



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests  
Toccoa Ranger District

6050 Appalachian Highway  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513  
(706) 632-3031  
Fax: (706) 632-5552

---

File Code: 2350/1950

Date: June 4, 2003

6050 Appalachian Hwy  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Dear Forest Friend:

I am inviting you to comment on actions proposed for the **Rich Mountain Road** (also known as the "**Old Road**") in Gilmer County, Georgia, on the Toccoa Ranger District. Rich Mountain Road is currently 9.5 miles and borders the Rich Mountain Wilderness Area and is within the Rich Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

The first action pertains to the western end of this road that is approximately one and one half (1.5) miles long. This section of road would be closed and will no longer be considered a part of Rich Mountain Road. It will be obliterated and only foot travel will be permitted (see enclosure). The second action would involve the remaining (8) miles of road, coming from the east. This portion of the road would be reconstructed to meet requirements for street legal, high-clearance vehicles (Road Maintenance Objective Level 2), to travel safely. These actions would be implemented subsequently and as funding resources become available.

The primary purposes for these actions include:

1. Provide forest users with safe access into the Rich Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Mountain Wildlife Management Area.
2. Remove user-created trails, leading from the current road into the edge of the wilderness that was formed when users encountered impassible conditions within sections of the road.
3. Close illegal ATV and OHV trails that have developed over time, and
4. Reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality in creeks that drain from the Rich Mountain Road area.

The proposed activities would involve the use of heavy equipment such as dozers or track hoes. Additionally, activities such as cutting of some vegetation, sowing grass seed and mulching would be performed on sections of the road that will be obliterated. Erosion control tools such as hay bales or silt fence will be used while reconstructing the road to stop soil movement.

The Forest Service is currently in the process of determining the significant environmental issue and public concerns for this proposed project. You can 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: your name and address, the project name (**Rich Mountain Road**) and specific comments along with supporting reasons.

Environmental concerns already being considered by the planning team include: recreational access, protection of water quality, archaeological resources, sensitive and endangered plant and animal species, and impacts on the wilderness area.

If you have any concerns and considerations that you want the Forest Service to consider in our decision-making process, you can send them to Jim Wentworth, Brasstown Ranger District, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville, GA 30512, or by e-mail to [jwentworth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwentworth@fs.fed.us). Please submit your comments by July 5, 2003.

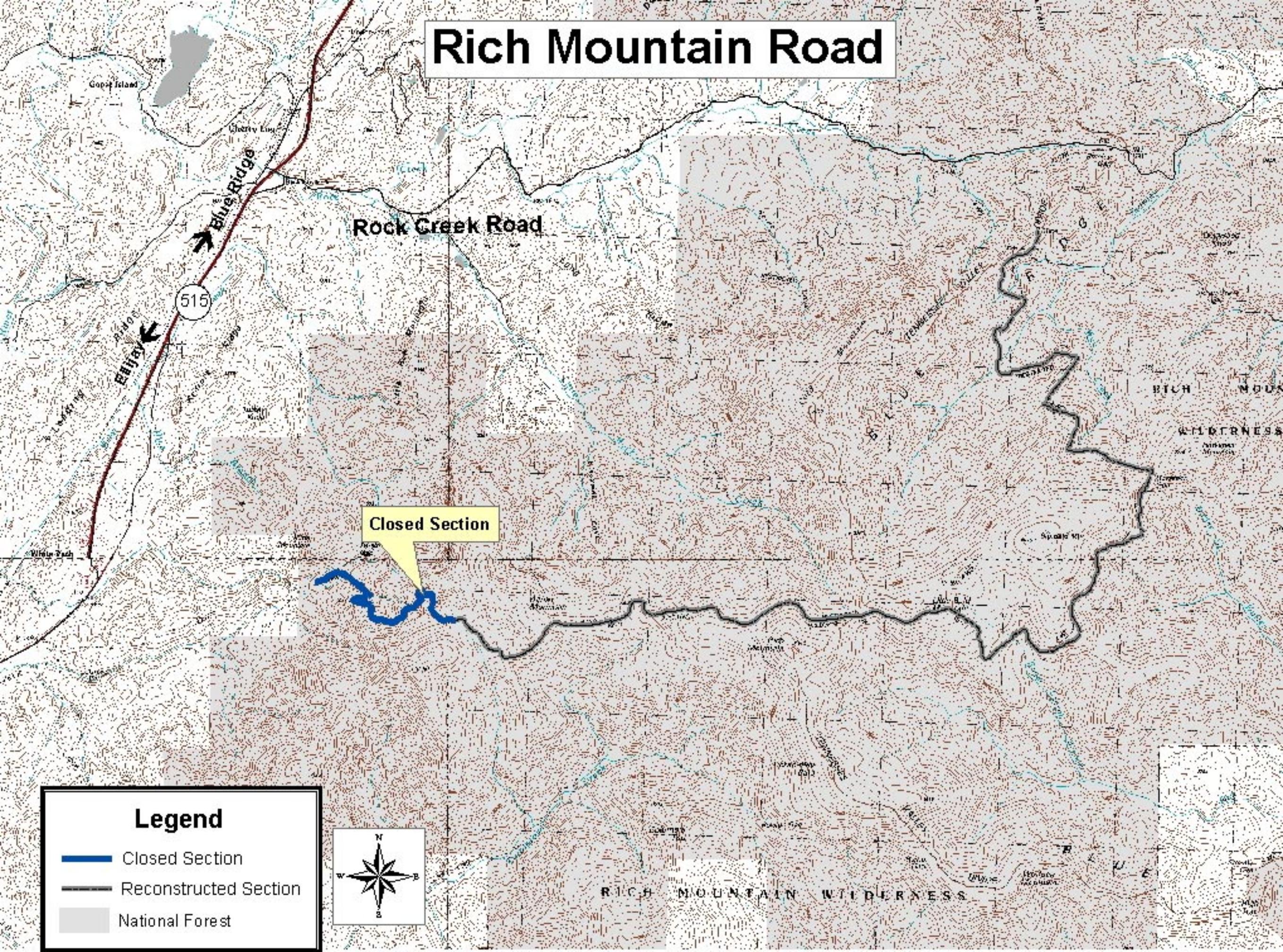
Thank you for your time and interest in management activities on the Toccoa Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cassius M. Cash  
CASSIUS M. CASH  
District Ranger

cc: Kathleen Atkinson, Andrew Colaninno, Larry Lockett

# Rich Mountain Road



Rock Creek Road

515

Blue Ridge

Blue Ridge Parkway

Closed Section

## Legend

- Closed Section
- Reconstructed Section
- National Forest



RICH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS