



File Code: 2710

Date: June 2, 2008

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

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

- ❖ Carole Werkheiser has requested authorization to use approximately 1325 feet of NFS land to reconstruct a driveway from an existing woods road. This authorization would allow Ms. Werkheiser to widen from 10 feet to 14 feet, grade, gravel, and trench the existing road in order to achieve a more durable road surface and facilitate proper drainage. The traffic using this road would consist of construction delivery trucks initially and single residence traffic once construction is complete. The property line between NFS land and the adjacent private property owners (including Ms. Werkheiser) is the centerline of this road, therefore half of the road belongs to the private land owners and the other half belongs to the Forest Service. The alignment of the road would possibly be altered slightly in order to accommodate traffic and promote better drainage. A few trees would also need to be removed. Ms. Werkheiser has also requested to install a gate near the road's intersection with Old Bucktown Road. This road is currently not open for public travel.
- ❖ James H. Bradley has requested authorization to lead guided fly fishing trips along streams on NFS land. Mr. Bradley's goal would be to provide customers with a safe and fun outdoor experience in the remote setting that NFS lands could provide. Mr. Bradley has over ten years of fly fishing experience and has been guiding for six years. Mr. Bradley has sufficient monetary resources, insurance provisions, and equipment to properly operate this type of outdoor activity. Trips would consist of no more than two anglers per guide and last from 3 to 7 hours, depending on the stream section, and there would be no overnight camping. Mr. Bradley would encourage catch and release and would only allow fish to be kept from the "put and take" fisheries. Mr. Bradley would also follow a strict "pack it in, pack it out" policy and "leave no trace" practices.

The stream sections that Mr. Bradley would like to use are:

1. Cooper Creek from Burnette Creek upstream to Logan Creek
2. Dicks Creek from Waters Creek upstream to Miller Creek
3. Jones Creek from the campground upstream approximately 1.5 miles
4. Lance Creek from Jones Creek upstream approximately 1.5 miles
5. Etowah River from intersection with FS 28-1 upstream to Montgomery Creek
6. Montgomery Creek from Etowah River upstream to intersection with FS 141
7. Noontootla Creek from Blue Ridge WMA sign upstream to confluence of Long, Chester, and Stover Creeks (Three Forks)
8. Rock Creek from John Dick Branch upstream to the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery
9. Stanley Creek from 1/3 mile east of Stanley Gap upstream to Wolf Creek
10. Tickanetley Creek from the NF boundary upstream approximately 1.5 miles
11. Jacks River from Dally Gap downstream to Rockwall Branch (Conasauga Ranger



District, not shown on map)
12. Toccoa River from ¼ mile upstream of Shallowford Bridge upstream to Sandy Bottom

Detailed maps of the requested stream sections may be obtained from the Blue Ridge Ranger District office.

- ❖ The Union County Commissioner has requested authorization to widen Becky Road in western Union County. The majority of this road crosses private property; however, there are two spots where the road borders National Forest System (NFS) land. The Commissioner would like to widen the road bed from 12 feet to 18 feet wide. This would require authorization to use NFS land no further than 20 feet from the centerline of the current road for all construction activities. The reason for widening this road is for public safety.

An analysis is currently being conducted by Forest Service personnel for these types of special use authorization requests, including an assessment of the possible environmental effects of the proposed actions on NFS lands. Also, the Forest Service is closely monitoring the impact that these types of activities may have 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 activities before making my decision for this request. The proposed activities 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.

To have your comments considered in our decision process, we would appreciate receiving your comments by July 2, 2008. This will help ensure a complete and thorough analysis of these activities. 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 chatt_comments@fs.fed.us, or in person at our office on Highway 515 West in Blairsville, Georgia.

