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Contact Information

**Forest Supervisor's
 Office**

 Chattahoochee-Oconee
 National Forests
 1755 Cleveland Highway
 Gainesville, GA 30501
 Phone: 770 297-3000

 Office hours: Tues. -
 Friday, 9:00 - 12:00 and
 1:00 - 4:00
 Closed Saturday, Sunday,
 and Monday

PLEASE NOTE: This office is an information and administrative office located in Gainesville, GA and is not actually in the forest.

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News & Events

Multi-million Dollar Land Exchange Finalized Between Rabun County and U.S. Forest Service

Date: Oct 19, 2010 Gainesville, GA

Contact(s): Karen McKenzie - 770-297-3061



Gainesville—An eight million dollar land exchange was finalized this month between the U.S. Forest Service and Rabun County. This exchange, which added almost 300 acres to national forest land in Georgia, was five years in the making and involved eight individual parcels of land and two branches of county government along with the U.S. Forest Service.

"We are extremely pleased that this land exchange has been finalized," said George Bain, Forest Supervisor of the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. "We view this as a win-win situation for the Rabun County School Board, Rabun County government, the U.S. Forest Service, and, of course, the citizens of Georgia who want to see unique natural treasures protected under national forest ownership," Bain stated.

The Rabun County School Board and Commissioner's Office approached the Forest Service back in 2005 about entering into a land exchange to allow for expansion of the Rabun County school system and also to resolve an issue with the old Rabun County landfill which was impacting a small tract of adjacent Forest Service property.

Jim Bleckley, Rabun County Administrator, stated, "The completion of this exchange means that the county is now back to partial compliance with Georgia EPD in regards to the old landfill. This will mean a significant savings for county residents." Wayne Stephens, the Chairman of the Rabun County School Board, stated, "The members of the School Board are pleased that Rabun County will now be able to begin planning for the future growth of the Rabun County school system to best meet the needs of our children. Rabun County School Superintendent Matt Arthur's leadership throughout this effort has been invaluable, and we really appreciate all of his hard work on behalf of all parties to make this a success."

The eight tracts which were exchanged include:

A. Federal Tracts Exchanged to Private Ownership:

1. Rabun County landfill, 60.6 acres
2. School Board Tract, 137.9 acres

B. Private Tracts Exchanged to Federal Ownership:

1. Cliff Creek Tract, 48.8 acres in Rabun County
2. Georgia Power Tract, 39.5 acres in Rabun County
3. Yonah Tract, 19.5 acres in White County
4. Whitfield County Tract, 13 acres
5. Gladly Creek Tract, 262.3 acres in Putnam County
6. White Creek Tract, 105.3 acres in Jasper County

The national forest land valued at \$4,030,000 was exchanged to Rabun County for private land valued at \$4,137,350 and is now becoming a part of the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. Forest Supervisor George Bain explained, "Land exchanges are based on a value for value not on an acre for acre basis. The U.S. Forest Service acquired 488 acres of land on six highly desirable tracts for national

Alerts & Warnings

- [Low Gap Road Travel Update](#)
- [Black Bear Activity on the Appalachian Trail](#)

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Featured Events

- [Anna Ruby Falls to Host Wood Turning Event](#)
 Date(s): Oct 24, 2017 - Oct 24, 2010

forest ownership. The Forest Service equalized the land exchange with Rabun County by paying an additional \$107,350.

The newly acquired national forest tracts include several miles of stream frontage, two acres of wetlands, five acres of floodplain, a private in-holding near the Yonah Mountain trail and recreation area, and a future site for an administrative office.

Maps

[Project Vicinity Map & Acres](#)

[Rabun County Tracts](#)

[Mt. Yonah Tract Vicinity Map](#)

[Mt. Yonah Non-Federal Tract](#)

[Oconee National Forest Tracts](#)

[Whitfield County Tract Vicinity Map](#)

[Whitfield County Non-Federal Tract](#)