UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

CHATTAHOOCHEE – OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST and CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

ORDER NUMBER CO-12-04

Cohutta Wilderness Occupancy and Use

Pursuant to Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 261.50(a) and (b), the following act or omission is prohibited within the boundary of the Cohutta Wilderness located within the Chattahoochee National Forest in northern Georgia and the Cherokee National Forest in Southeast Tennessee. This closure is effective from April 12, 2012 through April 12, 2017.

Note: This order does not cover the area designated as the "Jacks River Falls Area." The "Jacks River Falls Area" prohibitions are covered under order number CO-12-05, Jacks River Falls Closure.

1. **Within the Cohutta Wilderness, it is prohibited to enter into, use any area of or be in the following described areas in a group which exceeds the specified number of authorized users:**

    a. **Anywhere in a group larger than twelve (12) people.**

    b. **Further than 300 feet away from a trail, Jacks River, or the Conasauga River in a group larger than four (4) people.**

    c. **Anywhere in a group larger than eight (8) horses or other pack animals.**

    d. **Further than 300 feet from any trail with any number of horses or other pack animals.**

    36 CFR 261.57(a); 36 CFR 261.58(f)

    Note: Any group that contains 5 to 12 people must be within 300 feet of a trail, Jacks River or the Conasauga River. You cannot ride a horse or use a pack animal "Off Trail."

2. **Within the Cohutta Wilderness, it is prohibited to:**

    a. **Camp within 50 feet of any river or stream. 36 CRF 261.58(e)**

    b. **Camp within 20 feet of any trail. 36 CFR 261.58(e)**

    c. **Dispose of debris, garbage, or waste. 36 CFR 261.57(g)**

d. **Shortcut a Switchback in a trail 36 CFR 261.55(e)**

e. **Store or leave any equipment, personal property or supplies unattended for a period in excess of 24 hours. 36 CFR 261.57(f)**

f. **Camp outside of a Forest Service designated campsite if within 300 feet of Jacks River. 36 CFR 261.58(e)**
   Note: Campsites will be designated by a post set in the center of the campsite. The perimeter of the designated campsite will be measured 25 feet out from the center of the post.

g. **Establish a campsite comprising an area larger than 400 square feet if more than 300 feet from Jacks River or the Conasauga River. 36 CFR 261.58(e)**

h. **Build, maintain, or use more than one (1) campfire or rock fire ring per campsite if within 300 feet of a trail, Jacks River, or the Conasauga River. 36CFR 261.52(a)**

i. **Build, maintain, or use a rock fire ring if more than 300 feet from a trail, Jacks River, or the Conasauga River. 36CFR 261.52(a)**
   Note: Fuel Stoves and campfires using mound fire (fire on piled soil) and pit method (fire in a dug hole) are permitted.

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 36 C.F.R, Section 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from the above prohibition:

1. **Any Federal, State, or Local Law Enforcement Officer or firefighter or organized rescue, U. S. Forest Service Employee or designee, or Military personnel engaged in the official performance of their duties.**

2. **Persons with a permit specially authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.**

Prepared at Gainesville, Georgia this 12th day of April,

George Bain
Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

Violations of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than $5000.00 for an individual and $10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both. Title 16 USC 551 and Title 18 USC 3559 and 3571.