NOTICE TO HIKERS

Title of Notice: All trails on the Ocala National Forest Closed

Submitters Name: Jeff Glenn

Submitters Title: North Regional Trail Manager

Email: jeffg@floridatrail.org

Region: North

FTA Map No.: 19,20

Perm. Change? No

Effective Date: 4/11/20

Description:

Ocala National Forest expands list of temporarily shut down recreation areas

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 11, 2020 – In alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, the U.S. Forest Service will temporarily shut down additional recreation areas on the Ocala National Forest at 8 a.m. on April 11, 2020. Hunting and fishing opportunities remain available to the public.

The recreation areas include: Developed, day use and primitive recreation areas; trails, including trailheads and off-highway vehicle corrals; boat ramp areas and U.S. Forest Service water access sites; and Silver Glen Recreation Area and Silver Glen Run. A complete list of areas that are temporarily shut down and maps of those areas can be found on the Ocala National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/ocala.

To protect public health and safety all visitors to national forests are encouraged to:

- Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the forest.
- Take your trash with you when you leave. Trash overflowing the receptacles becomes litter and can be harmful to wildlife and attract predators.
- Please make arrangements to use the restroom before or after your visit to the forest. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for our employees and for other visitors.
- If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location. Also consider avoiding the forest during high-use periods.

The USDA Forest Service continues to assess and temporarily suspend access to recreation areas that attract large crowds and cannot meet social distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visitors to national forests are urged to take the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like the coronavirus, go to: https://www.cdc.gov/-coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html. Information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is available at: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.