



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee  
National Forest  
Chattooga Ranger  
District

P. O. Box 1960  
200 Hwy. 197N  
Clarkesville, GA 30523  
706-754-6221

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File Code: 1950

Date: October 5, 2004

Dear Forest Stakeholder

The Chattooga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee~Oconee National Forests is considering a proposal to install accessible moldering privies adjacent to the Low Gap, Blue Mountain, and Whitley Gap Shelters located in Ravens Cliff and Mark Trail Wilderness areas along the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. The purpose of this project is to provide a more environmentally friendly method of backcountry sanitation for trail users. After a great deal of research, it is believed that the process of moldering is best suited for the area because it involves slow/cool, aerobic composting. It is suggested that the facilities house a shelter with a roof, privacy screen, and a double waste crib. The dimension of the areas proposed for clearing and leveling to accommodate the privies is approximately fourteen feet by ten feet and locations are shown on the attached maps.

This work would be accomplished by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) in priority order as previously listed. The club is experienced in this type of endeavor and erected its first moldering privy in 2001. The GATC proposal for backcountry sanitation supports Forest Service Standards based upon Goals 31, 35, 38, and 77 of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). To ensure that I have examined and considered all alternatives for decision-making, I am allowing a 30-day period to collect feedback from you. The collective responses received from the local community, interested individuals and groups, other government agencies, and Forest Service employees are crucial in determining the extent of analysis and meeting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines.

Responses should include relevant and informative facts as they relate to your concerns about this specific proposal. Although optional, comments received should include name and address as I do respond to each concern. Should you decide to take advantage of your opportunity to provide feedback, I ask that you do so by November 5, 2004. You may respond with your comments to the Chattooga Ranger District using any of the methods provided on this letterhead. You may also comment by email to [janicepmiller@fs.fed.us](mailto:janicepmiller@fs.fed.us) or by visiting our office at Highway 197 North in Clarkesville. If you have received this letter and are unsure of the content or how to participate, feel free to contact the District Office. Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Michael Gryson*

MICHAEL GRYSON  
District Ranger  
Enclosure: Map of proposed locations of Molding Privies