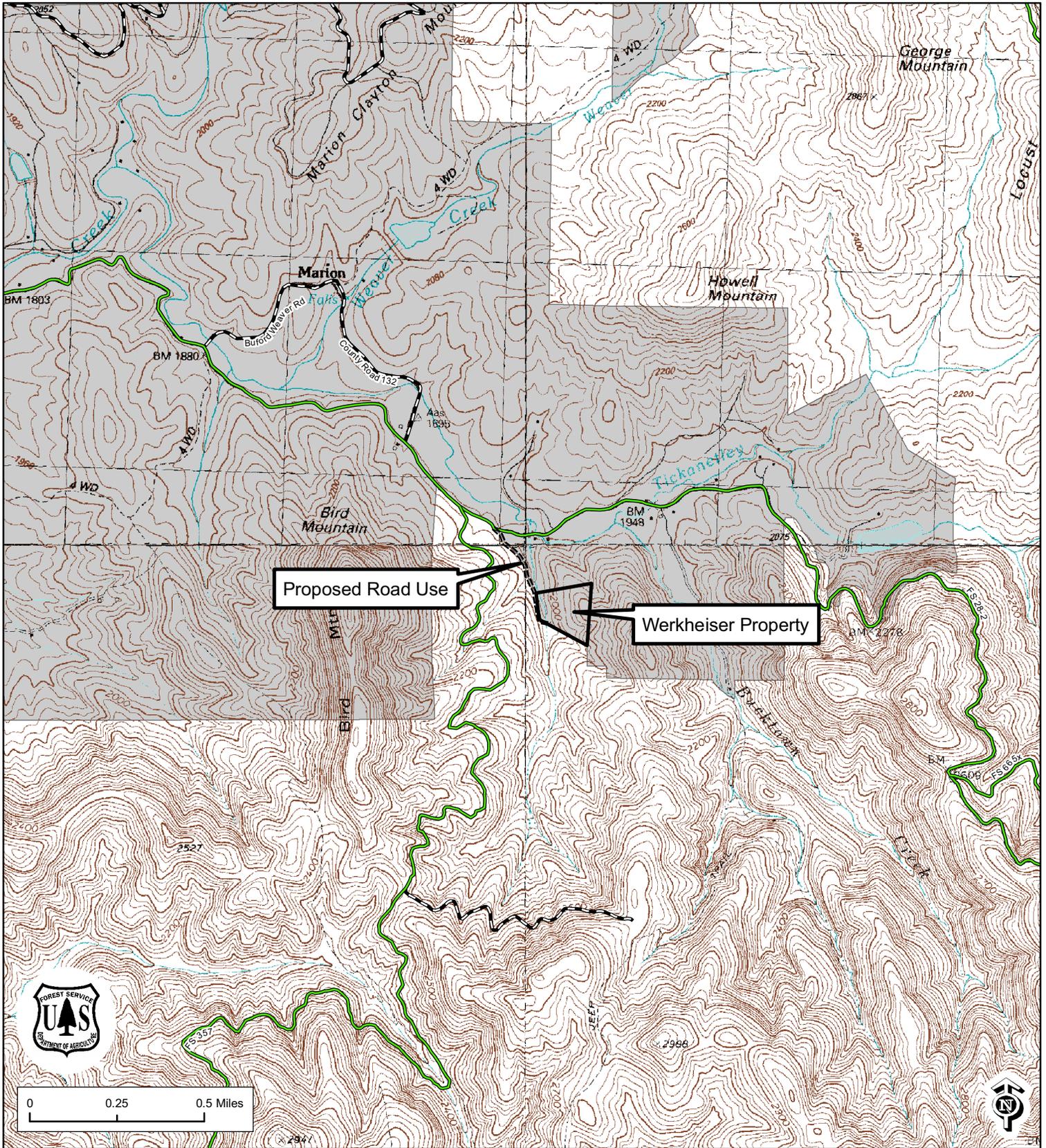
Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on the proposed action *only* if you request a response in your reply. Feel free to call the Forest Service office if you have additional questions or would like more information regarding these proposed activities.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Polk
Alan Polk
District Ranger

