



File Code: 1950

Date: December 8, 2005

Dear Forest User and Interested Public,

The Tusquitee Ranger District on the Nantahala National Forest is seeking comments on a proposal to establish new Forest Supervisor's Orders in the Upper Tellico OHV area. The proposed area is located in Cherokee County, North Carolina approximately 15 miles north of Murphy on the Tennessee/North Carolina state line. The Upper Tellico OHV area is managed as a system of off highway vehicle (OHV) trails, where approximately 43 miles of existing roads and trails have been designated for motorized OHV use. The purpose for these proposals is to provide short and long term resource protection and to protect public health and safety. The following regulations and restrictions are being considered:

1. Being on the following trails with a motorized vehicle from January 1 through April 15 of each year:
 - Lower Trail #2 (0.7 mile),
 - Trail #7 (0.6 mile) and that portion of Trail #6 from the intersection with Trail #7 to the intersection with Trail #4 (0.4 mile),
 - Trail #9 (0.8 mile), and
 - Trail #10 (3.7 miles).
2. Prohibition of overnight camping along Trail #1 and Trail #5 unless designated for such use. Also prohibited would be overnight camping in the parking facilities at Allen Gap and State Line.

These proposals are a result from a collaborative approach with an Upper Tellico Stakeholders Group and our recently completed assessment (available upon request) of the management situation in the Upper Tellico OHV area. These operational orders qualify for Categorical Exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment under section 31.1b category 1, of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15.

Before I make my final decision I welcome your comments. Please make your comments as specific as possible along with supporting reasons why you believe your comments should be considered. Please include your name and address in any correspondence.



Your comments may be sent to Tusquitee District Ranger, 123 Woodland Drive, Murphy, NC 28906. Comments may also be sent via email to rsemingson@fs.fed.us.

We would appreciate receiving your comments by January 13, 2006.

Thank you for your time and interest in our management activities on the Tusquitee Ranger District.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. E. Vann III
R. E. VANN III
District Ranger, Tusquitee Ranger District

cc: