

NEWS **RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three Forks Road on National Forest to be Closed for Three Months

CHATSWORTH, GA - October 10, 2008 ... The Federal Highway Administration has awarded a contract for the reconstruction of the Three Forks Road (Forest Road 64), just south of Watson Gap, in Fannin County. The section of Three Forks Road between Watson Gap and Dyer Cemetery will be closed for an estimated 90 days beginning October 20th.

Popular areas on National Forest that will not be accessible from the north on Forest Road 64 include Flat Top Mountain and Jacks River Fields Camground. The public traveling across the Cohutta Mountains from the west along Road 64 will not be able to access areas such as Watson Gap, Dally Gap, and Tumbling Creek.

“The fall is a very popular time for people to be in the National Forest, particularly for hunting and viewing fall colors, and I understand that this closure is going to inconvenience a lot of our public,” said U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Michele Jones. “Fortunately, there are many other areas of the Forest that are open for hunting and viewing fall colors across the Conasauga District that will remain open,” she added.

In 2005, the combined rainfalls from Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Jeanne triggered a significant landslide along the Three Forks Road. The road was fixed and has been open since that time.

Forest Service engineers reviewed the slide in 2006 and determined that the slide is still active and major reconstruction is needed in order to stabilize the road in respect to the landslide. Given the complexity of the engineering needed to stabilize the road, the Forest Service requested the aid of the Federal Highway Administration. The Federal Highway Administration adopted the project and secured the funding, engineered the new road design, and is now administering the reconstruction contract.

For a map of the road closure and additional information on the project or other items relating to the Conasauga Ranger District please visit the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/conf or call 706-695-6736.

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