



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212**

**Contact: Alice Riddle
864-427-9858**

June 21, 2011 (FMS 1111)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON WOODS FERRY RECREATION AREA AND HORSE TRAIL

(Columbia, S.C.) - The USDA Forest Service will sponsor an open house on Thursday, June 23, 2011 to receive public input on future plans for Woods Ferry Recreation Area and Woods Ferry Horse Trail on the Enoree Ranger District, Sumter National Forest. The meeting will be held at the Clemson Extension Office in Union, S.C. from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The Woods Ferry Recreation Area and Woods Ferry Horse Trail are already two of the district's most popular recreation draws,” said Enoree District Ranger Beth LeMaster. “But the very best way both to assure our visitors' continued enjoyment and maintain supportive relationships with adjacent landowners is to solicit and act on their suggestions and concerns. It's input straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak.”

Discussion items will include: relocating facilities that are currently in the Broad River floodplain; addressing increasing operation and maintenance costs; improving visitor satisfaction; and mitigating natural resource impacts.

“We're asking the public to tell us about their favorite activities, the equipment they use and the experience they're seeking,” said LeMaster. “We're also encouraging private landowners to share any concerns they may have associated with use occurring on their property like picnicking or camping.”

*South Carolina's National Forests
Celebrating 75 Years of Restoring Forests, Protecting Water and Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires.*

2-2-2 USDA FOREST SERVICE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON WOODS FERRY RECREATION AREA AND HORSE TRAIL

Built in 1964 under the accelerated public works program, Woods Ferry Recreation Area has a boat ramp, picnic area and 30 campsites. Amenities include drinking water, hot showers and flush toilets. The Woods Ferry Horse Trail currently consists of nine miles of designated trail, primarily located along old logging and forest access roads. Several additional miles of non-system user-created trails also exist in the area, both on forest service and private lands.

For more information about the recreation area and/or trail, please visit <http://fs.usda.gov/scnfs> and click on Recreation, then Horse Riding & Camping in the left hand column.

For more information on the national forests in South Carolina, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>.

For more information on the Weeks Act Centennial Celebration, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/weeksact>.

###