



**Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region
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Sustainable access key feature of draft decisions on the upper Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor

Gainesville, Ga. (May 11, 2015) – The Forest Service is providing the public with an early opportunity to preview the draft Decision Notices for sustainable recreation access on the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

“With three distinct access decisions along the river corridor—one for each bordering state, we hope this preview will give the public extra time to review, understand, and ask questions.” said Chattooga River District Ranger, Ed Hunter. “This is about moving forward and creating a more sustainable recreation experience for all river visitors.”

These recreation access draft decisions mark a continuation of the agency’s efforts to implement the 2012 decisions to allow boating on the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. Within the river corridor, the agency plans to designate sustainable river access trails at the following locations:

North Carolina: Nantahala Ranger District

- Greens Creek trail (put in only), construct 0.28 miles of sustainable trail with access at the Greens Creek trail and Chattooga intersection.
- County Line trail (put-in and take out), designate 1.2 miles of an old road bed as a trail with access just downstream of Norton Mill Creek.

DDN
Communication Plan
Upper Chattooga WSR Visitor Access



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- Bullpen Bridge (put in and take out), designate an existing trail of less than 100 feet upstream of the bridge and construct and designate a short sustainable trail of less than 300 feet below the bridge.

Georgia: Chattooga River Ranger District

- Burrells Ford Bridge (put in and take-out), designate and reconstruct about 200 feet of sustainable trail, decommission two user-created trails and conduct maintenance work at the parking area to reduce sediment impacts on the river.

South Carolina: Andrew Pickens Ranger District

- Lick Log Creek (take-out only), construct and designate about 500 feet of new sustainable trail.

“There are over 19 miles of eroding, unsafe, unmaintained user created trails crisscrossing the banks of this wild and scenic river,” added Hunter. “These draft decisions propose maintaining a total of 1.63 miles of sustainable foot trails to support current and future use of this much loved place.”

The draft decisions do not reopen the 2012 final decision allowing boating in the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River, and boating in this corridor will still require a permit with regulations in place for seasons and flow.

In accordance with federal regulations, the Forest Service will offer a 45-day formal objection period on the draft decisions, which will begin with legal notices published in the paper of record for each ranger district. The legal notices are expected to be published during the week of May 17, 2015.

For specific details on district draft decisions, please contact the following individuals:

- North Carolina, Matt McCombs at (828) 689-9694 ext. 101
- Georgia, Holly Krake at (770) 297-3095
- South Carolina, Jennifer Barnhart at (864) 638-4463

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150511 Burrells Ford Map.jpg– Map of draft decision at Burrells Ford in Rabun County, Georgia.

150511 Lick Log Map.jpg– Map of draft decision at Lick Log in Oconee County, South Carolina.

150511 Greens Creek Map.jpg– Map of draft decision at Greens Creek in Macon and Jackson Counties, North Carolina.

150511 County Line/Norton Mill Map.jpg– Map of draft decision at County Line/Norton Mill in Macon and Jackson Counties, North Carolina.

150511 Bull Pen Bridge Map.jpg– Map of draft decision at Green Creek in Macon and Jackson Counties, North Carolina.

150511 Chattooga River All Map.jpg– Map of all three visitor access draft decisions in the Upper Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor.