



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests  
Chattooga Ranger District

200 Highway 197 North  
P.O. Box 1960  
Clarksville, GA 30523  
(706) 754-6221

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**File Code:** 1910-6/7720-1

**Date:** June 20, 2005

Dear Forest Stakeholder

The Chattooga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest is conducting an analysis of a proposal to decommission the last 3.5 miles of Forest Service Rd. 102 in Habersham Co. (un-paved portion of Shirley Grove Road locally referred to as Granny Camp Road) that ends at the Rabun Co. line. The decommissioning activities would begin at the intersection of Shirley Grove Rd. and Little Panther Creek Rd. (FS 102).

Granny Camp road is currently maintained by the Habersham County Road Department up to the end of the pavement and the starting point of FS Road 102 (Little Panther Creek/Granny Camp Rd.) Years of use and poor road design have lead to entrenchment, thus creating a situation where the road can no longer be maintained. As a result of these conditions a portion of the road is deeply entrenched (6-8 foot vertical walls on either side of the roadbed in spots), scared and heavily eroded. These conditions make sections of the road all but impassable and extremely dangerous to most passenger vehicles.

Primary purpose for these actions:

1. Close illegal ATV and OHV use that has persisted over time and
2. Reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality in the adjacent creeks and streams that drain from the Granny Camp road area.

These actions comply with the current Forest Plan, Goals 48 and 49, Standard FW- 159.

The proposed activities would involve the use of heavy equipment such as dozers and track hoes to obliterate the road prism. There would be a need to bring in additional soils to give added depth to the existing locations due to the effects of erosion. Aditonal activities would include cutting of some vegetation, sowing grass seed and mulching would be performed on sections of the road that will be obliterated. Erosion control tools such as hay bales or silt fence will be used while the project is being implemented to stop soil movement.

**The District Ranger would like to hear from you regarding this proposal before making a decision.** The actions in this proposal appear 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 staff here may also use your comments to modify the specific methods described in the proposal.

This proposal is at 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 we meet the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments received help us to develop viable options to the proposal, and/or indicate additional mitigation and monitoring measures needed.

Responses should contain relevant facts or comments along with supporting reasons that we would then consider in reaching a final decision on this proposal. In your response, please be as specific as possible. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. We would appreciate receiving your comments by **July 8, 2005**. This will help ensure a thorough and complete analysis of the proposal. Please mail your written comments to the address on the letterhead and including the following:

Attn: John D. Westbrook, Vegetation Management Projects

You may also comment by e-mail ([jwestbrook@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwestbrook@fs.fed.us)), or in person (200 Highway 197 North). Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. Please note also that you will be sent further information on any of these projects **only** if you comment on one of these specific projects or if you request a copy of a specific project(s).

More detailed information on these proposed actions is available upon request in the Chattooga Ranger District Office by appointment, phone, or e-mail.

This letter is being sent to organizations and individuals who have previously participated or been interested in our project proposals. 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 John Westbrook at the Chattooga 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,

*181 SCOTT HILL*

*JUNE 20, 2005*

DAVID SCOTT HILL  
Deputy District Ranger