

New Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Road and Trail Restoration

Project: Dry Creek Trail Restoration Unit: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

What Were The Restoration Needs?

The existing trail system contained several miles of old fire lines, woods roads, and Forest Service system roads that horseback riders used as a trail network. Significant portions of the network did not meet trail design principles leading to uncontrolled soil erosion, stream siltation, and trail deterioration.

What Activities Were Implemented?

The project constructed a series of non-motorized multi-use, interconnected loop trails of varying lengths and difficulty levels. The constructed trails totaled roughly 25 miles providing a comprehensive user experience.

What Are The Benefits of Restoration?

The project eliminated environmental degradation by closing and blocking 5.8 miles of poorly located and undesignated trails to further use in areas that were not incorporated into the new trail system.

Who Were The Partners?

The Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) was a pivotal partner in the development of the Dry Creek Trail System, including the closure of unincorporated user-created trails. BCHA located and mapped the user-created trails and reviewed their locations on the ground with Forest Service trails staff to determine which trails met Forest Service design standards and could be incorporated into the new trail system and which trails were poorly located and should be closed.

Before:



After:

