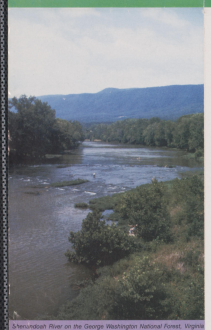
WELCOME TO YOUR NATIONAL FORESTS BE CAREFUL WITH FIRES.

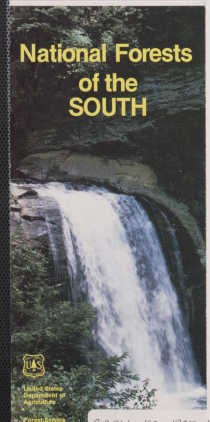


Shenandoah River on the George Washington National Forest, Virginia

The facilities, programs and services of the National Forests are for the use and enjoyment of all people. Discrimination against any person because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap is prohibited by law. If you believe you have been the victim of this, report it to the Forest Service, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Southern Region 1985

National Forests of the SOUTH



Looking Glass Falls on the Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina.

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Southern Region

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National Forests of the South

The South is a land of changing scenery and changing moods. Here, 13 National Forests comprise over 12 million acres of land stretching from Virginia to eastern Texas. From cypress swamps and mountain meadows to pine forests of the Gulf Coast and hardwood forests in the Appalachians, the National Forests of the South offer many activities for the people who come here yearly.

Hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating and camping are a few of the many activities you can enjoy in developed and natural areas throughout the South. If you are looking for the opportunity to slip away from the hectic life of the city and enjoy the quiet and beauty of woodlands, the South's National Forests are the ideal place to come.

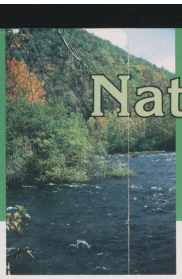
The forests are scattered throughout the piedmont, coastal plains and mountains of the Southern Region.

The forests in the southern mountains are home to many scenic and wilderness areas. They provide developed campgrounds, rushing mountain streams for fine trout fishing, and lakes for swimming. The weather in the mountains is one forever changing; in the winter, the mountains are capped with ice and snow and in the spring a hint of the beauty of dogwood, flame azalea and rhododendron decks the mountains. The summer season provides fine weather to enjoy many recreation activities: hiking nature trails, viewing wildlife, exploring scenic areas and picnicking in developed areas. Fall brings the beauty of nature in full armor, brilliant colors paint the ridgetops and rolling hills.

The forests in the hills of the Piedmont, which means "at the foot of the mountains," are a mixture of pine and hardwood, bordering fields and pastures. Wildlife abounds in the area and the fishing is excellent. National Forests are open for hunting and fishing.

The moss-covered trees and still, quiet waters describe the forests of the Coastal Plains. Here, woodland life seems to be in slow motion, but some of the Nation's most productive forests are found in this part of the Southern Region. Swaying pines shelter picnic and camping areas and delicate wildflowers decorate forest trails. A float trip down a lazy stream or a canoe run in tropical surroundings are pleasures you can enjoy in the Coastal Plain forests.

Whatever you seek in the way of recreation, be it quiet beauty or active participation, chances are you'll find what you want on the National Forests of the South.



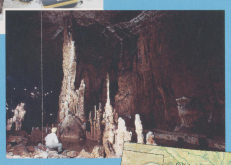
Hiwassee River at Power House, Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee.

Chattooga Wild and Scenic River, Sumter National Forest, South Carolina.

First Forestry School in America, Cradle of Forestry, Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina.

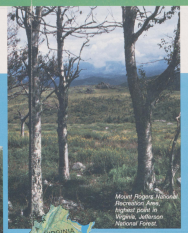
Grandfather Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest.

A part of nature on the George Washington National Forest.

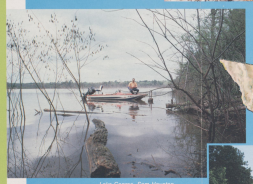


Blanchard Springs Caverns, Ozark National Forest, Arkansas.

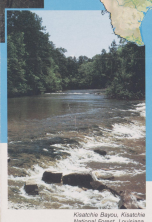
Red River Gorge, Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky.



Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, highest peak in Virginia, Jefferson National Forest.



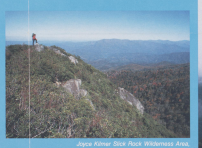
Lake Conroe, Sam Houston National Forest, Texas.



Kisatchie Bayou, Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana.

