



File Code: 7700
Date: August 26, 2016

Dear Landowner:

It has been over a month since I sent you an update regarding the status of landslide repairs on the Conasauga Ranger District. I know that the loss of access has impacted each of you, along with the general recreating public, and that the processes we have to follow can sometimes be frustrating. I've been waiting for good news to pass along and finally have some new information that you will be interested to know.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests finally received \$1 million in emergency relief (ERFO) funding from Federal Highways on June 24 to open access in the Holly Creek area. The Forest has been working diligently to get these repairs under contract. On July 30, the Forest awarded a contract to Hydra Engineering for repair work. A notice to proceed was issued on August 10 to the contractor to start geotechnical surveys to repair three landslides (two slides on FSR 18/Holly Creek/Old CCC Camp Road and one slide on FSR 68/Potato Patch). These surveys and design work are currently underway and will take up to 6 weeks to complete for each landslide.

Once survey and design work is completed, repairs will start on the smallest landslide on FSR 18 between Shanty Creek and Mulberry Gap and the landslide will be completely repaired. Next, the contractor will move to the largest Holly Creek landslide on FSR 18 and work to move the road over into the hillside and install traffic barriers as a temporary repair. Once this is complete, FSR 18 will temporarily open to public travel before Christmas. Next, complete repairs will be made to the landslide on FSR 18/Potato Patch. The repair of this landslide will require closure of FSR 68 from Holly Creek Gap to Barnes Creek Falls Picnic Area for up to 45 days.

During late winter/early spring of 2017, the contractor will come back to the largest Holly Creek landslide and complete final repairs when weather conditions allow. This landslide is going to be the most difficult to repair due to its size and position on the landscape. Final repair of this landslide will require closure of FSR 18 for up to 45 days. We anticipate that all repair work will be completed no later than immediately before Memorial Day weekend.

I appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to return to normalcy. I'd like to emphasize that much of this repair work has to occur under dry conditions...and that there can be delays when conditions are wet. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and I'll do my best to keep everyone updated as we progress.

Sincerely,

JEFF GARDNER
District Ranger

