



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Brasstown Ranger District

1881 Highway 515
P.O. Box 9
Blairsville, GA 30514
(706) 745-6928

File Code: 1950/2330

Date: July 5, 2005

Subject: Beasley Knob Reroute

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Brasstown Ranger District is inviting you to comment on the following proposed actions to take place at the Beasley Knob Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail System located 1 mile east of Blairsville, Georgia in Union County.

This proposal calls for the reroute of two existing trail segments within the Beasley Knob OHV Trail System. Subsequent to this trail reroute, this proposal also calls for the relocation of the Satterfield parking area to a location south of Beasley Knob providing a more accessible arrival/departure location.

The Beasley Knob OHV Trail System features 8 interconnecting trails offering a total of 10.8 miles of diverse riding challenges. Design of the existing system results in dead-end trails, which force riders to turn back and return along the same trail. This style of design has resulted in the establishment of several user created trails leading from designated trail termini. These unauthorized trails often are located in unsuitable forest environments marked with excessive slopes and within riparian corridors.

The Brasstown Ranger District is proposing to reroute the Beasley Knob OHV Trail System to help provide additional and new riding opportunities for ATV, OHV, and motorcycle recreationists, discourage the formation of user created trails, and to meet desired conditions directed by the current Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to:

- Provide resilient and stable conditions to support the quality of water necessary
- to protect ecological functions (Goal 22 excerpt)
- Maintain and restore soil productivity and quality (Goal 24)
- Not adversely affect soil and water resources (Goal 34 excerpt)

The following proposed actions will prevent further resource damage and limit motorized access while working towards meeting the desired condition:

- Reroute two trail segments of the Beasley Knob Trail System, OHV Trail #229 and OHV Trail #228. Trail reroutes will provide for a complete loop OHV trail system by linking dead-end trails with existing trail segments.



- Relocate the Satterfield Parking Lot to a location along Forest Service Road #121. Relocation will provide a more accessible arrival/departure location for users along the north and south side of the mountain network. Following this relocation, current Satterfield Parking Lot will no longer be open for public use.

- Subsequent to the relocation of the Satterfield Parking Lot, close a portion of the Beasley Knob Trail System which extends from the Satterfield Parking Lot to trail junction "B" at Nicholson Gap.

You can help us with our analysis by providing public comments on this proposal. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 295.3, 60 days advance notice will be given to allow for public review of proposed or revised designations to use of motor vehicles off forest development roads. As such your comments must be submitted by September 7, 2005. Important environmental concerns already being considered include protection of water and soil quality, sensitive and endangered plant and animal species, and archeological resources.

When providing comments please be as specific as possible and provide the following information:

1. Name, address and (if possible) telephone number
2. Title of proposal on which comment is being submitted (Beasley Knob OHV Trail System); and
3. Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the person believes the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.

We welcome public involvement as we deal with this complex issue. If you would like to receive more information about this proposal, please write to Chattahoochee National Forest, Brasstown Ranger District, District Ranger Alan Polk or Deputy District Ranger Tina Tilley, 1881 Highway 515, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville, GA 30514, or call the Brasstown Ranger District Office at (706) 745-6928.

/s/ Tina R. Tilley (for)
ALAN POLK
District Ranger

Enclosure