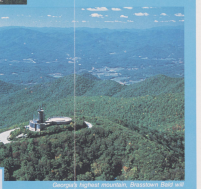
Giant Canada Goose Study on the Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky.

Soil testing on the Berea Ranger District, Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky.



Joyce Kilmer Slick Rock Wilderness Area, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina.

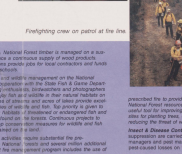
The peaks in the Caribbean National Forest are covered with dwarf and palm forests.



Georgia's highest mountain, Brasstown Bald we give you a view of four states on a clear day.

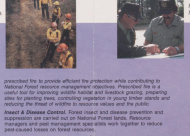
Silvery Egret on Florida's Ocala National Forest.

Law enforcement on Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana.



Firefighting crew on patrol at fire line.

Hauling hardwood logs to sawmill.



Foresters at work on the Croatan National Forest, North Carolina.

Recreation Areas

Blanchard Springs Caverns (Arkansas)—This subterranean wonderland is located on Arkansas' **Ozark National Forest**. The awesome beauty of this cave can be experienced from the smooth, lighted walkways and two trails. One trail passes through two huge rooms of the upper-most part of the Caverns which are filled with outstanding works of art, columns, pillars and stalactites. Another trail takes you deeper into the Caverns where you pass through water-carved passages beside the cave stream and under the natural entrance. The Caverns are truly one of nature's outstanding works of art.

Brasstown Bald (Georgia)—Rising 4,784 feet above sea level, Georgia's highest mountain, Brasstown Bald, is located deep within the **Chattahoochee National Forest**. The Visitor Information Center, located on the summit of the Bald, offers interpretive programs, slide presentations and exhibits of the area. On clear days, a spectacular view of four Southern States (North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina) can be seen from atop the mountain. Camping, swimming, fishing, whitewater rafting and hiking can be enjoyed at nearby recreation areas. Hikers can park free of charge in Brasstown Bald's parking lot and offer rugged hiking opportunities for backpackers.

Juniper Springs Recreation Area (Florida)—One of the older and better known National Recreation Areas in the Southeast, Juniper Springs is located on Florida's **Ocala National Forest**. Constructed by the CCC's during the mid-1930's, the area features outstanding scenery found on any other National Forest. A wide range of facilities are available at Juniper Springs. The area provides 79 camping units (table, fire grill and parking spur) that will accomodate either camp trailers or tents and a central dumping station for all trailer holding tanks. Restrooms are located within each camping loop, and two bathhouses provide hot showers. Self-service laundry facilities are also available.

Trout Pond (Florida)—Situated on a hill overlooking a natural 11-acre cypress-ringed lake, Trout Pond is a facility designed to meet the needs and desires of handicapped visitors. The area contains a swimming pool, 15 individual picnic tables, a group picnic shelter, a first aid/craft building, fishing pier, an interpretive area and a system of surfaced trails connecting the facilities. Trout Pond is located on the **Ocala National Forest**.

Kincaid Recreation Area (Louisiana)—This newly developed recreation area on the **Kisatchie National Forest** features a large swimming beach, picnic and handicapped facilities. The area was designed to fit into the existing landscape and a good mix of pines and hardwoods can be found throughout the area. A short hiking trail in the area connects to the 31-mile long Kisatchi National Recreation Trail.

Cradle of Forestry (North Carolina)—This 6,800-acre National Historic Site is located on the **Pisgah National Forest** in North Carolina. The site is an outdoor museum and monument to the beginnings of scientific forestry in the United States. Reconstructed buildings are replicas to the long ago forestry campus and several buildings are furnished and open to the public.

El Yunque Recreation Area (Puerto Rico)—Hiking, picnicking, observing rare wildlife of the **Caribbean National Forest** can be enjoyed in this recreation area. Three picnic areas are available for your enjoyment. Two trails provide a self-guided tour of streams and various tree species. You can also hike up to the Mt. Britton Tower, an observation tower built by the CCC's in the 30's, and the El Yunque Rock, which offers a view of the Dwarf Forest.

Indian Boundary Recreation Area (Tennessee)—Along the wooded shores of a 96-acre lake, in a beautiful mountain setting, this area offers camping, boating and fishing. A white sand swimming beach, hints at the foot of Flats Mountain which provides breathtaking, spectacular scenery. This quiet, serene area, located on Tennessee's **Cherokee National Forest**, provides 102 camping units, an amphitheater and a bicycle trail around the lake.

Caney Creek Recreation Area (Texas)—This developed recreation area is located on the **Angelina National Forest** and offers camping, picnicking, cold water showers, boating and fishing. Caney Creek also has a swimming beach, a concession and camp store, an interpretive trail and a campfire theater for visitors.

Mount Rogers Recreation Area (Virginia)—Soaring at 5,729 feet, Mount Rogers is the highest point in Virginia. In an alpine setting similar to Switzerland this area has many outstanding scenic vistas and recreational opportunities. Recreation areas include winter sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and horseback riding through the rich valleys and spruce fir forests bordering open vast lands. Mount Rogers Recreation Area is located on the **Jefferson National Forest**.

Protection and Management of Your National Forests

The National Forests of the South are protected and managed under the multiple-use and a sustained yield concept. Under the multiple-use concept, the uses of the forest such as recreation, fish and wildlife, grazing, timber, water and wilderness are managed so that they are balanced among the benefits we provide for public needs. The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 emphasized that resources on public lands would be managed so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the people, that the benefits obtained will exist indefinitely and the each natural resource would be managed in balance with other resources to meet present and future public needs. Sustained yield means that we will harvest the forest so that the renewable resources will not impairing the productivity of the land. The southern National Forest are not only managed for pleasure but for products at the same time, without one aspect interfering with the other.

Water. *Much of the South's water supply flows from the National Forest lands. Watershed management programs are established on the forests to protect the quality of the water. Best management practices are strictly. Practices are developed and implemented to prevent soil loss or damage and protect water quality from the effects of such land-disturbing activities such as road construction.*

Range. *Rangelands on the National Forests are managed to provide forage for domestic animals and wildlife. Livestock grazing by the public is allowed on the National Forests by permit. Forage production is a primary use of the forest lands, but under the multiple use concept, grazing areas also serve as watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreation sites and contribute to a wide variety of other values.*

Recreation. *A wide variety of developed recreation opportunities are maintained and managed on the National Forests. Hiking, fishing, swimming, picnicking, camping, backpacking, swimming, boating, fishing and whitewater rafting are popular recreational activities. Developed recreational areas are on a first-come, first-served basis and provide numerous campground sites. Each camping area includes a parking spot, tent pad, fireplace and table. A water hydrant, garbage container and sanitation facilities are easily accessible. Group campgrounds and picnic areas are also available. Recreation areas are available for those interested in primitive camping. Some provide tables, water and chemical toilets. Most recreational areas are free of charge, but in the more highly developed areas a fee is charged. These areas are marked with signs indicating the cost per night. An important aspect of recreation on the National Forests is the access to developed recreation areas. Roads and trails on National Forests are managed in accordance with the needs of handicapped users. Recreation is a major activity on the South's National Forests and providing numerous activities for all people is easy is the major thrust of recreation management.*

Timber. *Known as the "Wood Basket of the Nation," the South's National Forests have been projected to help meet the country's future demand for forest products. Timber is an important resource in the Southern Region. Harvested timber provides lumber for homes and furniture, veneer for plywood and fiber for pulp. National Forest timber is managed on a sustained yield basis to produce a continuous supply of wood products. Timber sales are advertised to provide jobs for local contractors and funds to counties for roads and schools.*

Wildlife. *Much of the fish and wildlife management on the National Forests are managed in cooperation with the State Fish & Game Departments. Hunting and fishing enthusiasts, bird watchers and photographers have the opportunity to enjoy fish and wildlife in their natural habitats on the forests. Numerous miles of streams and acres of lakes provide excellent habitat for game and non-game fish. Wildlife biologists are maintaining and improving habitats of threatened or endangered fish and wildlife and plant species found on the forests. Continuous projects to provide habitat and develop conservation measures for wildlife and fish are carried out and maintained on a land.*

Fire fighting. *Fire control activities require substantial fire prevention, suppression efforts on the National Forests and several million additional acres. The National Forest fire management program includes the use of prescribed fire to provide efficient fire protection while contributing to National Forest resource management objectives. Prescribed fire is a useful tool for improving wildlife habitat and livestock grazing, preparing sites for planting trees, controlling regeneration in young timber stands and reducing the threat of wildfire to resource values and the public.*

Insect & Disease Control. *Forest insect and disease prevention and suppression are carried out on National Forest lands. Resource managers and pest management specialists work together to reduce pest-caused losses on forest resources.*

Points of Interest

Talladega Scenic Drive (Alabama)—Winding 19 miles along the backbone of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, this drive offers spectacular views of Alabama's **Talladega National Forest**. The drive climbs to the highest point in Alabama, Cheaha Mountain, and the highly developed Cheaha State Park. The beautiful sights of majestic pines and delicate yellow-green of new leaves provide the backdrop for the spring blossoms of fruit trees, dogwood, redbud and flowering shrubs along the drive.

