

**U.S. Forest Service
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
Conasauga District**
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Fire Update



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

f Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChattOconeeNF/>

Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5078>.

#RoughRidgeFire

Rough Ridge Fire Update: November 14, 2016, 10 a.m.

FAST FACTS: The Rough Ridge Fire is 19,411 acres and 20% contained. 203 personnel are assigned to the fire. Resources include 3 crews, 2 helicopters, 8 engines and 2 dozers.

Location: Cohutta Wilderness Area on the Chattahoochee National Forest

Current Fire Situation: Minimal fire activity occurred overnight as temperatures cooled and humidity levels increased. Crews worked yesterday to mop up and hold lines on the east side, including removing leaves that continue to fall and cover the containment lines. Structure protection efforts continue around private properties near the fire.

Planned Actions: Strategic firing operations will continue to be used in the southwest area to bring the fire closer to the natural breaks and established containment lines. Mop up will continue as crews ensure that the lines around the fire perimeter are secure. All containment lines will continue to be patrolled to remove falling leaves.

The Southern Area Incident Management Gold Team is planning an Open House at the Powerhouse (2985 Old Hwy 5 Blue Ridge) for Tuesday night from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The Open House will allow the public to find out about incident wildland fire management. All members of the local community are welcome to come and visit with us and learn about our operation and hear an update on the Rough Ridge Fire.

Fire Weather: An area of high pressure will remain in the area through Tuesday with a weak cold front moving in Tuesday night. Temperatures will increase slightly Wednesday through Friday while humidity levels will decrease toward the end of the week. A small amount of measurable precipitation could fall on Friday night into Saturday.

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.

The Conasauga Ranger District has brought in additional Law Enforcement personnel to assist with road closures and fire restrictions. Officers are increasing patrols and working extended shifts.

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.

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 are among counties that have issued a ban on all outdoor burning until further notice. No open burning of any type is permitted, including campfires and fire pits.

Due to the extreme drought conditions, we are encouraging all individuals to use Firewise tactics around their home and property. For information on Firewise, visit www.firewise.org. Below are a few recommendations:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire. If it is brown cut it down to reduce fire intensity.
- Remove fuel within 3-5 feet of your home's foundation and out buildings including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Remove dead vegetation surrounding your home, within the 30-100 foot area.

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 closures or fire restrictions, visit the Chattahoochee-Oconee website at www.fs.usda.gov/conf, or <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5078>, or call the fire information line at 470-208-2839.

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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. 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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