitors to Chilhowee Recreation Area are drawn to McKamy Lake for swimming, fishing picnicking, sunbathing and canoeing. The seven-acre lake was built in the late 1930s to early 1940s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Chilhowee Lake Trail skirts the banks of the lake and connects to picnic, bathhouse and campground facilities. (Ocoee River Zone)

**Indian Boundary Lake:** This 96-acre lake provides a scenic backdrop for camping, fishing, picnicking and boating from the hub at Indian Boundary Recreation Area. The lake features a sandy swim beach, boat launch and accessible fishing pier. From the 3.1-mile lakeshore trail, you can watch beaver that inhabit a pond above the lake, identify several species of ducks and other waterfowl or try your luck at catching bass, catfish and bluegill. (Tellico River Zone)
Ocoee Whitewater Center

Cherokee Indians called the Ocoee River the place of the people of the river. In 1996 the Ocoee hosted the world’s first Olympic whitewater event on a natural river. Today the Ocoee Whitewater Center offers something for everyone, continuing the tradition as the place of the people of the river.

- Explore a historic trail built by Cherokee Indians, where 19th century miners transported copper ore by mules and wagons.
- Stroll through native gardens honoring Olympic athletes, Cherokee Indians and others.
- Study rock formations deposited more than 750 million years ago.
- Enjoy the views from the Oswald Dome Fire Tower.
- Spread a picnic under shade trees beside the river.
- Gather information about the Ocoee Region’s Tennessee Overhill.
- Browse through a selection of local artists’ creations, nature oriented souvenirs and outdoor wear in the gift shop.

The Tennessee Valley Authority releases the river’s flow on a scheduled basis. With this rush of whitewater, local outfitters lead trips through the same giant rocks and rapids that challenged the Olympic champions during the 1996 canoe and kayak slalom competition.

The Tanasi Trail System offers more than 30 miles of hiking and biking trails. Choose leisurely walks or bike rides on shady riverside trails or a blistering, high energy trek down the Thunder Rock Express.

On-site naturalists lead conservation education programs, with hands on opportunities for both youths and adults to interact with the environment. Throughout the year, special events include national and international whitewater competitions, championship mountain bike and adventure races and regional festivals.

Nestled on a ledge just above the river, the Ocoee Whitewater Center makes an impressive architectural statement with massive beams, native rockwork and grand river views. The stage is set for private gatherings, weddings, conferences and corporate retreats. For more information: (423) 496-0100; or (877) 692-6050 toll-free.

For information about these rivers and their difficulty levels, see www.americanwhitewater.org.

The water flow of some of these rivers is controlled by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Check TVA’s water release schedules at www.tva.gov.

To make your trip more enjoyable and safe, remember these tips. If you are planning a guided trip or renting equipment, call ahead for reservations. Heaviest recreation use occurs late spring through mid summer.

On the day of your trip, let someone know your itinerary. Wear appropriate safety gear, including flotation device and helmet. If you are a novice, paddle with experienced boaters or guides who know the river and are trained in whitewater safety.
Explore the natural wonders of the Cherokee National Forest. Leave the sound of traffic far behind, walk along a rushing stream or climb a mountain to reach new horizons. The forest has more than 600 miles of trails ready to connect you with a world that will rock your senses.

Want to hike across the forest? Follow the white blazes of Benton MacKaye Trail and Appalachian National Scenic Trail from one end of the forest to the other. Together these trails traverse the southern and northern districts of the forest and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Looking for something even longer? Explore the entire Appalachian Mountain Chain on these trails by following the blazes north to Maine or south to Georgia.

Nationally Designated Trails

Trails have always been a part of the American landscape, providing connections between people, land, history and culture. The five nationally designated trails in the Cherokee National Forest commemorate the visions of forward-thinking planners and naturalists. They provide the chance to walk on narrow footpaths in remote mountain regions and give glimpses into sites steeped in the history of a developing frontier.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Known as the A.T., this trail is the most famous of Cherokee National Forest’s five nationally designated trails. It began as a grand vision in 1921, proposed by planner-forester Benton McKay as “an experiment in regional planning.” Today it is an internationally renowned footpath that extends 2,167 miles from Maine to Georgia. With the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the A.T. became the nation’s first National Scenic Trail. In 1999, it was named one of 16 National Millennium Trails.

This long distance hiking trail is managed cooperatively between the Forest Service, National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and local trail maintaining clubs. Two clubs, Carolina Mountain Club and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club, maintain more than 150 miles that traverse the Cherokee National Forest’s northern districts along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina. (Northern Districts) For additional information, see www.nps.gov/appa; www.appalachiantrail.org; www.tehcc.org; www.carolinamtnclub.com.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail: This trail commemorates the military successes of the Overmountain Men during America’s Revolutionary War. On September 25, 1780, more than 1,000 citizen soldiers mustered at Sycamore Shoals near present-day Elizabethon, Tennessee. The trail traces the route of the patriot militia as they traveled south to defeat the British army at Kings Mountain in 1780. Two hundred years after the decisive battle, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail was designated the first National Historic Trail in the eastern United States. Visitors can hike portions of the historic route or follow the motor route through scenic countryside. (Roan Mountain Zone) For additional information, see www.ovvi.org.