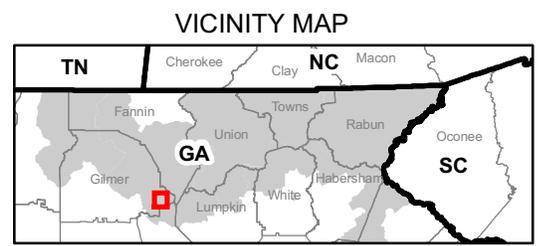
Werkheiser, Carole - Road Use Request



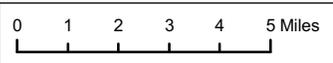
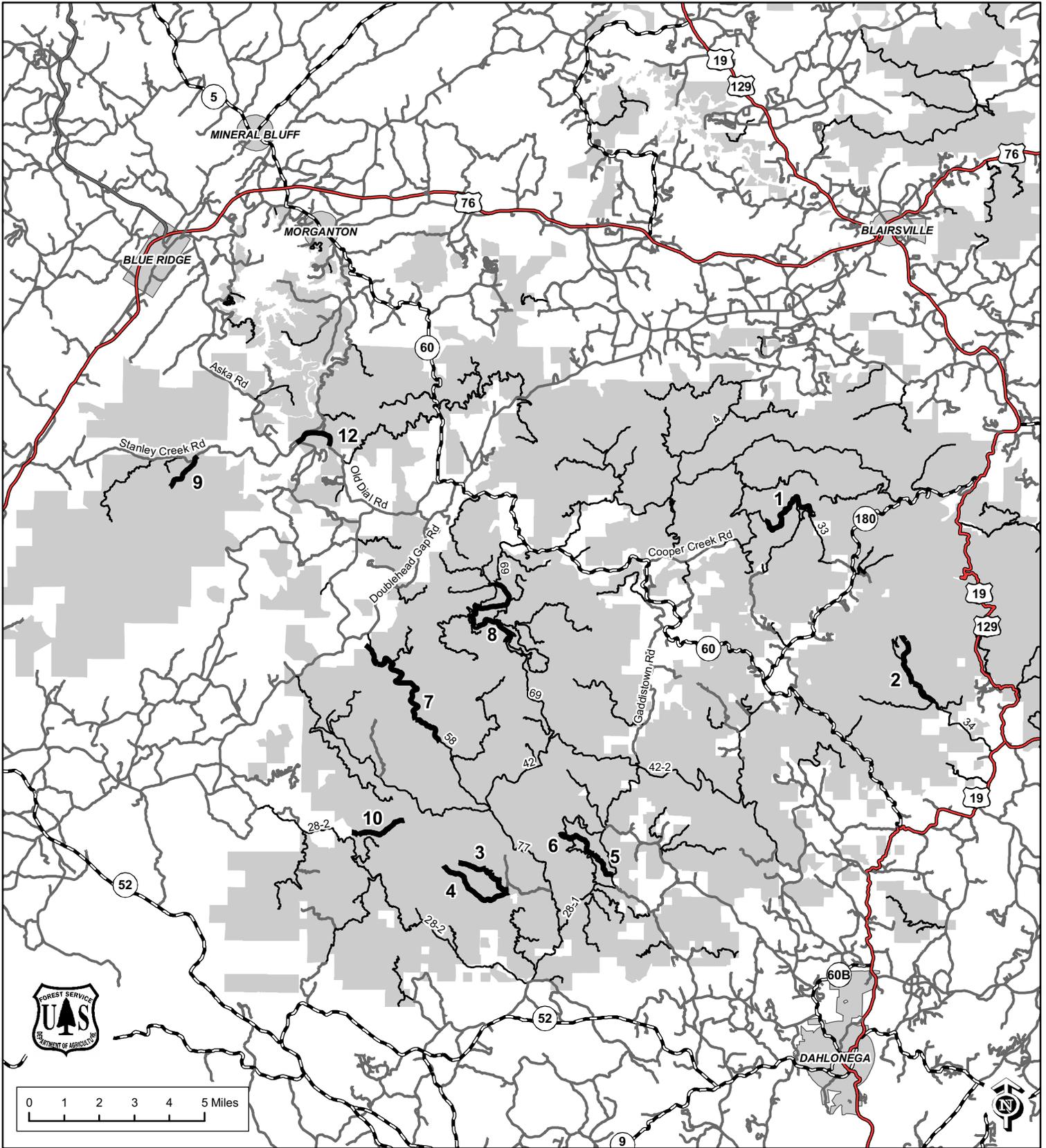
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Legend

