

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina

Rocky Gap/Willis Knob Horse Trails



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 3/26/2004

Highlights

The Rocky Gap Trail in South Carolina and the Willis Knob Trail in Georgia combine to offer some of the most scenic horseback riding in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains. Winding across deeply dissected ridges, the trails descend into the beautiful Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Rocky Gap has several loops, while the Willis Knob Trail is designed as one large continuous loop. Each trail crosses several gravel roads.

The Whetstone Horse Camp in South Carolina serves as a base camp for many users of both trails. There is a fee for the Whetstone Horse Camp.

Surrounding Area

Earls Ford road is very close to Whetstone Horse Camp and provides a parking area, and a hiking access trail to the Chattooga River.

For More Information

Andrew Pickens Ranger District

112 Andrew Pickens Circle

Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Phone:(864) 638-9568

Fax:(864) 638-2659

Hours: Monday--Friday, 8 a.m.--4:30 p.m.

Directions: From Walhalla, go north 6 miles on State Highway 28. Turn left onto Whetstone Road for about 5 miles. Go straight at the four-way stop and drive about 1.5 miles. The pavement will end and a gravel road will begin. The day-use parking area and trail head are on the right.

Difficulty level: Trail condition and river crossings vary. Call the District Office for specific information.

Fees: Horse trail and day-use parking—no fee.

Length: Rocky Gap (SC)—12.5 miles with several loops. Willis Knob (GA)—one 15-mile loop. Several access points allow for trips of various lengths.

Restrictions:

- Organized or advertised rides require a special use permit and route approval by the District Ranger.
- Within the Chattooga River Coordinator in South Carolina, horseback riding is restricted to the Rocky Gap Trail. Earls Ford, Sandy Ford, and other fords downstream are closed to horse use.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail.

Safety: High water levels may cause difficult crossings. Select crossings carefully. Check weather for heavy rain to prevent being trapped on the opposite side of the river from your vehicle.

Season: Year-round. Busiest times are summer and fall.

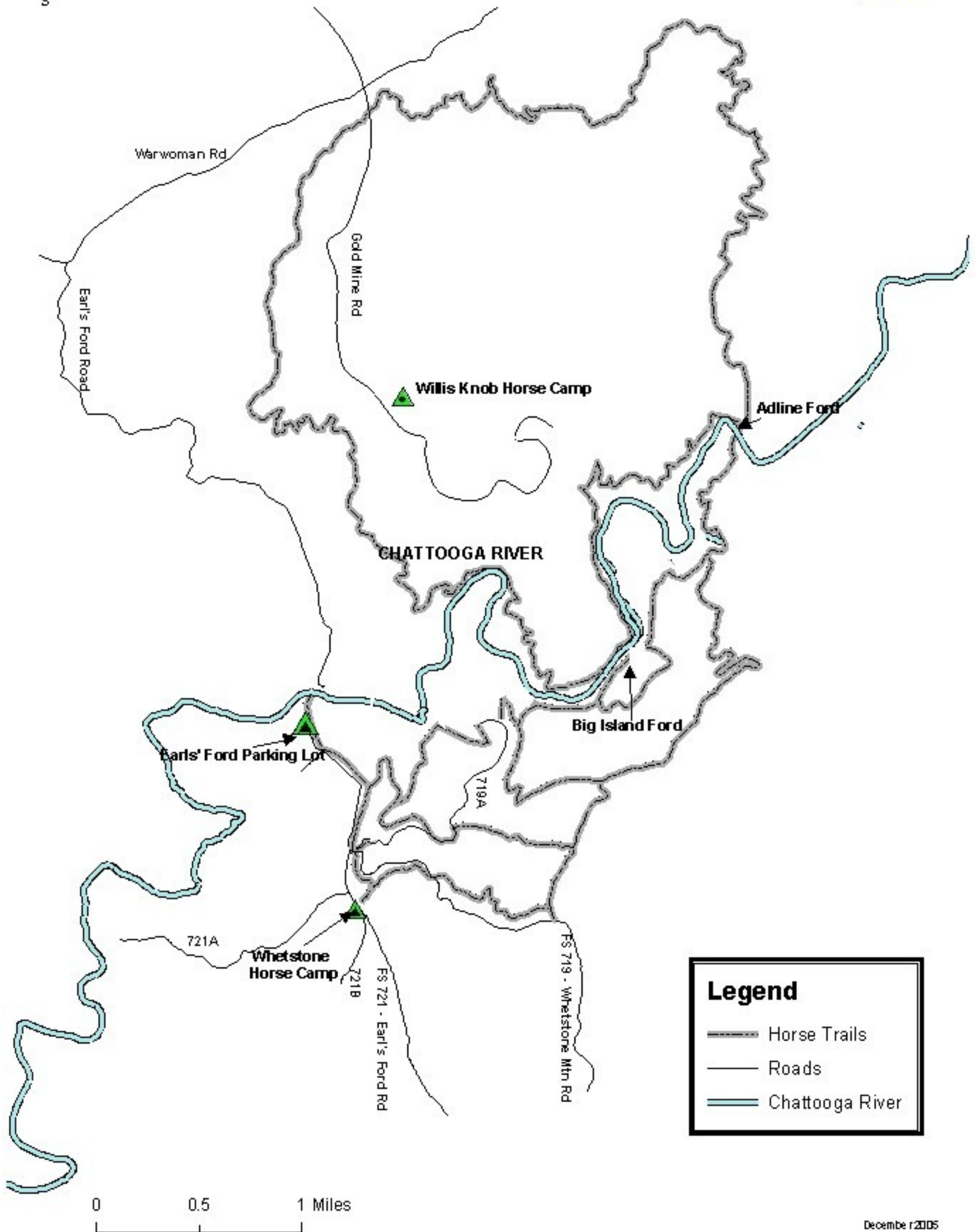
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Legend

- Horse Trails
- Roads
- Chattooga River