



UPPER TELLICO OHV TRAIL SYSTEM OPENS APRIL 1 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 31, 2008

The popular Upper Tellico OHV Trail System on the Tusquitee Ranger District will open April 1 for use by off-highway vehicles and all-terrain vehicles. The area was closed January 1, 2008 in an effort to minimize soil compaction, rutting and erosion during the winter months. Most of the trails within the system will be open for the remainder of this year. A few highly-impacted segments will remain closed until December 31, 2008, while the Forest Service prepares a long term strategy for the trail system. All trails will be open except for portions of Trails 2, 7 and 9. In addition, a section of Trail 8 that includes several unsafe bridges will remain closed.

Steve Lohr, District Ranger, reports that the public's compliance with the seasonal closure was quite good. "I appreciate everyone's patience as we develop plans for protecting the watershed while providing a high-quality recreation experience in the Tellico. The winter closure gave the area a chance to rest while we were conducting trail condition and water quality surveys. By mid-May we expect to be able to share a proposal for future management for the public to review and provide us with feedback", said Lohr.

Users planning to visit the area are encouraged to call the Tusquitee Ranger District, review information boards at the trailheads on site, or check the National Forests in North Carolina website for information on the status of a specific trail, user fees and updates on trail system planning.

For more information, please contact:

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