



File Code: 1950-1/2350-5

Date: October 14, 2009

Dear Interested Parties:

We have completed the environmental analysis (EA) for the *Transportation System and Related Recreation Management Actions for the Upper Tellico Off-Highway Vehicle System* project, and I am hereby issuing two decisions based on that analysis.

The first Decision Notice is focused on management actions for Trail 1 (that section of Forest Service Road 420-1 from Allen Gap to the Tennessee state line); the second Decision Notice is for the remainder of the OHV System. I am separating out the decision on the long-term management of Trail 1 (FSR 420-1) for the following reasons:

- Trail 1 (FSR 420-1) has remained open as a mixed-use road while other parts of the OHV System have been closed;
- As it continues to be traveled by a variety of vehicles, it continues to be a source of sediment to Tipton Creek and the Tellico River. This increases the urgency of making improvements to Trail 1(FSR 420-1);
- In the EA, every alternative except for the NO ACTION alternative (Alternative A) proposes the same treatment for Trail 1 (FSR 420-1): paving an additional 4,680 feet and reconstructing the remainder as far south as Allen Gap;
- Comments from members of the OHV community indicate that while many think of Trail 1 (FSR 420-1) as providing access to the other trails in the OHV System, it is not considered a part of the system in the same way the other trails are.

The Decision Notices describe the specific actions to be taken, any required mitigations, and my rationale for making these decisions. They also contain information on alternatives considered, the significant issues, a synopsis of the public involvement, and instructions for filing an appeal. The Finding of No Significant Impact for each decision indicates that further environmental analysis (such as in an Environmental Impact Statement) is not required.

If you wish to view the Environmental Assessment (EA) and graphics, the *Response to Comments*, and other related documents, go to <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc>. If you wish to request a paper copy of the EA, e-mail your request to: comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us <comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us or call (828)257-4817.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marisue Hilliard

MARISUE HILLIARD
Forest Supervisor

