



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2021 to 03/31/2021

Cherokee National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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Projects Occurring Nationwide

Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/13/2018 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2021	Expected:12/2021	12/2021	Nancy Rusho 202-731-9196 nancy.rusho@usda.gov
<p>Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214</p>					
<p>Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions.</p>					

Cherokee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R8 - Southern Region
Forest Landscape Adaptive Management Environmental Assessment (FLAME Assessment) EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/25/2018 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 10/2019	Expected:04/2020	05/2020	Mark Healey 540-885-8028 mahealey@fs.fed.us
Description: The intent of this project is to produce a landscape scale project that would support the use of mechanical, herbicide and prescribed fire treatments in appropriate forest communities, across the entire Cherokee National Forest landscape.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53856					
Location: UNIT - Cherokee National Forest All Units. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Cherokee National Forest.					

Cherokee National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R8 - Southern Region
South Zone Stream and Riparian Habitat Enhancement CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2019	Expected:12/2019	03/2020	Stephanie Medlin 423-476-9740 sm.fs.r8chertelcom@usda.gov
Description: The proposed project would enhance and restore stream habitat for fish and amphibians and improve hydrological function across the South Zone of the Forest.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56631					
Location: UNIT - Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District, Tellico Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - McMinn, Monroe, Polk. LEGAL - Not Applicable. All streams on the south zone of the Cherokee National Forest.					

Cherokee National Forest	Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R8 - Southern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
2020 Dry Forest Community Restoration Project and Project Plan Amendment EA *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	Completed	Actual: 09/29/2020	10/2020	Hollister Hurt 423-253-8403 hlhurt@fs.fed.us
	Description: Restore dry forest communities with proposed treatments including restoration harvesting, commercial thinning, and noncommercial thinning				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58129				
Location: UNIT - Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - McMinn, Monroe, Polk. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Tellico and Ocoee Ranger Districts dry forest communities.					
AT&T Sheeptop Fiber Optic Line Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 11/12/2020	11/2020	Terinda Whisenant 828-479-6431 tewhisenant@fs.fed.us
	Description: installation of approximately 2700 square feet of fiber optic cable from Hwy 64 at Boyd Gap Overlook following along access road to Sheeptop Communication Tower				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59196				
Location: UNIT - Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Polk. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Polk County.					
Ocoee Hiwassee Admin Site Area Release CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/05/2019	Expected:11/2019	01/2020	Stephanie Medlin 423-476-9740 sm.fs.r8chertelcom@usda.gov
	Description: Treatments would include the severing of selected stems (chainsaw/manual), application of herbicide, and the use of prescribed fire within the designated unit (212 acres).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56628				
Location: UNIT - Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Polk. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Around the Ocoee/Hiwassee District Office.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Stephens Access Road CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Terinda Whisenant 423-338-3300 fs-comments- southern-chokeee- ocoee- hiwassee@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has requested access across NFS lands to an inholding that is completely surrounded. An existing route at the end of NFSR 366C is in place but has grown up and is not drivable. Heavy equipment would be used to clear this 150 ft.				
	Location: UNIT - Ocoee - Hiwassee Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Polk. LEGAL - Not Applicable. East of Hwy 30 and North of Hwy 64 in the Vicinity of the 4-H camp.				

Cherokee National Forest Tellico Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Bald River Falls Bridge Replacement CE	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/29/2020	Expected:06/2020	10/2020	Stephanie Medlin 423-476-9740 sm.fs.r8chertelcom@us da.gov
	Description: Replace Bald River Falls bridge with a similar structure that meets current safety standards. The structure would include a sidewalk on the downstream side and a sidewalk/viewing platform on the upstream (falls) side.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56808				
Location: UNIT - Tellico Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Monroe. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Tellico River Road.					
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Remediation CE	- Heritage resource management - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/11/2019	Expected:10/2019	04/2020	Janan Hay 423-253-8405 sm.fs.r8chertelcom@us da.gov
	Description: Remediate damage to a 1 mi. portion of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55431				
Location: UNIT - Tellico Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Monroe. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Coker Creek TN vicinity between Joe Brown Highway and Unicoi Lakes Road.					

Cherokee National Forest Unaka Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest Unaka Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Buffalo Mountain Bike Trails Project CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/18/2018	Expected:06/2020	08/2020	Matthew Fusco 423-735-1564 mjfusco@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project proposes the establishment of approximately 5.05 miles of trail that are currently existing on the ground.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53858				
Location: UNIT - Unaka Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Unicoi, Washington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Buffalo Mountain.					
Halls Top Fuels Reduction Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/02/2020	Expected:12/2020	01/2021	John Ingram 423-783-2408 jbingram@fs.fed.us
	Description: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation along the Stone Mtn Tower Road and around the communication towers at the end of the Stone Mtn Tower Road. Thinning trees around towers and road in conjunction with tree removal work TN Dept. of Forestry is conducting.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58811				
Location: UNIT - Unaka Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Cocke. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The end of Stone Mtn Tower Rd in Cocke County, TN.					
Hartford Wastewater Testing Project CE	- Research and Development	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jonathan Lampley 404-347-5264 jlampley@fs.fed.us
	Description: Prepare a study for determination of an area with adequate suitability for beneficial re-use of treated wastewater.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52656				
Location: UNIT - Unaka Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Cocke. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Cocke County, TN.					
Wolf Creek Rx Burn CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2015	Expected:10/2015	11/2015	Greg Salansky 423-638-8731 gregsalansky@fs.fed.us
	Description: provide fuel reduction, stimulate new vegetation growth, & increase soft mast and herbaceous plants for wildlife; dormant and early growing season				
	Location: UNIT - Unaka Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Cocke. LEGAL - Not Applicable. C232 and 239.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest Watauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Coon Den Falls Trail Relocation Project CE	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 06/2020	Expected:10/2020	11/2020	Chad Ingle 270-924-2028 cgingle@fs.fed.us
	Description: Re-location of a section of trail, approx. 150 ft. long, to avoid steep, rocky parts of the trail. East TN Trails Assoc. will be doing the work. Implementation can occur anytime of the year.				
	Location: UNIT - Watauga Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Carter. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Coon Den Falls Trail.				
Grindstone Knob RX Burn CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/29/2015	Expected:02/2016	03/2016	404-347-5264 jlampley@fs.fed.us
	Description: Understory maintenance burning to improve habitat conditions for wildlife and reduce hazardous fuels.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48351				
Old Road Ridge Prescribed Burn Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/15/2020	Expected:07/2020	11/2020	Jonathan Lampley 404-347-5264 jlampley@fs.fed.us
	Description: Prescribe burn approximately 2,020 for hazardous fuels reduction and wildlife habitat creation.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58185				
Location: UNIT - Watauga Ranger District. STATE - Tennessee. COUNTY - Carter, Johnson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Compartment 77-79.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Cherokee National Forest Watauga Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R8 - Southern Region
Roan & Unaka Mountain Spruce Fir Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project CE *UPDATED*	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 12/04/2020	01/2021	Christina Stoeihrel 8285063100 christina.stoeihrel@usda.gov
	Description: Restore Spruce-fir habitat on Roan and Unaka Mtn by using gap creation to improve age class distribution and enhance T&E species habitat, under plant with spruce seedlings if necessary, & restore understory growth around the Roan High Knob shelter.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58442				
Location: UNIT - Watauga Ranger District. STATE - North Carolina, Tennessee. COUNTY - Mitchell, Carter, Unicoi. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is planned for areas within the Appalachian Trail corridor along Roan and Unaka Mountains.					

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