

# Sumter National Forest

*South Carolina*

## Whetstone Horse Camp



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 3/26/2004

### Highlights

Offering 28 miles of nearby horse trails, Whetstone Horse Camp is a great getaway for horseback riders who like to ride and camp. It serves as a base camp for riders on both the Rocky Gap (South Carolina) and the Willis Knob (Georgia) Horse Trails.

The camp, located about 13 miles northwest of Walhalla, has 20 sites with parking spurs for horse trailers: 10 are first come, first served, while up to 10 may be reserved.

### Surrounding Area

Across the river on the Georgia side is another camp that is part of this trail system—Willis Knob Horse Camp. Campers must obtain reservations. Call the Tallulah District office at (706) 782-3320 for more information.

### For More Information

*Andrew Pickens Ranger District*

*112 Andrew Pickens Circle*

*Mountain Rest, SC 29664*

*Phone: (864) 638-9568*

*Fax: (864) 638-2659*

*Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Directions:** From Walhalla, go north 6 miles on State Highway 28. Turn left onto Whetstone Road. Go straight for about 5 miles. At the four-way stop go straight for about 1.5 miles. Pavement ends and a gravel road begins. A sign for Whetstone Horse Camp is about 3/4 mile down the gravel road. The

**Fees:** \$12/night without reservations. \$15/night for reservations. Fees must be paid within 30 minutes of occupying a site. Horse trail and day-use parking have no fee.

**Season:** year-round—busiest times are summer and fall.

**Site amenities:**

- Centrally-located drinking water
- Cooking grills, hitching rails, tables and lantern posts
- Wheelchair accessible toilets

**Reservations:** must be made at least 14 days in advance; it's advisable to get them even earlier for holiday weekends.

**Restrictions:** Organized or advertised rides require a special use permit and route approval by the District Ranger.

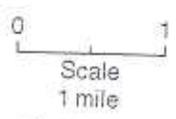
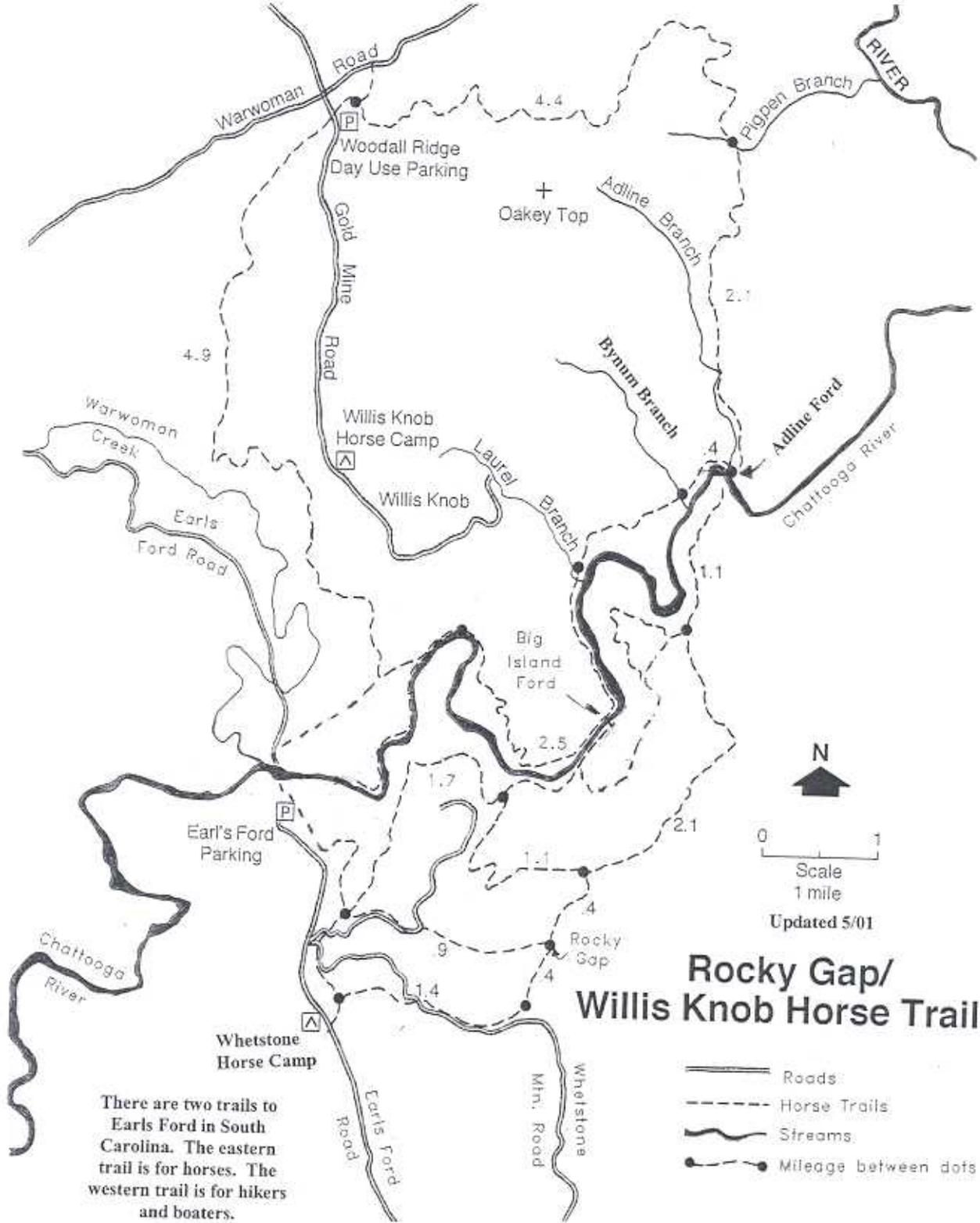
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**Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests**

