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First name: David

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]re: Forest order camping restrictions

[External Email]

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Subject: re: Forest order camping restrictions

Edward Hunter, Forest Supervisor

Chattahoochee -Oconee National Forest

August 17, 2021

Mr. Hunter

I fully support your proposed restrictions on the length of time people may occupy either designated or dispersed campsites. 14 days is long enough within a 30 day period. After 14 days it is perfectly reasonable that campers do not establish another nearby camp and rotate back into their original campsite in effect becoming permanent residents and instead must not camp on CONF land for another 14 days. In my travels thro the CONF it has been clear to me that some people were living in the Forest when one examined the gear and equipment at their 'campsites'.

Your statement that permanent campsites seem to give rise to illicit activities brings to mind the horrific instance of Gary Michael Hilton. Hilton lived permanently in campsites on a number of National Forests including the CONF and is known to have murdered 4 National Forest Visitors including Meredith Emerson on the CONF.

Publishing this new order is a necessary step given the 3 million visitors the CONF receives and the proximity of the Forest to the 6 million people living in the metro Atlanta area. Enforcing the order will be difficult given the lack of law enforcement personnel and for that matter recreational staff. As far as I know there are only two Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to cover the entire forest. One can spend many days on the Forest and never see any Agency presence let alone an LEO. I realize that staffing levels are beyond your control but the issue needs to be raised.

Regards

David Govus

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