

File Code: 1900
Date: June 13, 2018

Dear Interested Forest User:

The Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest is seeking your participation on the "*Buffalo Mountain Bike Trails Project*." In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), I am requesting your comments on this project.

Proposed Action

The "*Buffalo Mountain Bike Trails Project*" is located in Washington and Unicoi County, Tennessee. This project proposes the establishment of approximately 5.05 miles of trail that are currently existing on the ground. This current "trail system" is located on abandoned skid trails and logging roads and would not require any new trail construction on National Forest lands. Minor trail maintenance such as maintaining dips, removing failed culverts and installing signs is all that is necessary to bring the proposed trails to Forest Service standards. This trail system would be a non-motorized, multiple use trail, available to hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, hunters, anglers, and other forest users to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within the Cherokee National Forest.

Categorical Exclusions

This proposal is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(1) which states:

- Construction and reconstruction of trails.

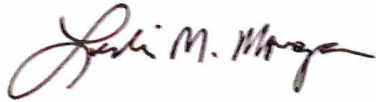
Opportunity to Comment

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted until 11:59 pm July 18, 2018. Written comments, including attachments, must be filed with: *Leslie Morgan, District Ranger, 4900 Asheville Hwy SR70, Greeneville, TN 37743; office (423-638-4109) fax (423-638-6599)*. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc or .docx) to comments-southern-chokeee-nolichucky-unaka@fs.fed.us.

Please state "*Buffalo Mountain Bike Trails Project*" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie M. Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" being the most prominent part.

LESLIE MORGAN
District Ranger

Enclosed (one map)

Cherokee National Forest - Buffalo Mountain Trails Proposal

Legend

Existing Forest Roads (Bike use allowed)

-  FDR 188 - 3.64 mi. +/- (Briar Creek Rd.)
-  FDR 4354 - 0.64 mi +/- (Upper Briar Creek Rd.)
-  FDR 4354A - 1.80 mi. +/- (Upper Briar Creek Spur)

Existing Trails

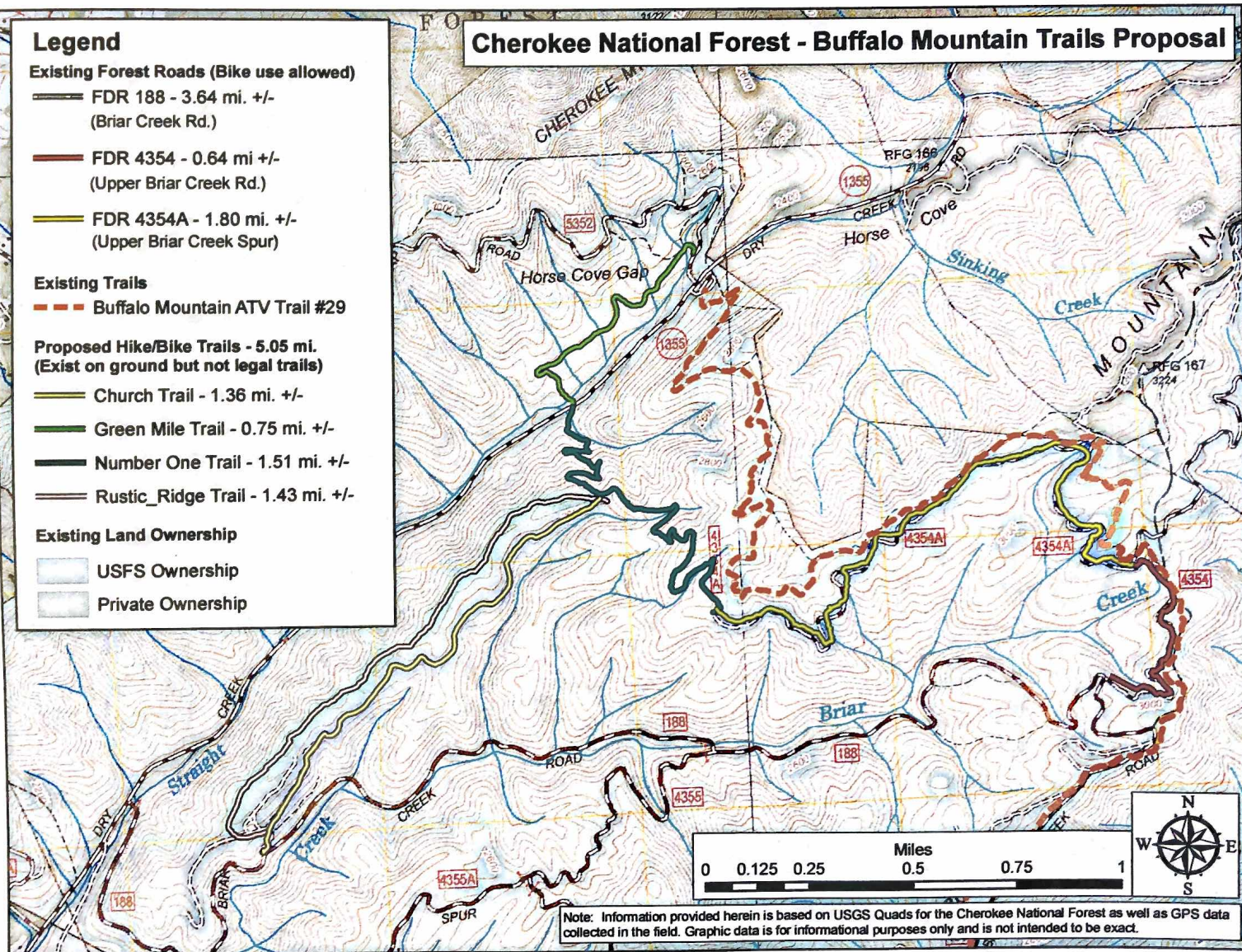
-  Buffalo Mountain ATV Trail #29

Proposed Hike/Bike Trails - 5.05 mi. (Exist on ground but not legal trails)

-  Church Trail - 1.36 mi. +/-
-  Green Mile Trail - 0.75 mi. +/-
-  Number One Trail - 1.51 mi. +/-
-  Rustic_Ridge Trail - 1.43 mi. +/-

Existing Land Ownership

-  USFS Ownership
-  Private Ownership



Note: Information provided herein is based on USGS Quads for the Cherokee National Forest as well as GPS data collected in the field. Graphic data is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be exact.