



Date: November 9, 2007

For Immediate Release

**Forest Service Announces Emergency Closure of Bridges in Upper
Tellico OHV Area**

The USDA Forest announced today that it was immediately closing three trail bridges in the Upper Tellico OHV Area because of public safety concerns.

In a recent survey of the roads and trails in the Tellico OHV trails area, Forest personnel determined that three bridges located on Trail # 8 had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe for the public to continue to use.

In order to protect the public, the Forest Service is closing approximately one mile of Trail 8 between Trails 9 and 10A to all vehicular traffic, including ATV's and motorcycles. The remaining 37 miles of trails in the Upper Tellico OHV area are not affected by this emergency closure.

The Forest Service has not determined yet how soon the three bridges can be replaced. The Forest Service is currently assessing conditions of the overall Tellico OHV trail system and when these two bridges will be replaced will depend on funding availability and overall priorities established in the long range plan for the area.

Please contact the Tusquitee Ranger District at (828)- 837-5152 if you have any questions about this closure order.

###

