

# Rocky Gap/Willis Knob Horse Trails



# Sumter National Forest



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Region

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The Rocky Gap Trail in South Carolina and the Willis Knob Trail in Georgia combine to offer some of the most scenic horseback riding in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. Winding across deeply dissected ridges, the trails descend into the beautiful Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Rocky Gap has several loops, while the Willis Knob Trail is designed as one large continuous loop. Each trail crosses several gravel roads.

The Whetstone Horse Camp in South Carolina serves as a base camp for many users of both trails. There is a fee for the Whetstone Horse Camp.

## Surrounding Area:

Earl's Ford Road is very close to Whetstone Horse Camp and provides a parking area and a hiking access trail to the Chattooga River.

## For more information:

Andrew Pickens Ranger District  
112 Andrew Pickens Circle  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664  
Phone: (864) 638-9568  
Fax: (864) 638-2659  
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.  
and 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Directions:** From Walhalla, go north six miles on Highway 28. Turn left onto Whetstone Road for about five miles. Go straight at the four-way stop, and drive about 1.5 miles. The pavement will end and a gravel road will begin. The day-use parking area and trail head will be on the right.

**Difficulty Level:** Trail condition and river crossings vary. Call the district office for specific information.

**Fees:** No fee for horse trails and day-use parking.

**Length:** Rocky Gap (SC): 12.5 miles with several loops. Willis Knob (GA): one 15-mile loop. Several access points allow for trips of various lengths.

## Restrictions:

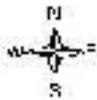
- Organized or advertised rides require a special-use permit and route approval by the district ranger.
- Within the Chattooga River Corridor in South Carolina, horseback riding is restricted to the Rocky Gap Trail. Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, and other fords downstream are closed to horse use.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail.

## Safety:

- High water levels may cause difficult crossings. Carefully select crossings.
- Check weather for heavy rain to prevent being trapped on the opposite side of the river from your vehicle.

**Season:** Year round. Busiest times are summer and fall.

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