



File Code: 1950

Date: February 13, 2013

Interested Forest Users:

The Tellico Ranger District is in the process of conducting a rapid assessment (RA) of Bald River, North River and Ballplay watersheds to determine resource conditions and identify any management opportunities and needs. Bald River encompasses approximately 13,900 acres (98% NFS lands), North River encompasses approximately 11,900 acres (100% NFS lands) and Ballplay Creek encompasses approximately 55,000 acres (17% NFS lands). All areas are located in Monroe County.

The Forest uses RAs at the watershed scale to identify opportunities for management actions. This process provides a chance to consider the full range of forces acting on an ecosystem and plan a holistic strategy for future management. The intent is to assess what condition the resources are in and then identify appropriate management opportunities and restoration needs, if any, within the Bald River, North River and Ballplay drainages.

We need your help in this process. If you have information about the history or cultural resources, recreational use, roads, vegetation, wildlife, or other resources in these areas we would like you to tell us. Also, if you have any ideas, suggestions, or know locations where management is needed we want to hear from you.

This assessment is not a decision document. We will continue to work with the public to plan and implement possible site specific management actions that will restore and maintain native ecosystems while providing sustainable appropriate public uses of these areas.

If you would like to see a map of the assessment areas please see navigate to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cherokee/landmanagement/planning>.

Please submit your information no later than March 15, 2013: by fax, 423-253-2804; mail or in person, 250 Ranger Station Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385; or by email, [comments-southern-cherokee-tellico@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-cherokee-tellico@fs.fed.us).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Janan Hay at 423-253-8400.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Katherine Foster*  
KATHERINE FOSTER  
District Ranger