John Muir National Recreation Trail: This trail is named after the noted conservationist and naturalist who tramped through Tennessee and Kentucky on a thousand-mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1867, he rambled through southeast Tennessee and later recorded his thoughts about the Unaka Mountains and Hiwassee River. Most of the 20-mile trail follows Hiwassee State Scenic River between Reliance and Farner, Tenn. It was designated as a National Recreation Trail in 1979. (Hiwassee River Zone)

Warriors Passage National Recreation Trail: This trail overlaps part of an historic route used by British soldiers and Cherokee Indians during the 18th and 19th centuries. Surveyor George Hunter mapped locations of Cherokee Indian towns along the travelway in 1730. Two decades later, British soldiers traveled the route to construct and occupy Fort Loudoun. In 1797, surveyors marking the boundary between the Cherokee Nation and the new state of Tennessee documented the historic route. Warriors Passage Trail was recognized as a National Recreation Trail in 1979. Woodlands surrounding the trail were infested by the Southern Pine Beetle in the late 1990s and downed trees have caused the trail to slip into obscurity. However, there is interest in linking this historic route with Unicoi Turnpike National Millennium Trail. (Coker Creek Zone, Tellico River Zone)

Unicoi Turnpike National Millennium Trail: This trail has existed for more than a thousand years. Used by Native Americans to hunt, trade and settle the territory, the travelway became an important trading route between seaports on the Carolina coast and Cherokee lands in eastern Tennessee. In the late 1830s, the turnpike became the first leg of the 1,100-mile Trail of Tears, relocating Cherokees from their eastern lands to reservations in Oklahoma. The historic route with segments on four national forests became one of 16 trails designated as National Millennium Trails in 1999. (Coker Creek Zone) For additional information, see www.tennesseewerhill.com.

Trails to the Future

The vision for Cherokee National Forest trails is to develop a public trail system where all trails work together to provide a diverse range of popular and sustainable recreation opportunities. This vision includes you and trail users of tomorrow. Get involved. Volunteer with groups that support trails on national forests: the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Benton MacKaye Trail Association, Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee, Carolina Mountain Club, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club and dedicated local trail clubs.
**Southern Districts**

- **Big Frog Mountain Zone:** This zone is renowned for solitude and backcountry adventure. Managed as a black bear reserve, Big Frog Mountain is a destination for hiking and hunting. Try snorkeling at Conasauga River, renowned for remarkable fish viewing. Pitch a tent at Tumbling Creek and Sykes Campgrounds.

- **Oconee River Zone:** Local outfitters offer rafting excursions in Oconee River’s world class whitewater. Oconee Whitewater Center is a hub for outdoor adventure and offers regional information, environmental education, trails and picnic sites. Bike the 30-mile Tanasi Trail complex and trails at Cherohala Recreation Area or take a scenic drive along the Oconee Scenic Byway (US 64 and Forest Road 77). Camp at Parksville and Thunder Rock Campgrounds and Cherohala Recreation Area.

- **Hiwassee River Zone:** Forested hillsides and pastoral river bottoms complement the beauty of Hiwassee River Gorge. Fishing, rafting, canoeing and hiking are popular activities. A three-mile section of the river, between Big Bend and the L&N railroad bridge, is designated as a quality trout fishing area. The 21-mile John Muir National Recreation Trail #152, a section of the longer distance Benton MacKaye Trail, meanders along the river. Camp at Quinn Springs Campground, located near the river on TN 30 or the nearby state campground at Geo Creek.

- **Starr Mountain Zone:** Along the extensive system of backcountry roads and trails, view this zone’s scenic mountain streams and Geo Creek Wilderness. Camp with your horse at Lost Corral Campground, located on the edge of the 30-mile horse-trail complex. Sight your firearm at Spring Creek Shooting Range.

- **Coker Creek Zone:** Looking for a cultural heritage excursion? Pan for gold in the community of Coker Creek. Hike a portion of the Unicoi Turnpike, an ancient travel route once part of the Trail of Tears and now a nationally designated Flagship Millennium Trail. Visit the waterfalls in Coker Creek Scenic Area and drive along Hiwassee Scenic River on TN 68. Camp at Indian Boundary Recreation Area located off Cherohala Skyway, TN 165/NC 143.

**Northern Districts**

- **Pigeon River Zone:** Lying between the French Broad and Pigeon Rivers, this zone is the setting for Catherine Marshall’s novel “Christy” and home to “Rocky Top.” Drive along scenic Foothills Parkway to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Take a whitewater rafting adventure with local outfitters or hike the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The nearest campgrounds are Round Mountain, a primitive, high elevation campground located on TN 107 near Max Patch and Big Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

- **French Broad River Zone:** Forest roads and the 40-mile Brush Creek Mountain/Meadow Creek Mountain horse trail complex link wooded mountainsides and creek gorges and the namesake river winds boldly along the zone’s southern edge. Enjoy the scenery at Allen Branch and Paint Creek Ponds, Weaver’s Bend and along Brush Creek. Trek to Paint Creek for fishing, wading and picnicking. Camp at Paint Creek Campground nestled in the bend of the creek.

