



Public Notice

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Division of Water Resources

Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft Permit Actions

File # **NRS23.290**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following proposed permit action and solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on the aquatic environment.

Pursuant to The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, T.C.A. §69-3-108 and Tennessee Rules, Chapter 0400-40-07, the proposed activity described below has been submitted for approval under an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant obtain a water quality certification from the state when a federal permit is required. This notice is intended to inform interested parties of this permit application and draft permit and rationale, and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. At the conclusion of the public notice period a final determination will be made whether to issue or deny the permit.

APPLICANT USDA Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest
2800 Ocoee Street North
Cleveland, Tennessee 37312

CONTACT Brett Yaw, Forest Transportation Manager
423-476-9790

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PURPOSE

The Cherokee National Forest Nolichucky/Unaka District proposes mechanical removal of a low-head dam at the Horse Creek Campground in the Cherokee National Forest. The purpose of the work is for public safety.

LOCATION

The project is located in Horse Creek in Greene County at one point of impact:
Latitude: 36.110264, Longitude: -82.656382

To view the proposed location of these impacts and the watershed condition, visit the Division's map viewer at <http://tdeonline.tn.gov/dwr/> and search on the permit number or coordinates listed in this Public Notice.

PERMIT WRITER

Robert D. Baker
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Resources, Natural Resources Unit
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
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ANTIDEGRADATION

The affected waters have been determined to have available habitat parameters.

The affected waters are designated as Exceptional Tennessee Waters. The basis for inclusion is its status as a naturally reproducing trout stream, located within the Cherokee National Forest and Sampson Mountain Wilderness.

As described in the accompanying permit rationale, the Department has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activity will result in de minimis degradation.

FACTORS CONSIDERED

In deciding whether to issue or deny this permit, the Division will consider all comments of record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. The division will consider the nature, scale and effects of proposed impacts.

The Division will consider practicable alternatives to the alteration, loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impacts to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

In making this decision, a final determination will be made evaluating appreciable permanent loss of resource values and proposed compensatory mitigation to ensure the project will not result in no overall net loss of state water resources values.

HOW TO COMMENT

TDEC is requesting public comment on this proposed permit action. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure appropriate decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the Division. Written comments must be received within **thirty days following distribution of the approved public notice materials** (including signage and newspaper ad). Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced. Send all written comments to the Division's address listed below to the attention of the permit coordinator. You may also comment via email to water.permits@tn.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

Interested persons may request in writing that the Division hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be received by the Division within the comment period, indicate the interest of the party requesting it, the reason(s) a hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the Division will hold a public hearing in accordance with 0400-40-07-.04(4) (f). Send all public hearing requests to the attention of the permit coordinator at the address listed below or via email to water.permits@tn.gov. Any scheduled public hearings will be advertised through a similar public notice process.

PERMIT APPEAL

After the Division makes a final permit determination, a permit appeal may be filed by the applicant or by any person who participated in the public comment period whose appeal is based on comments given to the Division in writing during the public comment period or in testimony at a formal public hearing. The appeal must be received within 30-days of notification of permit issuance or denial.

If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Alisha Looper at 615-571-4470 or alisha.looper@tn.gov.

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Alisha Looper al 615-571-4470 o alisha.looper@tn.gov.

FILE REVIEW

The permit application, supporting documentation, including detailed plans and maps, draft permit and rationale, and related comments are available for review on the internet at the Division's data viewer at [Report on Permits \(tn.gov\)](#) by entering the permit file number listed in the title of this Public Notice. The file may be viewed and copied at the address listed below.

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