



**Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)**  
10/01/2024 to 12/31/2024

**Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests**

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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**Projects Occurring Nationwide**

<b>Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System</b> EIS	- Land management planning	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/21/2024 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer McRae 202-791-8488 SM.FS.NFSWONGA@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).				
<b>Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A.</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions">https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions</a> .				

<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>	<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project</b> EA  <b>*UPDATED*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management - Projects that may affect Wilderness (for mailing list contacts)	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/01/2024 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 11/2024	Expected:05/2025	06/2025	Jessie Howard 540-492-1728 jessie.howard@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The Southern Appalachian Forests(Cherokee National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, National Forests in North Carolina and Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest seek to implement large landscape watershed resiliency efforts.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66472">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66472</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest All Units. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, Whitfield. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Project spans the entirety of the Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest.					

<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>BRRD Trout Stream Habitat Enhancement Project</b> CE  <b>*UPDATED*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/26/2022	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	Laura Brown 678-943-0764 laura.r.brown@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The purpose of the project is to enhance stream habitat conditions for trout and other aquatic species, which would move these areas toward the desired conditions stated in the Forest Plan.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62094">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62094</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Towns, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project would contribute to the restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of aquatic habitats on the Blue Ridge Ranger District.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Blue Ridge Ranger District Small Tract Act Land Conveyance</b> CE  <b>*UPDATED*</b>	- Regulations, Directives, Orders - Land ownership management	Completed	Actual: 01/11/2024	01/2024	Warren Carver 770/297-3041 warren.carver@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The Forest Service is considering two applications that request conveyance of small tracts of National Forest System (NFS) lands on the Chattahoochee National Forest to private landowners per the provisions of the Small Tracts Act.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61032">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61032</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin, Lumpkin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Small Tract #1 is located in USA Tract G-1320b in Land Lot 116, 15th District, 1st Section, Lumpkin County, Georgia. Small Tract #2 is located in USA Tract BRR-37 in Land Lot 86, 7th District, 2nd Sec.					
<b>Byron Herbert Reece Trail Reroute</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 04/03/2024	05/2024	John Stephens 706-745-6928 x114 john.r.stephens@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The proposed action is to reroute the Byron Herbert Reece Trail in Union County, GA. This would address deferred maintenance, promote wilderness characteristics, and help this infrastructure meet sustainable trail management standards.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Byron Herbert Reece Trail in Union County, GA.				
<b>Early Successional Habitat Creation Project</b> CE  <b>*UPDATED*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Laura Brown 706-745-6928 laura.r.brown@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The BRRD is proposing 183 total acres of early-successional habitat across the district, including areas within the Coopers Creek and Swallow Creek Wildlife Management Areas, through commercial and non-commercial means.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60330">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60330</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located in the Blue Ridge Ranger District.					

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<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Forest Service Road (FSR) -135 Three Sisters Closure Project</b> CE	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/17/2023	Expected:05/2023	05/2023	Mike Chambers 706-745-6928 michael.chambers1@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The Blue Ridge Ranger District is proposing to close Forest Service Road 135 and 135-A Three Sisters Road and Three Sisters Spur to all motorized vehicular access under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1). <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63981">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63981</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Lumpkin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Three Sisters Road and Three Sisters Spur Road are located on National Forest System lands on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in Lumpkin County.				
<b>Morganton Point Campground Improvement Project</b> CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	Completed	Actual: 01/17/2024	04/2024	John Stephens 706-745-6928 x114 john.r.stephens@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Expand infrastructure and amenities at Morganton Point Campground in Fannin County, GA, including extending utility connections and campsites on the North Loop, improving access for larger recreational vehicles, and constructing rental cabins. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65144">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65144</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Morganton Point Campground, Blue Ridge Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Fannin County, Georgia.				
<b>Morganton Point Campground Phases I and II</b> CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	John Stephens 706-745-6928 x114 john.r.stephens@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Expand public use opportunities at the Morganton Point Campground by adding new campsites, building small cabins at new camp sites, and expand utilities to service new sites and cabins. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62083">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62083</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Morganton Point Campground, Blue Ridge Ranger District, Fannin County, Georgia.				

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<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests    Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Spring 2022 Recreation Scoping</b> CE  *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 12/19/2022	02/2023	Warren Carver 706-745-6928 warren.carver@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The project is located in the Blue Ridge Ranger District.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60898">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60898</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin, Gilmer, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located in the Blue Ridge Ranger District.					
<b>Windstream Lumpkin Fiber Optic Upgrade - BRRD (CE)</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/22/2024	Expected:08/2024	09/2024	Norman Leonard 770-297-3051 Norman.Leonard@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Environmental documentation to support a Special Uses Permit for Windstream, which seeks to expand its broadband internet service to rural homes and businesses in accordance with relevant legislation and Executive Orders.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66804">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66804</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Lumpkin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Cable will be buried or hung along existing roads within the engineered road prism.					

