

USDA Forest Service
Cherokee National Forest

NEWS

Tellico Ranger District

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Tellico Campground Winter Schedules

TELLICO PLAINS , TN – November 10, 2006 ... USDA Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest reported that recreation sites in the Tellico/Hiwassee Ranger District have been closed or will soon be closed for the winter.

Tellico District Ranger Keith Lannom said, “Several of our campgrounds have less than 5% occupancy during the winter. Closing these campgrounds during the winter months will help us provide better services at all recreation areas during the rest of the year.”

Tellico Winter Campground Schedule:

- The A, B, C, and D loops at Indian Boundary Recreation Area closed in October and will reopen on May 3, 2007.
- Beginning December 19, 2006 Big Oak Cove, Holly Flats, Jake Best, Spivey Cove, and the Indian Boundary Overflow campgrounds will close for the winter months. These sites will reopen March 16, 2007.
- All other recreation areas including the boat ramp to Indian Boundary Lake will remain open year round.

Ranger Lannom added “We have recently completed reconstruction of 5 campgrounds in the upper end of the Tellico River Corridor. Each campground now has an accessible vault toilet, picnic tables, fire rings, and lantern posts.” The two campgrounds closest to the Upper Tellico Off-Highway Vehicle area have sites that were designed to accommodate small groups, so the 2 vehicle-5 person capacity rule does not apply at Stateline and Rough Ridge campgrounds. But all camping equipment and vehicles must be within the timbers. Starting Jan. 1, 2007 the user fees at Birch Branch (\$10), Holder Cover (\$10), and Rough Ridge (\$20) take effect.

There are fewer crowds in the Forest during winter, which appeals to many people. Forest Service officials stressed that if you visit the National Forest during the winter to keep in mind that sudden weather changes are common and temperatures can drop rapidly. Always be prepared for cold weather and for the unthinkable such as vehicle breakdowns, injury, or sudden winter storms. Visitors need to remember to carry or wear the appropriate winter clothing and footwear even if the weather is mild when they leave home. Overnight camping, long hikes, and other physically demanding activities may be things you consider postponing until weather conditions are more favorable.