



File Code: 1950

Date: December 18, 2008

**Scoping Notice**  
100-Mile Bike Race Special Use Permit

The Conasauga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is seeking comments on a request for a special use permit which would allow a multi-year, bicycle race on open Forest Service roads in Fannin, Gilmer and Murray County, Georgia.

Your comments and suggestions may be used to modify the specific methods described in the proposed projects. Please be as specific as possible when responding. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. We would appreciate receiving your comments on the projects by **January 26, 2009**.

I intend to categorically exclude this proposal from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment because it falls under the intent of Forest Service Handbook Chapter 1909.15, Category 3 of section 31.2, "Approval...of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

**Proposed Action**

An outfitter/guide company has requested permission to conduct a 100-mile bicycle race on existing Forest roads on the District. The event will begin and end at the Ocoee Whitewater Center on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. Chattahoochee National Forest system roads on the route are FS 22, FS 64, FS 68, FS 17, and FS 16. This one-day event is proposed for April 25, 2009. It is expected to last approximately 16 hours. Approximately 400 competitors are expected. There would be temporary checkpoints and aid stations along the route at about every 10-15 miles. The roads would remain open to vehicle traffic during the race. The race has been successfully conducted on the same route the past three years. The proposal would allow the event to occur for the next five years.

This proposal meets Goal 31 of the Forest Plan, "Provide a spectrum of high quality, nature-based recreation settings and opportunities that reflect the unique...resources of the Forest and the interests of the recreating public..." (Forest Plan, p 2-31).

**How to Provide Comments**

You may send your comments and suggestions as follows:

Comment Format	Contact Information
Hard Copy Letter	Conasauga Ranger District Attn: 100-Mile Bike Race 3941 Highway 76 Chatsworth, GA 30705



E-mail	<a href="mailto:lrthomas@fs.fed.us">lrthomas@fs.fed.us</a> Subject: 100-Mile Bike Race
FAX	706-695-1872
Phone	Larry Thomas, 706-695-6736, x 103

The electronic versions of the information provided in this scoping letter are available on the Forest's website at: [www.fs.fed.us/conf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/).

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this project, please contact Larry Thomas, Resources Forester, at 706-695-6736 x 103.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Conasauga Ranger District.

Sincerely,

*/S/ MICHELE H. JONES*

MICHELE H. JONES  
District Ranger

Enclosure: 100-Mile Bike Race Permit Proposal Map