

SPECIAL DAY-USE AREAS



Prices Subject to Change

Operated by private concessionaire

MAP NUMBER

RESTROOMS

PICNIC AREA

WATER

TRAILS

OTHER ACTIVITIES

FEE (\$)

* 1 day-use or season pass valid for each of these sites



NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST									COMMENTS
BALSAM LAKE From TUCKASEGEE, take NC 281-S 8.75 miles, turn left on SR 1756, go about 6 miles (1 mile past lodge).	30	F						no fee	Open all year. Walk or fish along Wolf Creek. No water or restrooms in winter. Near Balsam Lake Lodge, open by reservation at 1-877-444-6777.
CHEOAH POINT From ROBBINSVILLE, take U.S. 129-N for 7 miles. Turn left at sign, go 0.8 mile.	20	V						no fee for day use	Open all year. Swimming beach on Santeetlah Lake. Campground and boat ramp nearby. Picnic shelter. Cheoah District: 828-479-6431.
CHEROHALA SKYWAY From ROBBINSVILLE, take U.S. 129-N for 1 mi. Turn left onto NC 143-W and follow signs for 10 miles. Continue on skyway.		V						no fee	Open all year. Drive 30 miles on the crest of the mountains. Scenic overlooks, picnic spots, trailheads. Cheoah District: 828-479-6431.
CLIFFSIDE LAKE ♦ From HIGHLANDS, take U.S. 64-W for 4.5 miles, turn right at sign.	24	F						\$3/car, 2 shelters by reservation: (828) 862-5960	May 1-Oct. 31. Bathhouse with cold showers. Eight short trails: 0.5 to 1.5 miles. No fee in winter. Highlands District: 828-526-3765.
DRY FALLS From HIGHLANDS, take U.S. 64-W for 3.5 miles.								\$2/car \$15/season*	Open all year. Walk behind this 75-foot waterfall without getting wet. Highlands District: 828-526-3765.
FIRES CREEK From HAYESVILLE, go 5 miles on U.S. 64-W. Turn right on SR 1302 for 3.7 miles and left on Fires Creek Rd. (SR 1344).	3							no fee for day use	Open all year. Hike the 0.7-mile loop to Leatherwood Falls or explore 25 miles of trail open to hikers and horses. Tusquitee District: 828-837-5152.
JACK RABBIT From HAYESVILLE, take U.S. 64-E for 6.2 miles, turn right on NC 175 for 2.5 miles, turn right on SR 1155.	5	F						\$3/car for day use	May 1-Oct. 31. Swimming beach on Chatuge Lake. Popular for watersports. Hot showers. Picnic shelters. Tusquitee District: 828-837-5152.
JOYCE KILMER From ROBBINSVILLE, take 129-N for 1 mi. Turn left onto NC 143-W. Turn right onto 1127, about 2 miles to Joyce Kilmer Rd.	17	V						no fee	Open all year. Walk through this rare, outstanding example of an old growth forest on two loop trails (1.25 & 2 miles). Cheoah District: 828-479-6431.
CHEROKEE LAKE From MURPHY, take U.S. 64-W for 8 miles, turn right on NC 294, go 3 miles.	1	F						no fee	Open all year. Accessible fishing pier on Lake Cherokee. Picnic shelter. Tusquitee District: 828-837-5152.
NANTAHALA GORGE U.S. 19, between ALMOND & TOPTON, travels through the gorge.	14/ 15	V						Use fee: \$1/person \$5/person/season	Open all year. Popular rafting on 8.5 miles of whitewater. Picnicking at Ferebee Memorial. Wayah District: 828-524-6441.
STANDING INDIAN BASIN ♦ From FRANKLIN, take U.S. 64-W, for 9 miles, turn left on old U.S. 64 and follow signs.	8	F						\$2/car for day use	April 3-Nov. 30. Walk many popular hiking trails, including several that connect to Appalachian Trail. Picnic shelter. Wayah District: 828-524-6441.
TSALI From BRYSON CITY, take U.S. 19-S for 9 miles, turn right on NC 28 for 5.5 miles, turn right at the sign for 1.5 miles (gravel).	22	F						\$2/trail user	Open all year. Near Fontana Lake. 39 miles of bike/horse trails are especially popular for mountain bikers. Cheoah District: 828-479-6431.
WAYAH BALD From FRANKLIN, take U.S. 64-W, turn right on old U.S. 64 to SR 1310 (Wayah Rd.). Turn right on FR 69 (gravel) for 4.5 miles.	11	V						no fee	Open all year. Enjoy panoramic views from the historic fire tower. Crossed by Appalachian & Bartram Trails. Wayah District: 828-524-6441.
WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN From HIGHLANDS, take U.S. 64-E about 5 miles. Turn right on SR 1680, follow signs.	28	V						\$2/car \$15/season*	Open all year. Hike 2-mile loop trail to 4,930-foot summit for outstanding views. Highlands District: 828-526-3765.
WHITEWATER FALLS From CASHIERS, take NC 107-S for 10 miles to NC-SC State line. Drive 1 mile, take first paved road to the left. Follow signs.	29	F						\$2/car \$15/season*	Open all year. East's highest waterfall at 411 feet. Highlands District: 828-526-3765.

Beetle breakout impacts Tsali trails

Tsali Recreation Area—a mecca for mountain bikers—recently attracted another kind of visitor.

The Southern Pine Beetle made its mark on almost all the pines and affected half of Tsali's 42 miles of trails. The trails meander through pine and oak forests in the Nantahala National Forest near Fontana Lake.

This pesky bug is affecting the rides of mountain bikers and horseback riders, the primary users of Tsali (pronounced "SAH-lee").

Rated as moderate, the trail system offers a variety of landscapes to match the skills of experts, novices, and beginners. Riders can climb 1-foot-wide rugged paths or travel flat, well-beaten roads.

The four trails—Right, Left, Thompson, and Mouse Branch—are loop trails that mountain bikers and equestrians can ride for a 4-mile trip or take a connector trail to loop for a 20-mile challenge.

But there's a new challenge when riding the Tsali trails—crossing all the beetle's fallen victims.

These trails meander by many pines, the prey of the Southern Pine



PHOTO BY BILL LEA

At the trailhead, a biker looks at the user schedule of the Tsali trail system.

Beetle. So, many bike or horseback riders will notice dead or dying pines.

Caution is advised around dead trees, especially during and after wind storms. At these times, tree tops can suddenly drop or whole trees can fall.

"We are trying to clear the trails on a weekly basis," said Frank Findley, resources assistant on the Cheoah Ranger District. "We also clear weeds and blackberry briar that take over once trees are killed." This increased

maintenance could last 5 to 10 years.

Weekly clearing and the use of contract tree cutters would not be possible without the Fee Demo Program.

Through the program, a \$2 user fee is collected at the Tsali trailhead. Proceeds go directly back to maintenance and new trail construction at Tsali.

Other mountain bike trails are offered at Fontana Village Resort near Fontana Dam on land owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

RECREATION SYMBOLS

restrooms; V=vault; F=flush

- picnicking
- showers
- mostly accessible
- drinking water
- mountain bike trail
- interpretive trail
- fishing
- hiking trails
- horseback riding trails
- canoeing
- view point
- information
- boat ramp