



File Code: 1950  
Date: July 2, 2002

Dear Reader:

You are invited to comment on a number of proposed Forest Supervisor's orders for the Upper Tellico OHV Area, in Cherokee County, North Carolina on the Tusquitee Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest.

For the protection of public users and natural resources within the Upper Tellico OHV Area a number of regulations and closure orders are being considered. Prohibitions and restrictions being considered are as follows:

1. Prohibit possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the trails, in camping or parking areas or while visiting recreation facilities within the Upper Tellico OHV Area.
2. Operating a motorized vehicle on Trail # 1 (which is also Forest Road # 420) in excess of 20 miles per hour.
3. Overnight camping along Trail #1 from the Tennessee State Line to 100 yards past the Tipton Creek Bridge, and from the intersection of Trail #5 and Trail # 1 up to the Tellico River crossing (know as the "rough crossing"). Within this area no overnight camping would be allowed between the road and the Tellico River, between the road and Tipton Creek, or within 100 yards of any live stream or bog area. Also prohibited would be overnight camping in all parking areas within this area as well as any overnight camping in the Allen Gap Parking lot at the east entrance to the OHV Area.
4. Being on the trail system with a motorized vehicle from January 1 through March 15 of each year with the exception of Trail # 1 (Forest Road # 420).
5. Being on Trail # 2 and Trail # 9 with any ATV (four wheelers etc.) or motorcycle. Only 4 wheel drive jeeps, trucks, and similar large vehicles would be allowed on these two trails.
6. Being on Trail # 10 with any large type vehicles (Jeeps, Trucks, and similar large vehicles). Only ATV's (motorcycles and 4 wheelers, etc.) would be allowed on Trail # 10.
7. Using any type of vehicle on any trail that is not capable of 4 wheel drive operation and failure to have the vehicle "locked in" four wheel drive. This would not apply to motorcycles and ATV's (four wheelers, etc.). This would only apply to jeeps, trucks, "hybrids", "rails", dune buggies, etc.
8. Possession or use of any vehicle with studded tires.

An Environmental Analysis will be conducted by a team of Forest Resource Specialists for this proposal.

We would like to receive your thoughts and comments regarding these proposals. Your response is an integral part of our planning process and will be used to help guide the environmental analysis process.

If you submit comments during the scoping period, July 9, 2002 to August 7, 2002, you will receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment. All comments should be received prior to the ending date for the scoping period and mailed to: Tusquitee Ranger District, District Ranger Charles N. Miller, 123 Woodland Drive, Murphy, NC 28906; phone (828) 837-5152.

Thank you for your interest in the Nantahala National Forest.

Sincerely,

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CHARLES N. MILLER  
District Ranger