



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cherokee National Forest

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Cleveland, TN 37312
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ARAP #NRS 14.000

File Code: 2520
Date: August 26, 2015

Robert Baker
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Resources
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

TN DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CONSERVATION

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Dear Mr. Baker:

In regards to the Draft General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit for Recreational Prospecting (NOPH15-005), I am writing to advise you that it will be the policy of the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) from this point forward not to allow Class 2 prospecting activities (as defined by the draft permit released for public comment on May 15, 2015) on the lands it administers. The CNF has made this determination after careful evaluation of the data available to us, the laws with which we are bound to comply (Clean Water Act, National Forest Management Act, and others), and the authorities available to us. We would appreciate it if you would include language to this effect in any permits issued for recreational prospecting. Including in the permit, a prohibition on Class 2 activities on the CNF will minimize public confusion regarding where such activities are and are not allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this permit application. Please contact Allison Reddington at alreddington@fs.fed.us or 423-476-9742 if you have questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

D. JASAL MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jim Herrig, Allison Reddington, Mark Healey, Michael Wright, Stephanie Steele



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
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NASHVILLE, TN 37312

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