



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)
01/01/2025 to 03/31/2025

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

Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System 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
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).				
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
	Location: 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: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)

R8 - Southern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R8 - Southern Region
Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project EA	- 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
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66472				
Location: 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.					

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
BRRD Trout Stream Habitat Enhancement Project CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/26/2022	Expected:02/2025	03/2025	Laura Brown 678-943-0764 laura.r.brown@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62094				
	Location: 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.				

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Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Forest Service Road (FSR) -135 Three Sisters Closure Project CE *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders - Road management	Completed	Actual: 11/19/2024	12/2024	Jonathan Key 423-244-1569 Jonathan.Key@usda.gov
	Description: 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).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63981				
	Location: 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.				
Glenn Elliott Road to Inholding Road ROW CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/01/2024	Expected:11/2024	11/2024	Warren Carver 706-745-6928 x122 warren.carver@usda.gov
	Description: The District is considering an application for the issuance of a road right-of-way for access to a private inholding tract adjacent to Glenn Elliot Road, east of Suches, Georgia.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66876				
	Location: UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Union County, Georgia.				
Glenn Elliott Road to Inholding Utility Line ROW CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/01/2024	Expected:11/2024	12/2024	Warren Carver 706-745-6928 x122 warren.carver@usda.gov
	Description: The District is considering an application for the issuance of a utility line right-of-way to provide power and internet to a private inholding tract adjacent to Glenn Elliot Road, east of Suches, Georgia.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66937				
	Location: UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Union County, Georgia.				

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Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Blueridge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Ride-a-Horse Wildlife Habitat Improvement CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/08/2024	Expected:01/2025	03/2025	Michael Starbuck 706-754-6221 x133 michael.starbuck@usda.gov
	Description: The District proposes conducting a combination of commercial vegetation treatments, noncommercial vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire to promote desirable native vegetation and improve habitat conditions for wildlife.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66754				
	Location: UNIT - Blueridge Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Fannin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Fannin County, Georgia.				
Windstream Lumpkin Fiber Optic Upgrade - BRRD (CE) CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/22/2024	Expected:08/2024	09/2024	Norman Leonard 770-297-3051 Norman.Leonard@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66804				
	Location: 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.				

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Chattooga River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R8 - Southern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Chattooga River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Chestnut Mountain Prescribed Burn CE	- 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
	Description: This is to continue burning of the Chestnut Mountain Burn Unit aimed at wildlife habitat improvement. This unit was last burned in 2015/2016.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63243				
	Location: 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.				
Leatherwood Creek & Upper Middle Fork Landscape Management Project 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:04/2025	05/2025	Michael Starbuck 706-754-6221 x133 michael.starbuck@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63437				
	Location: 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.				
Lower Warwoman Dispersed Recreation CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 08/12/2024	09/2024	Barbara Ramey 928-348-1973 barbara.ramey@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66561				
	Location: UNIT - Chattooga River Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Rabun. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project occurs along Earls Ford Road in Rabun County, GA.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Conasauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Armuchee Ridges 2 Thinning and Restoration Project EA *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Objection Period Legal Notice 08/14/2024	Expected:11/2024	03/2025	William Hunter 706-695-6736 x113 william.hunter@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65004				
	Location: 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.				
Emery Creek Trailhead and Holly Creek Picnic Parking Project CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/29/2024	Expected:10/2024	06/2025	Sydney Earley 7066956736 Sydney.Earley@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65696				
	Location: 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.				
Houston Valley OHV Trail Reroute CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/08/2024	Expected:10/2024	01/2025	Sophie Beavin 423-602-1833 sophie.beavin@usda.gov
	Description: This project will reroute 405 feet of the Houston Valley Trail #181L to improve water drainage ability, reduce erosion potential, and improve visitor use.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66718				
	Location: 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.				

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Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Conasauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Ocoee Horse Ride and Mulberry Gap O and G permits CE CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/18/2021	Expected:01/2023	02/2023	Jeff Gardner 706-695-6736 jeffrey.gardner1@usda.gov
	Description: The project is going to be implemented in the Conasauga Ranger District.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60887				
Pinhoti Trail Reroute - Section 21 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/10/2024	Expected:08/2025	12/2025	Sophie Beavin 423-602-1833 sophie.beavin@usda.gov
	Description: This project will reroute 2.5 miles of section 21 of the Pinhoti Trail from the Forest Service Road 254 roadbed to Taylor Ridge.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66842				
Pocket Recreation Area ERFO Project CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/24/2024	Expected:11/2024	10/2025	Sydney Earley 706-695-6736 Sydney.Earley@usda.gov
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=66298				
	Location: UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Chattooga. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located in the Conasauga Ranger District.				
	Location: UNIT - Conasauga Ranger District. STATE - Georgia. COUNTY - Chattooga. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project takes place on section 21 of the Pinhoti Trail that runs from Mack White Gap (US Highway 27) to West Armuchee Road at Narrows Road.				
	Location: 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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