Anna Ruby Falls Scenic Area (Georgia)—Set high on the slopes of Tray Mountain, this scenic area lies in the heart of the **Chattahoochee National Forest**. This unique set of twin waterfalls is surrounded by a 1,600-acre scenic area which permits you and your family to enjoy picnicking at one of eight picnic tables, hiking through pines and hardwoods on the 2.5-mile loop trail and rhododendron are abundant in the area and offer beautiful seasonal displays. A variety of wildlife and species of sturdy pines, poplars and majestic oaks are abundant in the area. Hiking and fishing are other recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed in the area.

Red River Gorge Geological Area (Kentucky)—This 26,000-acre area is unique among the National Forests in the South. It contains a natural arch and an unusual assortment of vegetation. It has been called an art gallery of geological features, a masterpiece of erosion unique to the east. Located on the **Daniel Boone National Forest** in Kentucky, Red River Gorge's terrain has been sculptured by wind and water for more than 70 million years.

Big Foot Horse Trails (Mississippi)—The Big Foot Horse Trail system is located in **Mississippi's De Soto National Forest** consists of four loops ranging in length from 5 to 11 miles. Throughout the area, the rider can observe the results of 35 years of forest management; well-stocked stands of longleaf and slash pine cover the area and provide numerous forest products and an ideal habitat for wildlife. A trailriders camp is located at the beginning of the trail system providing sanitary facilities, parking areas, hitching rails and an unloading ramp.

Talimena Scenic Drive (Oklahoma)—This scenic drive, through the **Ouachita National Forest**, unwinds a 54-mile deck of panoramas, delighting the eye at every turn. Crossing Rich Mountain in Arkansas and Winding Stair Mountain in Oklahoma, the Talimena Scenic Drive offers breathtaking vistas, each more spectacular than the last. Historical sites along the drive reveal a part of early settlers and the Choctaw Indian Tribe. A Nature Center, exhibit pavilion and self-guided trails are featured midpoints along the drive.

Chattooga Wild and Scenic River (South Carolina)—This powerful river descends almost one-half mile in its 50-mile length, forming the boundary between **South Carolina and Georgia**. Whitewater rafting, a popular water sport in the South, is enjoyed on the river by many visitors. Outstanding scenery drapes the river which offers challenging boating, fishing and hiking experiences. Made famous by the movie, "Deliverance," the Chattooga presents a challenge to the skilled rafter and canoeist with its twisting route over continuous rapids, huge boulders and flumes.

Appalachian Trail—Over 700 miles of this national scenic footpath traverses the Appalachian Mountains and crosses **the National Forests in the South**. The trail is America's first national scenic trail and one of the longest marked footpaths in the world. Primarily a backpacker's trail, the Appalachian Trail skirts cascading mountain streams and sparkling lakes, passes over rural roads and farmlands and offers thousands of visitors how the Appalachian Trail and view the rugged mountain terrain and observe nature at its best.

Wilderness

People visit a wilderness area for many reasons. Some come to hunt and fish, others to photograph wildflowers or wildlife, camp or hike and some people come just to relax. Whatever reason you visit a wilderness area, you can expect to spend some time in a natural environment and with solitude.

Presently, the National Forests of the South provide 59 wilderness areas totaling approximately 1,000,000 acres. The 1964 Wilderness Preservation Act defines wilderness as an area of undeveloped Federal land, designated by Congress, that is affected primarily by the forces of nature, possesses a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and where man is a visitor but does not remain. In the South, the Wilderness Preservation Act is a way of life. Be aware that you are entering a primitive environment where you will be faced with the challenge of being entirely self-sufficient for whatever time you plan to remain there. There are no shelters, campgrounds, tables, fireplaces, water spigots or detailed trail signs. You will be faced with a challenge to your skills and your ability to survive. Be aware that you will meet and live with nature on its own terms, and become familiar with the sometimes scarey feeling of being completely on your own far from the nearest trace of civilization. Even though trails in the wilderness are not marked, you will probably be able to locate and follow the most popular trails. A few trail signs, foot bridges and other basic facilities may exist, but only where they are needed to protect the land or to provide access to the wilderness itself. Enjoy the wilderness areas, they are maintained so that they can be enjoyed by the next visitor, for many generations to come.

