

**Questions and Answers
For Decision to Combine Tallulah and Chattooga District Offices
March 9, 2006
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests**

Q. When will the move from the Clayton and Clarkesville offices take place?

A. At this point, the U.S. Forest Service does not have a specific date set for this move. We hope to be moved out of both offices and into a new office facility located between Clarkesville and Clayton within two years.

Q. When the two units are combined, will the names of the district be changed?

A. Yes. The two districts will under-go a name change to reflect the combined unit. It would be unwieldy to try to maintain the current unit name for each district such as the Tallulah-Chattooga District. As soon as the consolidation of these two units is complete, a new name will be chosen.

Q. How many employees will be affected by this move?

A. There are 16 full time employees currently working out of the Clarkesville Office and about 19 full time employees in the Tallulah Office.

Q. What is the current cost of the lease for the Tallulah District Office? How big is the office now?

A. The current cost of the lease for the Clayton office is \$65,268. The square footage of this office space is 5,439. There is no lease cost for the Clarkesville office since it is federally owned, the square footage is 3,840.

Q. How long has the Forest Service had an office in Clayton and Clarkesville?

A. For almost 70 years.

Q. How will this affect the communities that won't have an office anymore?

A. We are looking at a number of ways to reduce the impact of an office move on affected communities. We will be exploring ways to work with the local organizations to distribute information and we will continue to explore new technologies to provide some of the services we now only offer face-to-face.

Q. How much money will this save?

A. The estimated savings as a result of this move is \$1.3 million over the next ten years.

Q. Are these decisions appealable?

A. No. This is an administrative decision made by the agency to bring greater efficiency to our operations.