



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests  
Chattooga River  
Ranger District

809 Highway 441 South  
Clayton, GA 30525  
(706) 782-3320  
(706) 782-2079 fax

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File Code: 7740

Date: March 19, 2009

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The Chattooga River Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is proposing a road improvement project on a portion of Forest Road #70, which is identified as the Tallulah River (Tate City) Road. The project would include repaving an approximate 3,700 foot section of the road. The beginning point for the repaving would be at the National Forest boundary located approximately 0.9 miles west from the intersection of FS #70 and Persimmon Road. The ending point for repaving would be near the entrance to the Tallulah River Campground where the existing pavement currently ends. The project would also involve paving the approximate 1,000 foot gravelled section of this road from the entrance to the Tallulah River Campground to the Coleman River bridge. The project would also include replacement of the box culvert/bridge that is located on the Tallulah River Road near the Tate Branch Campground.

The Federal Highway Administration would provide funding for this project, and the Georgia Department of Transportation would perform contract administration and inspection. A limited amount of roadbed preparation to the existing gravel road along the 1,000 foot section would be required to prepare this section for paving, including widening the roadbed to a maximum of 20 feet. The project would be accomplished with single-lane closures using flaggers as needed, and no work would be performed on weekends and holidays. A bypass would be provided during replacement of the box culvert/bridge. This project would tentatively be implemented in the summer of 2009.

The location of this proposed project is approximately 12 to 15 miles northwest of Clayton, and is accessed via U.S. Highway 76, then County Road #216 / 87 (Persimmon Road / Tate City Road) to Forest Road #70 (Tallulah River Road). The affected road section is located in Land Lots 45 and 46 in Land District 1 of Rabun County, Georgia. The box culvert/bridge proposed for replacement is located in Towns County, Georgia in the northwest corner of Land Lot 66 in Land District 1 (reference attached vicinity and location maps).

I would like to hear from you regarding this proposal before making a decision. The requested action appears to fall into a category of actions that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This determination, however, will not be finalized until after consideration of your comments and concerns. The proposal is a starting point for discussion and analysis and no decision has been made. Responses from the local community, interested individuals and groups, other government agencies, and Forest Service employees are needed to help determine the extent of analysis so that we can meet the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments received help us to assess the proposal and indicate the type of mitigation and monitoring measures that may be needed if the request is approved.



Responses should contain relevant facts or comments along with supporting reasons that we would then consider in reaching a final decision on this proposal. Comments received, including names, become part of the public record and are available for public review. **To have your comments considered in our decision process, we would appreciate receiving your comments postmarked by April 20, 2009.** This will help ensure a complete and thorough analysis of the proposal. Send your written comments to the U.S. Forest Service at the address provided on the letterhead. You may also comment by fax (706-782-2079), in person at our office at 809 Highway 441 South in Clayton, Georgia, or by email to [bboystun@fs.fed.us](mailto:bboystun@fs.fed.us) or [asmith02@fs.fed.us](mailto:asmith02@fs.fed.us). Inquiries regarding this proposal should be directed to Blaine Boydstun (706-754-6221, ext. 104) or Allen Smith (706-782-3320, ext. 100). Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on the proposed action *only* if you comment or request further correspondence on this requested use.

This letter is being sent to individuals and organizations who have previously participated or been interested in our project proposals, in this type of specific project, or in the specific area or location of this proposed project. This letter assumes that you have some familiarity with the planning process as conducted by the Forest Service in accordance with NEPA. If you are receiving this letter and are unsure of the context or how to participate, please contact us at the Chattooga River Ranger District office. Management of the National Forest is a public trust and is best conducted with broad participation.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ *David W. Jensen*

DAVID W. JENSEN  
District Ranger

Attachments – Vicinity Map  
Location Map