



Cherokee National Forest

Prescribed Burning Information

March 10, 2018

Prescribed Burns Planned

March 10, 2018

If weather conditions permit several prescribed (controlled) burns will be conducted in Cherokee National Forest from March 13-16. Smoke may be visible in surrounding areas.

North Cherokee National Forest

Unaka Ranger District (423-638-4109) & Watauga Ranger District (423-735-1500)

Walnut Mountain: 800 acres in Cocke County near Martha Sunquist State Forest approximately 15 miles SE of Newport and 7 miles E of Hartford, TN.

Chestnut Ridge: 1,000 acres in Cocke County near Max Patch and the Gulf Tract approximately 15 miles SE of Newport and 7 miles E of Hartford, TN.

Irishman's Branch: 150 acres in Unicoi County 1.5 miles NE of Unicoi TN off Highway 107

Cook Branch: 500 acres in Johnson County at the north end of Watauga Lake near the Sink Mountain boat ramp approximately 2 miles SE of Highway 67.

South Cherokee National Forest

Tellico Ranger District (423-253-8400) & Ocoee Ranger District (423-338-3300)

Big Branch: 2,694 acres in Monroe County 0.5 mile east of Turkey Creek Road (NFSR 35) to Long Branch, between Tellico River Road (NFSR 210) and Highway 165 - Cherohala Skyway.

Brushy Ridge: 2,006 acres in Monroe County located north of Tellico River Road (NFSR 210) and south of Hwy 165- Cherohala Skyway, between McNabb Creek and Laurel Branch.

Rough Ridge: 2,745 acres in Monroe County approximately 10 miles E of the Tellico Ranger Station on the Tellico River Road (NFSR 210) east of Pheasant Field between Sycamore Creek and south to Rough Ridge Creek near the North Carolina state line.

Rough Creek-Laurel Branch: 1,155 acres in Polk County approximately 4 miles SW of Ducktown, TN near Tumbling Creek north along the Sheeds Creek Peavine Road (NFSR 221) and east to the Ocoee River.

Coon Creek: 1,436 acres in Polk County approximately 4 miles E of Benton, TN off Highway 30 near the Ocoee Work Center north between Mulepen Creek and Coon Creek to Presswood Road (NRSF 185).

Bearpen Lead: 379 acres in Polk County approximately 4 miles W of Turtletown off NFSR 23 in the vicinity of Rymer Camp.





Cherokee National Forest

Prescribed Burning Information

March 11, 2018

Cherokee National Forest Prescribed Burning Program:

Prescribed (controlled) burning of approximately 20,000 acres are scheduled for burning throughout the 650,000 acre Cherokee National Forest during 2018. A significant portion of the prescribed burning is planned for early spring.

Prescribed fire is used in the Cherokee National Forest for several reasons including:

- **Hazardous Fuel Reduction:** Fuels (vegetation) such as grass, leaves, brush, downed trees, and pine needles accumulate and create a fire hazard. By burning an area under favorable conditions these fuels are removed, decreasing the amount of vegetation that is available to burn during a wildfire. Reducing heavy vegetation build up helps protect communities from the threat of wildfire, as well as being beneficial to the forest.
- **Site Preparation:** Certain trees cannot tolerate shady conditions created by other species. In areas being managed for pines, prescribed fire reduces certain types of vegetation that compete for light, moisture, and nutrients. Prescribed fire also reduces the leaf litter on the forest floor which often prevents seed germination for natural reproduction of desirable vegetation, including native grasses.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** Prescribed fire promotes new sprout and herbaceous growth that serves as beneficial food and cover for many animals.