<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests    Chattooga River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Chattooga River Vault Toilet Replacement Project</b> CE  *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 06/07/2022	07/2022	Barbara Ramey 706-754-6221 x105 barbara.ramey@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This is to replace chemical toilets on the Chattooga River Ranger District with new vault toilets.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62721">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62721</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin, Habersham, Rabun, White. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is at various developed recreation sites across the District.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Chattooga River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Chestnut Mountain Prescribed Burn</b> CE  *UPDATED*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 11/30/2022	Expected:12/2024	03/2025	Amy McClave 706-754-6221 x102 amy.mcclave@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This is to continue burning of the Chestnut Mountain Burn Unit aimed at wildlife habitat improvement. This unit was last burned in 2015/2016.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63243">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63243</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Rabun. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is located in Rabun County, Georgia. This is the continuation of a long standing prescribed burning project to improve wildlife habitat and reduce fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface.					
<b>Leatherwood Creek &amp; Upper Middle Fork Landscape Management Project</b> EA  *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 07/11/2024	Expected:12/2024	01/2025	Michael Starbuck 706-754-6221 x133 michael.starbuck@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Integrated resource management project aimed to improve forest health, return fire back to the landscape, improve habitat for rare plants, and conduct road improvement projects in the area.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63437">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63437</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Banks, Stephens. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is located in portions of Habersham, Stephens, and Banks Counties, Georgia, primarily within the Lake Russell WMA.					
<b>Lower Warwoman Dispersed Recreation</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2024	Expected:08/2024	09/2024	Barbara Ramey 928-348-1973 barbara.ramey@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The District proposes to designate and improve seven existing dispersed campsites, discontinue use of and rehabilitate eight unsustainable dispersed campsites, and rehabilitate and install barriers to illegal, non-system road prisms and pull-offs.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66561">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66561</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Rabun. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project occurs along Earls Ford Road in Rabun County, GA.					

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<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests    Chattooga River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Outfitter &amp; Guide Permit: Second Nature Blue Ridge LLC</b> CE  <b>*UPDATED*</b>	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 12/29/2023	01/2024	Warren Carver 706-745-6928 x122 warren.carver@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> SECOND NATURE BLUE RIDGE, LLC, dba BLUE RIDGE THERAPEUTIC WILDERNESS, is requesting reissuance of an outfitter and guide permit for guided backpacking and camping trips with a term of ten (10) years.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64817">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64817</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Rabun. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Second Nature has proposed several locations to operate within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in Rabun County, Georgia including within the Dillard, Satolah, Rabun and Rainy Mtn. quadrants.					

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<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests    Conasauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Armuchee Ridges 2 Thinning and Restoration Project</b> EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 05/28/2024	Expected:09/2024	03/2025	William Hunter 706-695-6736 x113 william.hunter@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The primary objectives of this project are to restore and maintain native forest communities, reduce stand density in pine and pine-oak stands, expand prescribed fire use, enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat diversity, and refine the road system.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65004">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65004</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Walker. LEGAL - Not Applicable. 41,503 acres of National Forest System lands on the Armuchee unit of the Conasauga Ranger District, located in Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, and Walker counties.					

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<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Conasauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Emery Creek Trailhead and Holly Creek Picnic Parking Project</b> CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/29/2024	Expected:10/2024	06/2025	Sydney Earley 7066956736 Sydney.Earley@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Emery Creek parking lot to be expanded and paved to prevent further runoff from parking lot into Holly Creek, and to provide more parking access for trail users. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65696">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65696</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Murray. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Holly Creek Picnic Area and the Emery Creek Trailhead are located along the first mile of Holly Creek Road (FSR 18), before reaching the Holly Creek Check Station.				
<b>Houston Valley OHV Trail Reroute</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/08/2024	Expected:10/2024	01/2025	Sophie Beavin 423-602-1833 sophie.beavin@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project will reroute 405 feet of the Houston Valley Trail #181L to improve water drainage ability, reduce erosion potential, and improve visitor use. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66718">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66718</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Whitfield. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Houston Valley Trail system is located at the end of Forest Service Road 327 in Whitfield County, Georgia.				
<b>Ocoee Horse Ride and Mulberry Gap O and G permits CE</b> CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/18/2021	Expected:01/2023	02/2023	Jeff Gardner 706-695-6736 jeffrey.gardner1@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The project is going to be implemented in the Conasauga Ranger District. <b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60887">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60887</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Chattooga. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located in the Conasauga Ranger District.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests District)</b>	<b>Conasauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one</b>				<b>R8 - Southern Region</b>
<b>Pocket Recreation Area ERFO Project</b> CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/24/2024	Expected:11/2024	10/2025	Sydney Earley 706-695-6736 Sydney.Earley@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The Conasauga Ranger District received funding through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program to repair Pocket Recreation Area infrastructure damaged from a flood event in 2022.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66298">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66298</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Floyd. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Pocket Recreation Area is located off Pocket Road and includes a developed campground and a day-use area.				

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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.