



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests  
Oconee Ranger District

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File Code: 1500

Date: January 7, 2009

Dear Friend of the Forest:

I want to invite you to an open working meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> in Eatonton, Georgia where Forest Service specialists will be discussing future management opportunities on the Oconee National Forest. As you know from my previous correspondence, we have had impacts in recent years on the Oconee from drought, storms, and the southern pine beetle.

Our desire is to work to create a more healthy resilient forest for the future. To do this, I have assembled a team of Forest Service specialists representing various disciplines (for example: biologists, foresters, soil scientists) to gather information about the current state of the Oconee National Forest and to identify opportunities to improve forest health. At the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>, there won't be any formal presentations. It is a working meeting and will be informal, although questions and discussion with all attendees are encouraged.

I hope to involve interested individuals in this process of planning activities for the future of the Oconee National Forest. I'm sure our common goal is to help ensure that the forest is healthy and resilient in the face of continued threats from drought, insects and disease, and severe storm systems. This will not be the only open working meeting; we are planning on holding a number of meetings throughout the year.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Forest Service Work Center near Eatonton, Georgia. For directions to the meeting or additional information about this process, please visit our Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/conf](http://www.fs.fed.us/conf). If you plan to attend this meeting please RSVP to Jeff McDonald at (706) 485-3180 (101) or Mike D'Aquino at (770) 297-3061 by January 27<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you on January 29<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate your continued interest in our beautiful Oconee National Forest.

Sincerely,

*/S/ ERIN BRONK*

ERIN M. BRONK  
District Ranger