- **Bald Mountain Zone:** A study in contrasts, the geography in this zone ranges from gently rolling valleys to steep, rugged slopes and high elevation balds. Look for wildflowers and waterfalls, including Margarette Falls and Sill Branch Falls. Try fishing Nolichucky River, Horse Creek, Dry Creek and Clark Creek. Most of the zone is remote backcountry; roads are limited, but more than 40 miles of trail access the forest interior. Horse Creek and Old Forge Recreation Areas offer picnicking, water play, and camping.

- **Unaka Mountain Zone:** Hike the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, take a scenic drive, or raft the Nolichucky River for intimate views of the zone’s tall mountains, high elevation balds and scenic waters. Look for Pinnacle Mountain fire tower located on the crest of Buffalo Mountain. The zone is rich with Civilian Conservation Corps history: view their legacy at Laurels, Rock Creek and Unaka Mountain Road. Picnic at Laurels, Limestone Cove, Rock Creek and Chestoa and camp at Rock Creek.

- **Roan Mountain Zone:** The zone’s steep rugged mountainsides and hollows are richly diverse, home to plants and animals not found anywhere else in the world. Look for rock outcrops, lush wildflower displays and high-elevation mountain balds and spruce-fir forests. Hike for one day or several on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The nearest campground is at Roan Mountain State Park.

- **Watauga Lake Zone:** Water is abundant in this zone that features Watauga Lake; the Doe, Elk and Watauga rivers; several streams and seven waterfalls. Highly developed recreation areas along Watauga Lake provide facilities for fishing, picnicking, swimming, and boat launching. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail runs through the zone’s backcountry. Camp on the lake shore at Campground, located near the river on TN 30 or the nearby state campground at Gee Creek. The zone is rich with Civilian Conservation Corps history: view their legacy at Laurels, Rock Creek and Unaka Mountain Road. Picnic at Laurels, Limestone Cove, Rock Creek and Chestoa and camp at Rock Creek.

- **Iron Mountain Zone:** Rugged mountain solitude is featured throughout this zone. The Osborne Farm offers a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. From there, take a multi-day backpack trip along the A.T. and Iron Mountain Trail #54. Try your hand at trout fishing in Beaverdam and Laurel creeks. Camp at Backbone Rock Recreation Area and explore what is known locally as the shortest tunnel in the world.

- **Holston Mountain Zone:** The namesake mountain provides a scenic backdrop for South Holston Lake, venue for boating, water skiing, swimming and fishing. A horse trail complex winds for more than 30 miles along both sides of Holston Mountain. Look for scenic Blue Hole waterfall off TN 91. Camp on the lake shore at Jacobs Creek and Little Oak recreation areas.

**Tellico River Zone:** Nearly 30,000 acres of remote backcountry surround three rivers and their tributaries, where fishing for brown, rainbow and brook trout is excellent. Cherohala Skyway (TN 165/NC 143), a 43-mile National Scenic Byway, winds between Tellico Plains, Tenn. and Robbinsville, N.C. Tellico River Road (FR 218) offers intimate views of the river and 90-foot Bald River Falls. Spend the night at the historic Donley Cabin and check out CCC structures at Tellico Ranger Station and Dam Creek Picnic Area. Hike across the zone on Benton MacKaye Trail. Camp at sites along Tellico River or in Indian Boundary Recreation Area just off Cherohala Skyway.

**Citicco Creek Zone:** With more than 20,000 acres of Wilderness in Citico Creek and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock areas, this zone provides ample opportunities for solitude and backcountry experiences. Catch both native and stocked trout in Citico Creek and its rugged tributaries, and fish for smallmouth bass and catfish in the creek’s lower reaches. Young Branch Horse Camp is the hub for Little Citico Horse Trail Complex.
### NORTHERN DISTRICTS - CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

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<th>Site Number and Name</th>
<th>Facilities and Activities</th>
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<td>1  Round Mountain</td>
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<td>2  French Broad Launch</td>
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<td>3  Allen Branch Pond</td>
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<td>4  Weaver Bend</td>
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<td>5  Bubbling Springs Range</td>
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<td>6  Houston Valley</td>
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<td>8  Paint Creek</td>
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<td>9  Dilard Place</td>
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<td>10 Round Knob</td>
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<td>13 Katy Branch</td>
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<td>15 Rock Creek</td>
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<td>16 Sciota Range</td>
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### SITE NUMBER AND NAME

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<td>17 Limestone Cove</td>
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<td>18 Laurels</td>
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<td>19 Carvers Gap</td>
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<td>20 Twin Springs</td>
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<td>21 Dennis Cove</td>
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<td>22 Shook Branch Beach</td>
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<td>24 Cardens Bluff</td>
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<td>25 Pond Mountain Range</td>
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<td>26 Watauga Point</td>
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<td>27 Little Milligan Launch</td>
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<td>28 Sink Mountain Launch</td>
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<td>29 Osborne Farm</td>
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<td>30 Little Oak</td>
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<td>31 Jacobs Creek</td>
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<td>32 Jacobs Creek Range</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>33 Backbone Rock</td>
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</tbody>
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**SYMBOLS LEGEND**

- Amphitheater
- Beach
- Boat launching ramp
- Camping, motor homes
- Camping, tent
- Camping, units < 30 feet
- Fishing
- Hand launch
- Horse accommodations
- Information
- Lookout tower
- Nature study
- Picnicking
- Picnicking, group
- Picnic pavilion
- Rafting
- Restrooms
- River access
- Scenic drive
- Trail, bike
da
- Trail, equestrian
- Trail, hiking
- Trail, interpretive
- Swimming
- Wildlife viewing
- Wildlife viewing
Reservations required

