



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Brasstown Ranger District

1881 Highway 515
P.O. Box 9
Blairsville, GA 30514
(706) 745-6928

File Code: 1950/2700

Date: February 12, 2004

Dear Forest User:

I am inviting you to comment on the following proposed project at Brasstown Bald Visitor Center. The Forest Service has received a request from the Organization Committee for the Tour-De-Georgia Bicycle Race to use the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center as a finish line for one portion of their race. The committee has requested the exclusive use of the Visitor Center from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 24, 2004.

Some of the other related activities involved with this proposal are to provide a finish line celebration for competitors and spectators. This celebration will be staged at the main parking lot for Brasstown Bald. It will include a stage for music performances, food services, and a display area for sponsors of the race.

The Brasstown Bald Visitor Center will be open to the public throughout the day except for the hours listed above. The observation deck will be open all day. The organization committee will be permitted to construct a temporary finish line facility in front of the building. The race committee will provide catered food for invited people and use the theater to conduct a press conference. The organization committee will provide news media for the event. They will provide sanitation facilities and clean up the area after the event.

This project will meet the Goals and Objectives of Recreational Opportunities in the new Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. Goal 31 in Chapter 2 is to “provide a high quality recreation setting that reflect the unique or exceptional resources of the Forest and the interest of the recreating public on an environmentally sustainable, financially sound and operationally effective basis.”

We are currently in the process of determining the significant environmental issues and the public’s concerns. You may help us in completing our analysis by providing comments on this proposal. Your comments should be as specific as possible and contain the following information:

1. Your name and address,
2. The project title: Brasstown Bald Visitor Center and the Tour-De-Georgia,
3. Your concerns and the reason(s) you think your comments should be considered.



You may respond to the Brasstown District Office by mail at the address shown above or you may provide your comments by e-mail to: griddoch@fs.fed.us. You may also fax your comments to (706) 745-7494. In order for the race plans to be finalized and advertised, the Forest Service must receive your comments by March 5, 2004.

Thank you for your time and interest in the management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and the Brasstown Ranger District.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Polk
ALAN POLK
District Ranger