

Road Construction and Maintenance in the Uwharrie National Forest

July 2019

Moccasin Creek #576, Dutch John #553, and Green Gap #6584 Roads—as well as all open roads on the Uwharrie National Forest—are in poor condition. Hurricane Florence in September 2018 impacted these routes; currently, culverts are clogged, aggregate surfacing has washed away, and the roads have many washouts and potholes. According to the latest Travel Analysis Process Report, these three roads' designations are, as follows:

Road	National Forest System Road	Existing Road Width	Operation Maintenance Level	Objective Maintenance Level	Currently on the Federal Lands Transportation Program?
#576 Moccasin Creek Road	Y	24 feet	3-5	3-5	Y
#553 Dutch John Road	Y	20 feet	3	4	Y
#6584 Green Gap Road	Y	16 feet	3	4	N

The above designations are a result of the road attributes and characteristics to include road width, shoulder width, design speed, surface type, and frequency of maintenance actions each year as outlined in the U.S. Forest Service Transportation System Maintenance Handbook. The current level of road designations does not require paving these routes. Any action to pave these roads would require a significant National Environmental Policy Act effort to analyze the impacts of paving the identified routes. Maintenance activities this year include cleaning culverts, repairing washouts, and placing aggregate surfacing across these routes. These activities were put out to bid, with bids due back April 1, 2019. As of May 8, 2019, Uwharrie National Forest road maintenance bids have been awarded. The awards total approximately \$250,000, significantly more than the typical amount of approximately \$13,000. Again, these activities are not associated with paving these routes, but only addressing critical needs based on current conditions.

Uwharrie Forest staff have had no recent interactions with county officials, but have been working with Georgia Lozier of Congressman Richard Hudson's office, as well as local community members.