SITE NUMBER AND NAME    FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
24  Apalachee Powerhouse Launch
25  Lost Creek
26  Coker Creek Falls
27  Buck Bald
28  Oosternook
29  Bald River Falls
30  Tellico River Corridor
31  McNabb Creek
32  North River
33  Sourwood
34  Spivey Cove
35  Pheasant Field & Fish Hatchery
36  Birch Branch
37  Davis Branch
38  Holder Cove
39  Big Oak Cove
40  Rough Ridge
41  State Line
42  Holly Flats
43  Cherohala Skyway
44  Indian Boundary
45  Jake Best
46  Young Branch

LEGEND - See Northern Districts map

National forest land is intermixed with private holdings (not shown) whose owners may not allow use of their property. Observe boundary markers and signs. Do not enter private land without permission.
If a bear approaches your site:
• Clean your site before you leave the picnic area
• Don’t let trash accumulate at your site.
• Don’t burn garbage or food scraps or pour cooking grease in the grill or fire ring.
• Leave scraps around your site.
• Never leave food out or food in your locked vehicle or hard-sided camper
• If the bear is persistent, move away slowly, facing the bear.
• Scare the animal away with loud shouts, by banging pots and pans together or throwing sticks or rocks at it.
• Head for your vehicle or another secure area.

Bear Awareness
• Never leave food or coolers unattended. Store food in your locked vehicle or hard-sided camper. Never store food or scented items in your tent.
• Clean up cooking and eating areas as soon as you have finished. Don’t leave food out or leave scraps around your site.
• Don’t burn garbage or food scraps or pour cooking grease in the grill or fire ring.
• Don’t let trash accumulate at your site.
• Use the area’s trash cans or store trash in your locked vehicle or hard-sided camper.
• Clean your site before you leave the picnic area or campground; wipe off your table, clean out the fire ring and take away your trash.
• If a bear approaches your site:
  • Pack up food and trash.
  • Scare the animal away with loud shouts, by banging pots and pans together or throwing rocks at it.
  • If the bear is persistent, move away slowly, facing the bear.
  • Head for your vehicle or another secure area.

Planning Ahead
• At most campgrounds, sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for Indian Boundary Campground and others are available at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777.
• You must occupy your campsite the first night.
• Stays are limited to 14 days.
• Quiet hours are between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Entrance gates to many campgrounds are locked during these hours.
• Single campsites generally accommodate up to 5 people and 2 vehicles (including your camping unit). Campsites that accommodate more people are available in some campgrounds.
• Pets must be leashed, under control and inside the designated campsite.
• Most campgrounds in the Cherokee National Forest follow a policy of no alcoholic beverages.
• Select a place to camp away from overhanging branches.
• Keep it natural … leave natural areas the way you find them. Don’t carve, chop, cut or damage live trees.
• Control your campfire and make sure it is dead out when you leave.
• Leave your campsite a little cleaner than you found it. The next visitor will thank you.
• One hundred yards is a guideline. This recommended distance is more easily applied in open fields and forest than in terrain with thick rhododendron cover.

Camping
Sleep under the stars. Create memories that last a lifetime. Gather your friends and family around a campfire, feast on toasted marshmallows, gaze into a starlit sky, be lulled to sleep by a babbling creek. You will never forget the experience of camping in the Cherokee National Forest.

More than 30 developed campgrounds in the Cherokee National Forest offer a wide range of outdoor settings and site amenities. If you prefer more amenities, try camping in one of the larger developed recreation areas.

Chihookee Recreation Area: This large campground is located off Ocoee Scenic Byway, 7 miles from US 64. The campground offers more than 80 campsites, electric hook-ups, RV sites, tent only sites, multiple bathhouses, a 7-acre pond for swimming and fishing, a hiking trail to Benton Falls and miles of mountain bike trails. (Ocoee River Zone)

Indian Boundary Recreation Area: This large campground is located off Cherohala Skyway. The campground offers more than 90 campsites; electric hook-ups; RV sites; multiple bathhouses; a seasonal camp store; a 96-acre lake for swimming, boating and fishing and a 3-mile lakeside trail for hiking and biking. Reservations are recommended. (Tellico River Zone)

Lost Corral and Young Branch Campgrounds: Try these two small campgrounds if you are looking for a place to camp with your horse. (Starr Mountain Zone, Citico Creek Zone)

Paint Creek and Tellico River Campgrounds: Want to start catching trout at the crack of dawn? Set up camp at Paint Creek (French Broad River Zone) or one of the several developed campgrounds along the banks of Tellico River and its tributaries. (Tellico River Zone)

For visitors wanting to get away from it all, dispersed camping outside of developed campgrounds is allowed throughout Cherokee National Forest unless posted otherwise. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of water, trails, trailhead parking lots and developed recreation areas. Dispersed camping is free and no permits are required.