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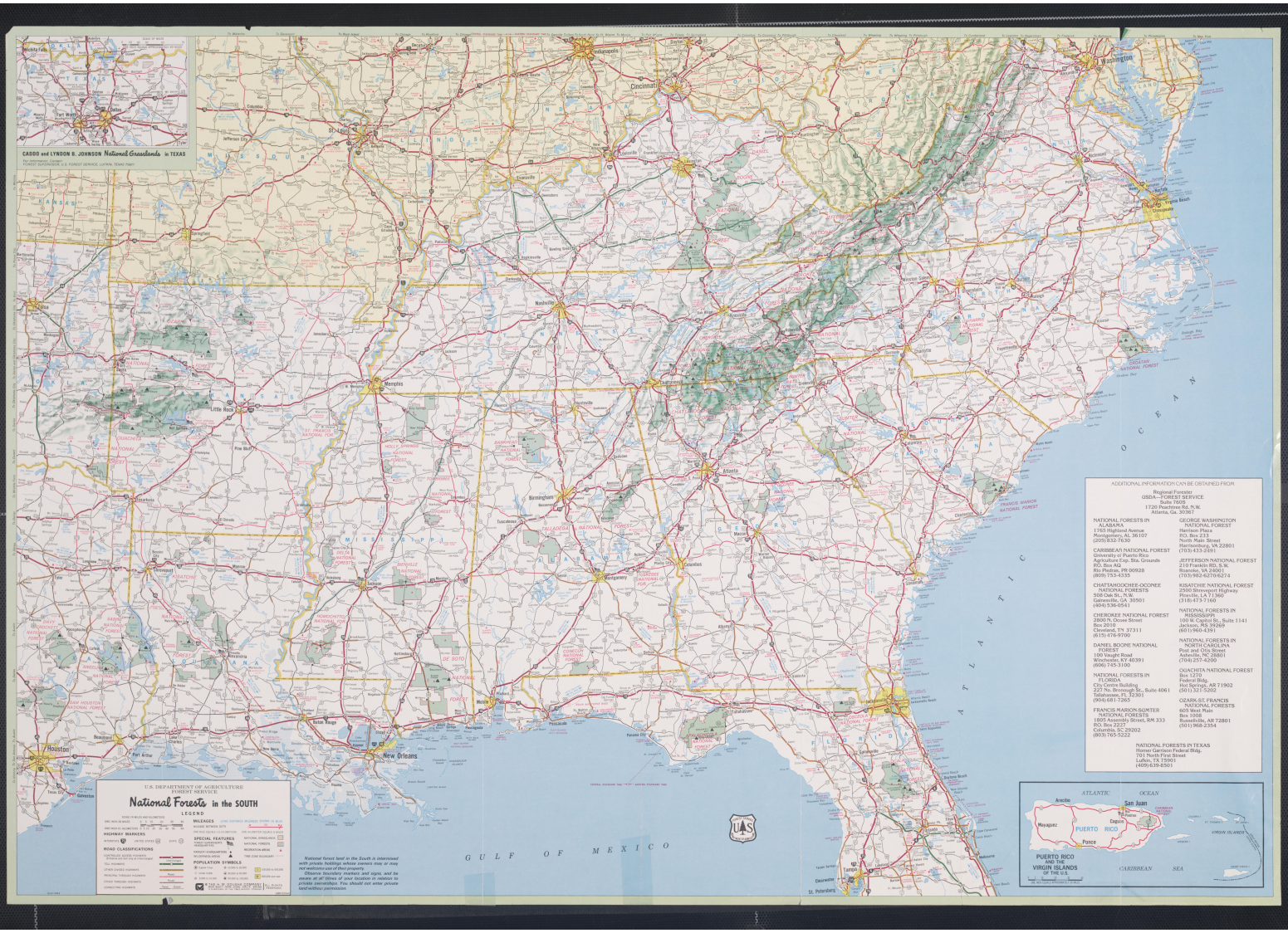
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LEGEND
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SPECIAL FEATURES
ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS
POPULATION SYMBOLS
National forest land in the South is intermixed with private holdings whose owners may or may not welcome use of their property.
Observe boundary markers and signs, and be aware at all times of your location in relation to private ownerships. You should not enter private land without permission.
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