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Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests  
Conasauga District**  
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# Fire Update



**For Immediate Release  
Contact: (470) 208-2839**

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## **Rough Ridge Fire Update: November 12, 2016, 10 a.m.**

**FAST FACTS:** The Rough Ridge Fire is 13,318 acres and 20% contained. 200 personnel are assigned to the fire. Resources include 4 crews, 2 helicopters, 8 engines and 2 dozers.

**Location:** Cohutta Wilderness Area on the Chattahoochee National Forest

**Current Fire Situation:** The fire is slowly backing down to the Jacks River on the north and the Conasauga River on the west. Firefighters are using fire to tie in to the natural and established containment lines in those areas north and northwest of the Cohutta Wilderness.

**Planned Actions:** Strategic firing operations will continue to be used in areas to bring the fire closer to the natural breaks and established containment lines being utilized to control the fire. Mop up will continue as crews ensure that the lines around the fire perimeter are secure. All containment lines must continue to be patrolled as leaves continue to drop.

**Fire Weather:** An area of high pressure will build into the region from the north and bring east to northeast winds today and cooler temperatures will lead to higher humidity. Winds will slacken tonight and combine with clear skies to bring freezing.

**Closures:** The entire Cohutta Wilderness, National Forest lands north and west of FS Road 64, and National Forest lands east of FS Road 16, and the Conasauga River are closed. In addition, the following areas are closed:

- FS Road 68 from Watson Gap to Potatopatch (entire length).
- FS Road 68 from Holly Creek Gap to Lake Conasauga.
- FS Road 49 from Lake Conasauga to Grassy Mountain Tower.
- FS Road 17 from the intersection with FS road 68 north to Alaculsy Valley.
- FS Road 16 between the Conasauga River and Jacks River.
- FS Road 51 from the intersection of Cottonwood Patch to the wilderness boundary.
- FS Road 630 west of Hickey Gap at Lackey Knob and Hal Brannon Road.
- Jack's River Fields, Cottonwood Patch, Lake Conasauga (and the day-use area) and Overflow Campgrounds.

Hunters preparing for the big game hunt season should remain aware of closure information. Please respect all closures and monitor changes in the coming days. Closures are in place for public and firefighter safety.

**Due to extreme fire danger and the current drought situation, a total fire ban is in place on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.** This means building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire (including charcoal based fire whether contained in a grill or not) is prohibited. Commercially available fuel stoves (camp stoves) are allowed. In addition, Fannin, Gilmer, and Murray Counties have issued a ban on all outdoor burning until further notice. No open burning of any type is permitted, including campfires and fire pits.

**Air Quality:** Smoke will continue to impact areas southeast of the Cohutta Wilderness today. However, fires throughout northern Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina all have the potential to impair air quality. Conditions may change quickly, based on weather, wind direction and fire activity. Sensitive groups including individuals with asthma, lung or heart disease, children, older adults and pregnant women should take precautions to avoid exposure to smoke. If you feel like you are having health effects from smoke, see your doctor or health professional as needed. Use caution when driving in or around smoky areas. For the most up-to-date air quality report, visit Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5078>.

**Fire Information:** For more information about the Rough Ridge Fire, visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5078> or call 470-208-2839. Information also is available on the Chattahoochee-Oconee website at [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf), as well as Facebook and Twitter @ChattOconeeNF.

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For more updates and to learn more about Georgia's national forests, visit us on the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf). You can also get the latest forest news by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter @ChattOconeeNF or downloading the forest's mobile app at <http://tinyurl.com/CONFmobileapp>.

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