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Tellico River Zone: This large campsite is located near Erwin, Tenn., off Interstate 26. The campground offers more than 30 campsites, electric hook-ups, RV sites, double sites, walk-in tent sites, multiple bathhouses, a creek-fed swimming pool, seasonal campfire programs and a rugged hiking trail into Unaka Mountain Wilderness and Rock Creek Falls. (Unaka Mountain Zone)

Cardens Bluff Campground and Little Oak Recreation Area: Do you prefer a campsite near a large lake? Pitch a tent at Cardens Bluff Campground on Watauga Lake (Watauga Lake Zone) or Little Oak Recreation Area on the banks of South Holston Lake (Holston Mountain Zone). Both campgrounds offer developed lakeside campsites and bathhouse facilities. Boat ramps are located at Rat Branch near Cardens Bluff and at Little Oak.

Ocoee River Zone: This large recreation area is located off Ocoee Scenic Byway, 7 miles from US 64. The campground offers more than 80 campsites, electric hook-ups, RV sites, tent only sites, multiple bathhouses, a 7-acre pond for swimming and fishing, a hiking trail to Benton Falls and miles of mountain bike trails. (Ocoee River Zone)

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Skyway. The campground offers more than 90 campsites; electric hook-ups; RV sites; multiple bathhouses; a picnic area, and a 30-campsite, electric hook-ups, RV sites, double sites, walk-in tent sites; multiple bathhouses; a creek-fed swimming pool, seasonal campfire programs and a rugged hiking trail into Unaka Mountain Wilderness and Rock Creek Falls. (Unaka Mountain Zone)

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Nature Viewing
Conasaugua River Fish Viewing: For an unusual viewing experience, try viewing fish in the Conasaugua River. Slip on a mask and snorkel and swim slowly in the still, deep pools or scan the shallows. You’ll find a variety of fish and maybe a turtle in their natural habitat along this stretch of Conasaugua State Scenic River. Always wear a personal flotation device and snorkel with a partner. Conasaugua Trail #61 parallels the river. (Big Frog Mountain/Bluff Zone)
Hawseas State Scenic River and John Muir National Recreation Trail #152 (Benton Macaye Trail #2): To view wading birds as they search for food in pools along the river’s edge, float this scenic river or hike the John Muir Trail. Look for hummingbirds feasting on jewelweed and other summer-blooming flowers. (Hawseas River Zone)
Tellico Auto Loop: Climb from 1,000 to 5,000 feet on TN 165 (Cherohala Skyway) and forest roads 210 and 217 past Wilderness, managed forests and a black bear sanctuary. Look for red-breasted nuthatch, rose-breasted grosbeak, Blackburnian warbler, vireo, verty wren and other birds. You may spot an occasional bear, bob, red squirrel, eastern chipmunk or a red or gray fox. (Tellico River Zone)
Roan’s Highlands: Wind-blown grassy balds, misty forests and rhododendron gardens provide unique high-elevation habitats for plants and animals. Look for more than 150 species of birds including chestnut-sided warblers, saw-whet owls, pine siskins and alder flycatchers. Try to spot a cottontail rabbit or Northern flying squirrel and listen for the red squirrel’s scolding trill. Hike on Appalachian National Scenic Trail #1 or take Forest Road 130 to Rhododendron Gardens in the Pisgah National Forest. (Roan Mountain Zone)
Berry Fields: Interested in wildflowers and butterflies or maybe a bog? Hike a mile on Appalachian National Scenic Trail #1 south of US 421 near Shady Valley to Berry Fields. In late summer the area is filled with Queen Anne’s lace, milkweed, and ironweed, along with butterflies like Aphrodite fritillaries and Monarchs. All summer you can catch glimpses of Indigo buntings and goldfinches; other times you might view Chipping and Field Sparrows, wild turkey and grouse. The half-acre bog is filled with large ferns. (Holston Mountain Zone)
Fall Bird Banding Projects: Each September, volunteers with the Tennessee Ornithological Society set up special nets on high mountain peaks to examine birds travelling south to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America for the winter. Banding projects are open to the public at Roan Mountain (Roan Mountain Zone), Big Bald (Unaka Mountain Zone) and Haw Knob (Telig River Zone). For more information, contact the Eastern Tennessee chapters of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Viewing Tips
• Dusk and dawn are usually good bets for wildlife viewing.
• Wear natural colors and unscented lotions.
• Make yourself as small and unassuming as possible, move slow and steady, and avert your gaze.
• Use binoculars or zoom lenses to catch a close-up view.
• Make “mule” ears, cupping your hands around the backs of your ears to amplify sounds.
• Look above and below you. Animals occupy niches in all the layers of a habitat.

Safety Tips
Personal Safety
• Always let someone know where you’re going.
• Dress for changing weather conditions; dress in layers and bring rain gear.
• Plan your route and take a map and compass.
• Bring drinking water and a snack.
• Plan your route and take a map and compass.
• Dress for changing weather conditions; dress in layers and bring rain gear.

Hunting and Fishing
The rugged mountains, limited development and diverse habitats along Tennessee’s eastern border make an ideal home for a variety of wildlife. Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, black bear, wild boar, squirrel and raccoon can be found throughout the Cherokee National Forest. As a Wildlife Management Area, cooperatively managed, the Forest Service is responsible for wildlife habitat and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) sets game and fish seasons, bag limits and license and permit requirements.
• A valid Tennessee hunting license is required; other permits may be required depending on game species.
• Most of the Cherokee National Forest is open for hunting within legal seasons.
• Bear reserves are closed to bear hunting and to hunting wild bear with dogs.
• Recreation areas and administrative sites are closed to hunting.
• It is illegal to shoot any firearm across or from roads or vehicles.
• Pay close attention to property boundaries.

