



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Blue Ridge Ranger District  
1881 Hwy 515 W  
Blairsville, GA 30512

(706) 745-6928  
(706) 745-7494 FAX

File Code: 2710

Date: January 31, 2007

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The US Forest Service is asking for your comments on the following application for special a use authorization to use National Forest System (NFS) lands:

- ❖ Towns County, represented by Commissioner Bill Kendall, has requested authorization to use the former Lake Chatuge Campground for a day use park. This site is located on NFS lands administered by the Blue Ridge Ranger District in Towns County, Georgia (see attached map for location). The long term plan submitted by Towns County proposes a three phase project that would occur over 2-5 years.

Phase one of Towns County's project would begin immediately upon authorization and would involve a minimal amount of site disturbance. This phase would include the addition of exercise stations consisting of outdoor exercises equipment and instruction signs, picnic tables, resting benches, and portable toilets around the existing walking trail. In addition to the improvements to the walking trail, a 24 "hole" disk golf course would be installed. The holes would consist of a single metal pole with an approximately 3-foot metal chain basket attached. The pole will be concreted into the ground. Few, if any, trees and some underbrush would need to be removed to accommodate the disc golf course.

Phase two would consist of installing a fishing pier, deep water boat ramp, and an additional parking area. Phase three would consist of installing a playground, swim beach, and bath house. All projects in phase two and three would require further evaluation and approval by the Forest Service.

An analysis is currently being conducted by Forest Service personnel for this type of special use authorization request, including an assessment of the possible environmental effects of the proposed action on NFS lands and on other users of the areas.

In general, the special use process involves a review of each application received to determine how the request would affect NFS lands and the public's use of these lands. Special use applications must be consistent with Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and special orders that apply to the National Forests. Applications must also be consistent with the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (January, 2004), including all objectives and standards for management of the lands where a proposed special use area(s) is located.

I would like to hear from you regarding the proposed activity before making my decision for this request. The proposed activity appears 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.



**To have your comments considered in our decision process, we would appreciate receiving your comments by February 31, 2008.** This will help ensure a complete and thorough analysis of this activity. Send your written comments to the Blue Ridge Ranger District at the address provided on the letterhead. You may also comment by phone or fax (see letterhead), by e-mail to jcowart@fs.fed.us, or in person at our office on Highway 515 West in Blairsville, Georgia. Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on the proposed action *only* if you request a response in your reply. Feel free to call the Forest Service office if you have additional questions or would like more information regarding this proposed activity.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

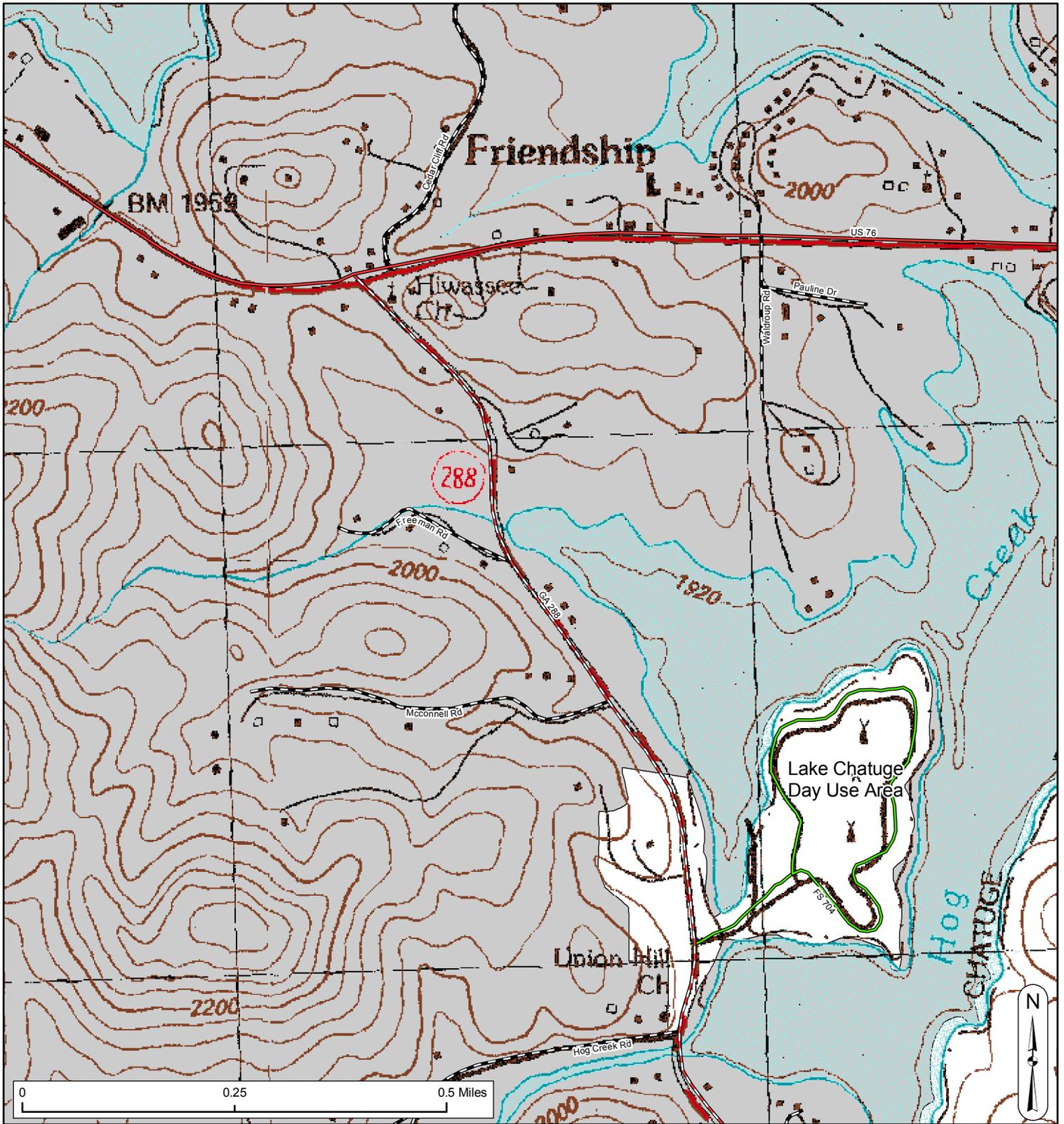
Sincerely,

*/S/ ALAN POLK*

Alan Polk  
District Ranger

# Towns County Request for Lake Chatuge Day Use Area

## Scoping Map



**Legend**

- Private Land
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County/Private Road
- FS Road

**ATTENTION**

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