



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Toccoa Ranger District

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Blue Ridge, GA 30513
(706) 632-3031
Fax: (706) 632-5552

File Code: 1950/2350-3

Date: August 11, 2008

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The Blue Ridge Ranger District invites you to comment on the following proposed actions to take place along a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) in Lumpkin County, Georgia. The purpose of the proposed actions is to reduce soil erosion and vegetation trampling occurring from camping in the riparian zone where the AT crosses Lance Creek in the Blood Mountain Wilderness (see attached map), and provide for a more enjoyable experience for trail users.

This proposal calls for the following actions to further prevent resource damage and support Forest Service Standards as outlined in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan:

Establish 4-6 primitive camping pads in an old road bed northeast of the stream crossing. These pads will be leveled with non-motorized hands tools, with the outside berm being bordered with rocks and/or logs. Logs, rocks, and brush will be placed in the existing impacted campsites in the riparian zone. Temporary signs and rope fencing (not to exceed two years) will be placed around the impacted sites to inform the public of the purpose of the project and ask for their cooperation is using the campsites to be established away from the stream. If, after a two year period it is determined that the actions taken to that point have not significantly reduced the impacts to the riparian zone in this area, the following measures will be implemented:

- Relocate approximately 1/2 mile of the AT (see attached map), if this portion of the project is implemented. This relocation will reduce soil erosion by moving the trail to a better gradient that will slow water movement and reduce impacts to the Lance Creek riparian area. The recreational experience for trail users will be enhanced by providing a trail location that has a more gradual elevation gain and loss along its route.
- Using native materials such as logs, stones, downed brush, and leaves, close and rehabilitate the section of AT that will be abandoned, if this portion of the project is implemented.

This proposed project supports the Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction for Recreation Opportunities/Experiences Goals 31; "Provide...nature based recreation settings and opportunities...", and 34; "Trails do not adversely affect soil and water resources.", as well as direction for Water Quality and Soil Protection Goal 22; "Watersheds are managed (and where needed restored) to provide resilient and stable conditions....to protect ecological functions...".



To ensure that I have examined and considered all alternatives for decision-making, I am allowing a 30-day period to collect comments from you.

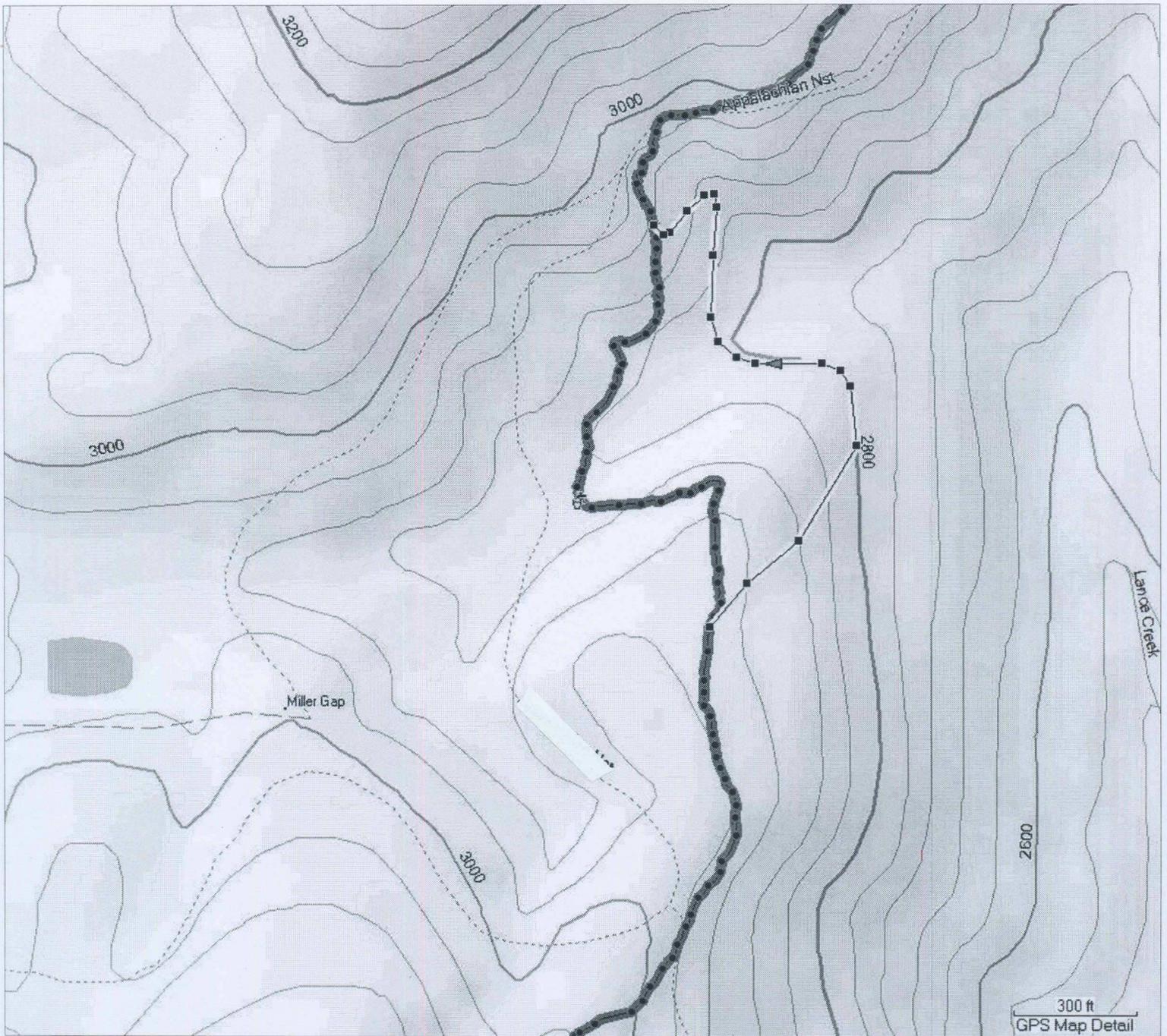
Responses should include relevant and informative facts as they relate to your concerns about the design or goals of this specific proposal (Lance Creek Project). Should you decide to take advantage of your opportunity to provide comments, I ask that you do so by September 11, 2008. You may respond with your written comments to David Kuykendall, Blue Ridge Ranger District, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville GA 30514, via e-mail (dgkuykendall@fs.fed.us), or by calling (706) 745-6928 ext. 113.

Sincerely,

/S/ ALAN POLK

ALAN POLK
District Ranger

Attachments



Legend	
Existing AT	-----
Proposed reroute	- - - - -



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