

# WELCOME TO THE OCOONEE NATIONAL FOREST



The Ocoee, located in the rolling Piedmont of central Georgia, is one of two national forests in Georgia. It was established in 1959 from lands that had been used as a soil conservation project. Over 109,000 acres are now within this highly productive forest. The forest is managed for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, minerals and wildlife.

**EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS**  
Within the Ocoee National Forest are two experimental forests. Scull Shoals Experimental Forest, containing 5,418 acres, is on the northern end of the Ocoee in Greene and Oglethorpe Counties. The Hitchit Experimental Forest, containing 4,992 acres, is on the southern end of the Ocoee, in Jones County.

The Scull Shoals Experimental Forest is used to study regeneration and management of Piedmont hardwoods. The Hitchit is used to study loblolly pine. You are welcome to use these lands for recreation as long as no one interferes with research activities.

The Brander Forestry Education Center is also headquartered at the Hitchit to provide Forest educational programs to forest management to the public.

**WILDLIFE AND FISH**  
The Ocoee National Forest and the adjacent Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge comprise a significant island of forest in the lower Piedmont Province. Together, they serve as a sanctuary for all species of plants and animals that occur naturally in the area. In this contiguous range, about 350 species of animals and fish, and about 1,500 species of plants can be found.

**Hunting and Fishing**  
Spring fishing for red-breast sunfish on the Comigee River is unsurpassed anywhere in the State. Although you can fish by wading in parts of the river, a small boat, canoe, or float tube is ideal. Small spinners and jigs are effective lures on light spinning tackle. A half-pound red-breast on a fly rod is excellent sport.

Lake Ocoee has an excellent reputation for early season crappie. This 19,000-acre impoundment is easily accessible from Interstate Highway 20.

Hunting for large and small game is available during the Statewide seasons, except for the following areas, which have special seasons:  
— Redlands Wildlife Management Area  
— Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area  
— Hitchit Experimental Forest

Please consult current hunting regulations before planning your trip. Seasons for deer hunting can be quite variable.



White-tailed Deer Abundant on the Ocoee National Forest



Mallard Ducks



Water Lily



Red-cockaded Woodpecker - An Endangered Species

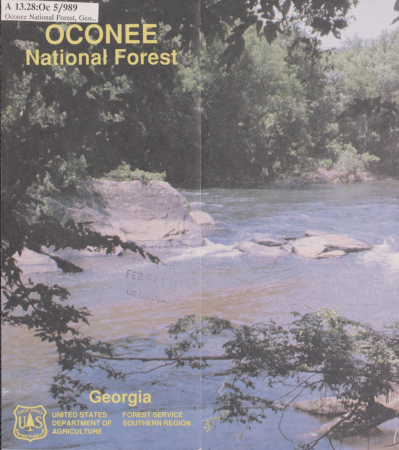
Murder Creek

**PLEASE**

**PREVENT FOREST FIRES**

July 1990 R9-RD 30

A 1328-Oc 5/989  
Ocoee National Forest, Ga.



OCONEE National Forest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE SOUTHERN REGION

Georgia

Wise Creek

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**  
Certain rules are enforced on the Ocoee National Forest in order to insure your safety and enjoyment. By observing the regulations posted at recreation sites, you and others will be able to fully enjoy all that the National Forests have to offer. If you have questions, or would like maps and brochures, please contact:

Forest Supervisor  
508 Oak Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
Telephone (404) 536-0541

District Ranger  
340 Forsyth Street  
Monticello, GA 31064  
Telephone (404) 468-2244

**RECREATION**  
The Ocoee National Forest offers thousands of people the opportunity to camp, ride horses, hike, boat, swim, water ski, picnic, fish, ride all-terrain vehicles and hunt. Lake Sinclair, Ocoee River Recreation Area, Hillsboro Lake, and the Redlands and Swords Boat Ramps on Lake Ocoee provide the settings for much of the recreation activity.

**TIMBER**  
The harvest of timber and pulpwood is an important part of the management of the Ocoee National Forest. The average harvest of sawlogs from this forest exceeds 20 million board feet a year — enough lumber to build more than 3,000 homes. Harvesting and processing wood from the Ocoee National Forest provides a direct livelihood for about 100 area families and, indirectly, to another 300.

**Wildlife Management Areas**  
Two large portions of the Ocoee National Forest are designated as wildlife management areas. Cedar Creek, established in 1946, is located in Putnam, Jones and Jasper Counties. Some lands within this boundary remain privately owned. Therefore, be sure to obtain permission from the owners before hunting on their land.

The Redlands Wildlife Management Area was designated in 1977. This area includes all Forest Service land in Morgan, Greene, Ocoee and Oglethorpe Counties north of Interstate 20. Wildlife management areas are protected by State and Federal regulations.

Uses such as hiking, camping, picnicking and hunting are permitted according to regulations. Please consult Georgia hunting and fishing regulations for hunting dates, limits and license fees.

**Endangered Species**  
Bald eagles and red-cockaded woodpeckers live in the Ocoee National Forest and are protected. The Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service Research have entered into an agreement aimed at joint recovery efforts for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Help us restore these species to healthy populations by avoiding nesting sites.

**Hunt Camps**  
The Ocoee National Forest provides more than 50 dispersed camps for hunting and fishing enthusiasts. These camps provide areas off the road that are safer for users and minimize impact on the environment. The camps are scattered over the district and are indicated by a symbol on the forest map. Each area contains fire rings, parking area, pit toilets, and usually hanging racks and bulletin boards. We encourage hunters to use these areas during deer and turkey seasons because camping in undesignated areas spoils many hunting grounds.

**Range**  
Certain areas of the Ocoee National Forest are available through permits for cattle grazing. Most of these areas offer improved pastures. Permittees pay the Forest Service for use of these areas, which are also the home of wildlife.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
The Ocoee National Forest includes many areas of historical and cultural interest. One of these areas is the old village of Scull Shoals, the site of Georgia's first paper mill, cotton gin, and cotton factory. At the close of the Civil War, Scull Shoals was the second largest village in Greene County. Now, only building foundations, walls, chimneys, and bridge abutments remain.

**MINERALS**  
Three types of minerals are mined in the area. These are amethyst, feldspar and granite. The feldspar operation, in existence since 1944, employs about 60 people from the local area.

**WATERSHED**  
The Ocoee National Forest lies in the watersheds of three major Piedmont river systems, Comigee, Ocoee and Apalachee. These watersheds provide recreational activities along with much of the drinking water for communities such as Monticello.

The Forest Service protects these valuable watersheds by maintaining healthy, productive forests. Further efforts are made to reduce erosion by reforesting land damaged by the many active gullies that resulted from earlier farming of the area.

**IS THE WATER SAFE?**  
We hope your visit to your national forests will be enjoyable and safe. One hazard you should be aware of is an intestinal disorder called GIARDIASIS (jee-ar-dye-a-sis). The disease is caused by a microscopic organism, Giardia lamblia, commonly found in untreated water. Its effects can be severe, badly upsetting your digestive system.

**Protect Yourself**  
The most effective treatment for killing Giardia is to boil water vigorously for at least 3 to 5 minutes.

Chemical treatment with iodine or chlorine effectively kills bacterial organisms, but the same treatment will not reliably kill Giardia, a protozoa.

Boiling is the only sure treatment for Giardia and all the other microscopic organisms found in raw water.

For short trips, take a supply of treated water from home or other treated sources.

**Protect Others**  
Giardia can be readily transmitted between humans and animals. Human or animal waste can contain the disease. Waste should be buried 6 inches deep and at least 100 feet away from natural waters.

**RULES OF OUTDOOR SAFETY**  
Consider the needs of fish and game so that they will remain abundant for future generations to enjoy. Observe State hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

When hiking in areas open to hunting, use caution and wear a brightly colored shirt or vest.

Public facilities are for everyone's use. Report vandalism and damage to the district ranger's office.

Keep your camp in a clean, sanitary condition. Leave your camp in as good a condition as you would expect to find it.

Place campfires where you can easily extinguish them. Put your campfire out when you leave for any period of time. Don't cut standing trees. Use only down wood for firewood.

Watch for poisonous snakes. Bait or treat all water from open sources before drinking.

**Insects**  
If you are not prepared for them, insects can cause much discomfort, transmit diseases and ruin an otherwise enjoyable outing. Chiggers (or redbugs) and ticks are prevalent, but bites can be reduced by applying insect repellent or powdered sulphur around your pant legs and ankles. Mosquitoes and yellow flies, present during the spring and summer months, can be discouraged by applying insect repellent to exposed skin areas and by avoiding fragrant lotions and skin creams. You will sleep more comfortably if you use a mosquito net or zippered tent.

**Snakes**  
Georgia has four species of poisonous snakes: rattlesnake, cottonmouth (moccasin), copperhead, and coral. Snakes defend themselves by striking, but when given the chance, will generally choose flight rather than attack. A little care about where you sit or place your hands and feet can reduce the possibility of being bitten.

**GIVE A HOOT! DON'T POLLUTE**



Fishing - A Popular Pastime on the National Forest



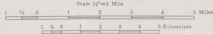
Scull Shoals

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
F. DALE ROBERTSON, CHIEF  
**OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST**  
GEORGIA  
1989



LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- - - Special Area Boundary
- Interstate Interchange
- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trail
- District Ranger Office
- Other Forest Service Facility
- National Forest Land
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Forest Road or Trail
- Recreation Site, Forest Service
- Recreation Site, Other
- Hunt Camp Check Station
- Located or Lethal Object
- Nonforest Control Station
- House, Church, School
- Cemetery

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST ACTIVITIES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
508 DAA STREET, N.W.  
GAINESVILLE, GA. 30501  
OCONEE RANGER DISTRICT  
340 FORTY-FIVE STREET  
MONTICELLO, GA. 31054

OCONEE NF RECREATION SITES	LOCATION	FREE AREA	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER SPACE	TRAILER SANITARY FAC	BOAT LAUNCH	CONCESSIONS	DRINKING WATER	PHONING	SANITARY FACILITIES	BOATING	FISHING	HUNTING TRAILS	SWIMMING
HILLSBORO LAKE	04													
OCONEE RIVER	03													
REDLANDS BOAT RAMP	03													
LAKE SINCLAIR	04													
SWORDS BOAT RAMP	03													