- Private Land
- County/Private Road
- FS Road
- Old Log Road



James H. Bradley - Fly Fishing Guide

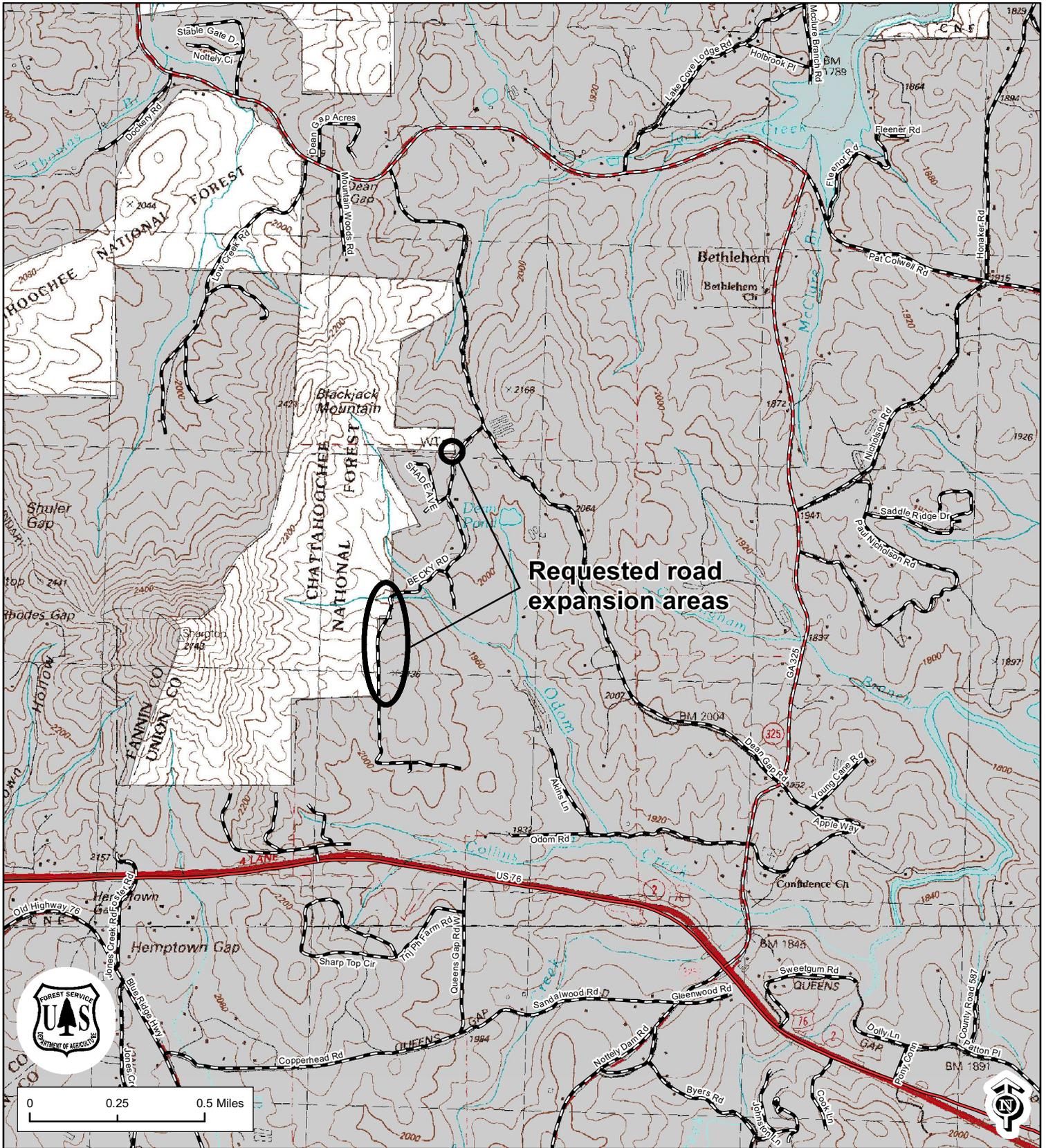


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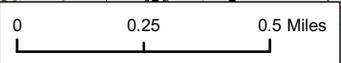
Legend	
	Requested Reaches
	US Highway
	State Highway
	County/Private Road
	FS Road
	NFS Land
	City



Union County - Road Use Request



Requested road expansion areas



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