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803) 561-4000





Updated 5/01

## Rocky Gap/ Willis Knob Horse Trails

-  Roads
-  Horse Trails
-  Streams
-  Mileage between dots

There are two trails to Earls Ford in South Carolina. The eastern trail is for horses. The western trail is for hikers and boaters.

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## Regulations

Regulations are necessary to make sure your stay on the Sumter is fun and safe. They also ensure a quality experience with the least damage to natural resources. Please help by obeying these rules.

- Horses must be kept away from camp sites.
- Stay limit is 14 days.
- Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, gate, or trail is prohibited. Not only is it dangerous, but also may hinder administrative functions or emergency access.
- All pets must be on a leash in the camping area.
- Do not tie horses to trees. Do not ride, tether, or hobble a horse, saddle or pack animal in violation of posted notices.
- Camping is prohibited in the day use parking area.
- Build fires only in designated fire rings, using downed wood.
- Dispose of animal waste in compost area provided near entrance.
- Use lantern poles provided.

Fees are \$12/day without reservations, \$15/day with reservations. Fees must be paid within 30 minutes of occupying a site.

This camp has 20 sites. All sites are available on a first come basis. Up to 10 may be reserved at least 2 weeks in advance.

If not posted "Reserved," anyone may camp at a campsite; however, you may be asked to move with a 24-hour notice.

One camper or two tents are permitted per camping unit. Up to two vehicles will be permitted at each site. Other vehicles must be parked in the parking

Check out time is 5:00 p.m.

- Within the Chattooga River Corridor in South Carolina, horseback riding is restricted to Rocky Gap Trail.

# Horse Sense



## Safety

- File a trip plan with family or friends so someone will know where you are and whom to contact should you fail to return as planned.
- Take a first-aid kit, snake bite kit, compass and map. Know the location of the nearest hospital.
- Watch for hazards along the trail. Do not try to jump trees and other obstacles.
- Stay on trails to avoid stump holes in the woods.
- Take a break from time to time to rest.
- Wear blaze orange during the big-game hunting season (October through December).
- Have at least two adults in your party.
- Watch for vehicles when crossing roads.
- Locked vehicles are not completely safe. Leave valuable and unnecessary equipment at home.

## Leave no Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be considerate of Other Visitors