Sight your firearm:
• Spring Creek Shooting Range (Starr Mountain Zone)
• Bulbloss Springs Shooting Range (French Broad River Zone)
• Sciota Shooting Range (Unaka Mountain Zone)
• Pond Mountain Shooting Range (Watauga Lake Zone)
• Jacobs Creek Shooting Range (Holston Mountain Zone)

Anglers interested in boat fishing for bass, stripers and other warm-water fish will find the many Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs excellent. Cold-water trout fisheries are managed below many of the reservoirs.

Woodland Hazards
• Poison Ivy. Remember, “leaves of three, let it be.”

Bear Awareness
• Travel during daylight hours and stay on the trail.
• Watch for bear signs, including claw marks on trees, tracks and droppings.
• Travel in a group, stay close together and keep children close at hand.
• Teach your children and other companions what to do if they encounter a bear.
• Make your presence known – for example, call out – to avoid a surprise encounter.
• Leave your pet at home or keep it on a leash and under control. Pets can agitate bears and attract them to you.

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Water Resources
Stocked trout streams provide opportunities for anglers who catch and release as well as those who wish to harvest trout for consumption. Rainbow trout averaging 8 to 12 inches are stocked in many streams, typically between March and September. The most popular stocked trout streams include Tellico River, Citico Creek, Paint Creek and Beaverrdam Creek. Wild trout, rainbow, brown and native brookies are present in most of the mountain streams above 1000 feet in elevation.

Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide provides complete information and details regarding seasons, limits, licenses and permits. These guides are available at TWRA offices, Forest Service offices and many sporting goods outlets.

Contact TWRA:
• Polk, McMinn and Monroe counties: Region III in Crossville, (800) 262-6704
• All other Cherokee National Forest counties: Region IV in Morristown, (800) 332-0900

Report game violations:
• Polk, McMinn and Monroe counties: Region III, (800) 241-0767
• All other Cherokee National Forest counties: Region IV, (800) 831-1174
The Southern Appalachian Frontier

Up until the time of the Revolutionary War, most of the continent’s Euro-American population lived within 100 miles of the Atlantic or Gulf coasts. The Appalachian Mountains created a challenging barrier that, for many years, delayed expansion into the nation’s interior. Well before any European ever set foot on the North American continent, the primary path across the Southern Appalachians was the route known today as the Unicoi Turnpike.

Winding through the mountains’ lowest gaps and passes, this travelway connected the principal Cherokee settlements located between the Savannah River Valley in South Carolina and southeast Tennessee. This passageway was the main route used by early explorers, beginning with the conquistadors led by De Soto in 1540. Later Spanish, French and English traders followed the same path to barter with the Indians for deer skins and furs. Before the Revolutionary War, the Cherokee and colonists used this overmountain trail as a diplomatic and military link between Cherokee settlements and the British headquarters in Charleston, S.C.

By 1775, settlers began to infiltrate the heartland of the Cherokee people. The first significant non-military settlements on the western side of the Appalachians were Sycamore Shoals and Carter’s Valley in northeast Tennessee. With the influx of people, territorial wars between the Cherokee and settlers began in earnest and continued throughout the Great Valley of Tennessee until the mid 1790s. The Cherokee’s lands began to shrink as they were pushed south down the Tennessee Valley. At the same time, the young United States government established “federal roads” for access into frontier settlements.

Accompanying these settlements were protective fortifications called blockhouses or stations. The blockhouse at the mouth of Paint Creek on the French Broad River protected settlers who took the Greenville Road between Warm Springs (now Hot Springs, North Carolina) and Greenville, Tennessee. The fortification also prevented settlers from fording the river into the lands of the Cherokee Nation. Another blockhouse, Camp Armistead, was located on the Unicoi Turnpike near Coker Creek. It was established in the early 1830s to keep gold-seekers out of the Cherokee Nation. A few years later, it was used as a military base during the Cherokee removal along the Trail of Tears.

Donley Cabin

The year was 1861. Jack Donley was trying to evade serving in the Confederate Army, so he constructed a small cabin deep in the mountains of southeast Tennessee. Like many Southern mountaineers during the 19th century, he squatted on property that suited him, built a dwelling and grew corn and other crops.

Sometime after the War, Donley moved to Montana where he met and married an Indian woman. He later moved back to the upper Tellico River area with his bride. Donley died in the 1940s, asking in his final days to “be carried back across the river” to his old homestead. He is buried in the Coppingier Cemetery in Tellico Plains.

In 1916, 50,000 acres in the North, Bald and Tellico River drainages were purchased by the Babcock Lumber Company and aggressively logged for several years. Seven years later, this entire acreage, including Donley’s log cabin, was purchased by the Forest Service. During most of the 20th century, a family was permitted to use the cabin as a summer residence and apiary for producing honey.

Donley's classic double pen cabin uniquely combines English, Germanic and Swiss chalet-type architectural influences. These are types of log construction found in the Southern Appalachians, but not often combined. The historic hand-hewn log cabin was rehabilitated by the Forest Service in 1993.

Looking for a unique place to stay? The Donley cabin is still primitive, with no running water or electricity. Visits from mice and other wildlife are not uncommon. Inside there is a full size metal bed (with plywood as a base for visitor’s bedding), two bunk beds and kitchen table with chairs. Rocking chairs on the front porch provide the perfect stage to enjoy the secluded setting. The outhouse is just steps away. Wood for the fireplace and outside grill can be gathered in the nearby forest. The parking area is a quarter-mile walk from the cabin and includes a log foot bridge across North River.

Donley Cabin can be reserved for $35 per night through www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777. There is a six-person limit for up to three consecutive nights. The cabin is available year round, but fall months are the most popular.

The Spirit of the CCC

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created during the Great Depression of the 1930s to restore natural resources and improve public lands while providing work for the unemployed.

Sometimes called Roosevelt’s Tree Army, the CCC revitalized land suffering from poor farming practices and overlogging. In Tennessee and many other states, the CCC built the first state parks. In the Cherokee National Forest, they built recreation areas, fire roads, ranger stations and other facilities and assisted with fire control.

The CCC’s work is dispersed throughout the forest. Here are some places where you can view the products of their labor:

- Backbone Rock picnic pavilions and trail rockwork (Iron Mountain Zone)
- The Laurels picnic pavilions and Rock Creek bathhouse and pool (Unaka Mountain Zone)
- Horse Creek picnic pavilion (Bald Mountain Zone)
- Dam Creek picnic area (Tellico River Zone)
- Tellico Ranger Station complex (Tellico River Zone)
- Chilhowee Mountain Gazebo, Forest Road 77 on Occoee Scenic Byway (Occoee River Zone)

1940s picnic site at Rock Creek

Chilhowee Mountain gazebo, summer, 1942

1940 picnic site at Rock Creek

Chilhowee Mountain Gazebo, Forest Road 77 on Occoee Scenic Byway (Occoee River Zone)
**Bear Awareness**

The black bear is a symbol of invaluable wild qualities in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. About 1,500 black bears call the Cherokee National Forest home. Numbers of bears have increased dramatically over the past 30 years due to extensive management of their habitat. At the same time, forest visitations have increased to 2.5 million annually. With more bears and more people, the chances of encountering a bear during your forest visit are increasing.

By following these steps, you can promote bear conservation and help ensure your safety. Tell others so they, too, can become bear aware.

**If you see a black bear:**
- Never approach, surround, corner or feed it.
- Stay back; maintain a responsible distance.
- Group together; keep children and pets close at hand.
- Pick up small children.

If a black bear approaches or follows you:
- Try altering your route.
- Do not run. Face and watch the animal and back away slowly.
- If the animal continues to approach, stand your ground.
- Try to scare the bear away by shouting and acting aggressively.
- Make yourself look as large as possible. Raise your arms, hold equipment over your head or slowly move to higher ground.

In the very unlikely event that a black bear attacks:
- Fight back with anything available, using everything in your power.
- “Playing dead” is not appropriate.

Promptly report bears that are injured, appear unafraid of people, feed on trash or cause property damage to TWRA.

- In Polk, McMinn and Monroe counties (generally, Southern Districts): Region III, Crossville, call (800) 362-6704.
- In all other Cherokee National Forest counties: Region IV, Morristown, call (800) 332-0900.

**Wilderness Areas**

- A place to find solitude and a primitive unconfined experience away from sight and sound of other humans.
- A place to face the challenge of being entirely self-sufficient in a primitive environment.
- A place to rely on primitive transportation, generally foot travel.
- A place where map and compass skills are necessary.

The 1964 National Wilderness Preservation Act designated portions of federally owned land as Wilderness. By law, these lands are affected primarily by the forces of nature, where natural biological and physical processes are allowed to proceed with little or no human intervention and humans are considered “visitors.” Ten percent of the Cherokee National Forest’s land base—more than 66,000 acres—is Congressionally designated Wilderness, including:

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*Cherokee section*

While inventorying plants and animals, resource managers also catalog the habitats where they are found. These habitats include aspects of elevation, moisture, sunlight, and shelter like rocks and logs. These features, along with all the associated plants and animals, make up communities. Identifying all the species and communities, especially rare ones, helps ensure that their viability is maintained when forest management activities occur.

Biologists and botanists return to some sites every year after to monitor species’ populations, often working with other agencies and universities. The information gathered from these check-ups helps them learn about the pressures that influence these populations.

The on-site research, checking up on nature, helps to better manage and protect the forest’s species and communities.

**Forest Monitoring**

What lives in the forest? What effect does forest management have on its inhabitants? To answer these questions, resource managers are constantly checking up on nature, inventorying and monitoring the forest’s populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

Botanists roam through the forests identifying all the plants from the tiniest mosses to the tallest trees. Biologists and technicians work all sorts of odd hours combing the woods looking for critters. During the spring, they head out before dawn to listen for the songs of breeding birds. In the summer, they set up nets in the dark of night to catch bats feeding in an area. They can be found digging in leaves, turning over logs, looking for snails and salamanders. Occasionally they set live traps to learn about rodents that scurry through the forest. They strap on waders or don masks and snorkels to explore streams and rivers to get up-close views of the underwater world, search for mussels and check for water quality.

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*Cherokee section*
Managing for a Healthy Forest

Under the “multiple-use sustained-yield” principle, national forests are managed for more than forest products. Along with timber harvesting, this includes an emphasis on soil conservation, water and air quality, wildlife and fish habitat and scenic values. Keeping these elements in harmony requires balancing environmental, social and economic needs and constantly adjusting for changing conditions. Forest ecosystem health is one of the primary components of sustainable forest management.

The most prevalent health concerns are due to:

- Threat of wildfires
- Invasion of exotic pests
- Interface between wild and urban lands
- Loss of biodiversity
- Changing ecological conditions

The innovative use of forest vegetation management tools is essential to restore many forest ecosystems to healthy conditions. Some tools currently used in the Cherokee National Forest include:

**Thinning:** Trees are selectively removed to reduce environmental stress on targeted tree species. This increases sunlight, nutrients and water to the remaining stand of trees.

**Midstory Treatment:** Many animals depend on nut- and fruit-bearing trees for food. To promote oak, hickory, cherry and other trees that produce wildlife food, small trees of other species are eliminated with herbicides, prescribed fire and/or by cutting. This treatment increases sunlight to the forest floor to encourage the desirable food-bearing species.

**Regeneration:** Harvesting all or most of an older portion of the forest enables a healthy new generation of trees to grow in its place.

**Pesticides, Biological Controls and Herbicides:** Chemicals and natural enemies can be used to help control or eliminate the spread of diseases and insects. Chemical herbicides are used to control competing or unwanted plants such as kudzu.

**Prescribed Fire:** Management ignited fire is used to achieve many objectives. This tool is sometimes used to "thin" the forest, providing more sunlight, water and nutrients to remaining trees. It is used to reduce the quantity of fallen trees, leaves or other materials that may fuel wildfires. Some species such as Table Mountain Pine even depend on fire to reproduce.

**American Chestnut Tree Hybrids:** The Forest Service is collaborating with The American Chestnut Foundation, University of Tennessee's Tree Improvement Program and other partners to restore the American chestnut tree to Southern forest ecosystems. American chestnut hybrids have been planted in three national forests in the Southeast. The condition and growth of these trees are being closely monitored. The plantings represent a success story in the field of ecological restoration and reflect the power that partnerships can have in bringing a “magnificent giant” back to its native region.

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA):** This tiny insect from Asia attacks Eastern and Carolina Hemlock by piercing new growth, robbing the tree of vital nutrients and eventually killing it. You may witness these evergreen trees fading from the forest as this pest spreads throughout the Appalachian Mountains.

**Oak Decline:** Oak trees are being treated and protected. Biological control methods (Asian predator beetles that feed on HWA) are being used experimentally but it is too early to know whether this treatment is effective.

**Southern Pine Beetle:** A severe outbreak of these pests between 1997 and 2003 affected 40,000 to 60,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest. The impacts of this infestation are still noticeable. Prescribed fire and tree planting help regenerate pine and hardwood stands and improve the health of remaining pine stands.

**Invasive Plant and Animal Species:** Invasives can spread at alarming rates, threatening the survival of native species. Invasives contribute to the decline of up to half of all endangered plants and animals and they are the single greatest cause of loss of biodiversity in the U.S. In the Cherokee National Forest, the gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, dogwood anthracnose, chestnut blight, kudzu, multiflora rose, autumn olive, tree-of-heaven and paulownia are major threats.

...to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Mission of the Forest Service
Recreation Fees and Passes

More and more people recreate on national forests every year creating new challenges to provide quality recreation opportunities, meet visitor needs and protect natural resources. To help address these issues, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act permits federal land management agencies to charge modest fees at developed recreation areas that meet specific criteria.

In the Cherokee National Forest, fees are collected at developed campgrounds, boat launches, swim areas, shooting ranges and the Ocoee Whitewater Center. Through this program 95 percent of your fees remain at the Cherokee National Forest to help repair, maintain and enhance recreation facilities, provide visitor services and conserve natural resources.

You can help determine how your fees are spent. What improvements would you like to see in your favorite area? Fill in the comment section of a fee envelope or notify the nearest Forest Service office.

Several recreation passes are honored at the Cherokee National Forest, as authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Cherokee National Forest Annual Pass for Day-Use Fee Areas: If you plan to visit these areas frequently throughout the year, this pass can save you money and simplify fee payment. The pass entitles the holder to unlimited visits to day-use fee areas and expires December 31 of each year.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passports: These passports are no longer issued, but will continue to be honored for the lifetime of the pass holder. These have been replaced by the passes described below:

America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass and Interagency Lifetime Passes (Senior or Access): Like Golden Passports, these passes typically provide a cardholder with a 50 percent discount for overnight and day-use fees. There are exceptions in the Cherokee National Forest where the discount does not apply.

Interagency Annual Pass: If you plan to recreate in many different spots across the nation, this pass is worth considering. On the Cherokee National Forest, its use is limited to the Ocoee Whitewater Center.

Additional information is available and most passes are for sale at your nearest Forest Service office.

Leave No Trace

Enjoy your visit to the great outdoors, but travel and camp with care. Practice these Leave No Trace ethics:

• Plan ahead and prepare.
• Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
• Dispose of waste properly.
• Leave what you find.
• Minimize campfire impacts.
• Respect wildlife.
• Be considerate of other visitors.

For more on Leave No Trace, call (800) 332-4100 or visit the LNT website at www.lntl.org/.