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# News Release

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## Cheoah Ranger District Announces Opening of Santeetlah Lake Trail

ROBBINSVILLE, N.C., April 4, 2014 – Lauren Stull, District Ranger of the U.S. Forest Service Cheoah Ranger District, today announced that the Forest Service and Graham County Travel & Tourism will be hosting a grand opening for the new Santeetlah Lake Trail on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

“We’ve been working with a number of volunteers from the community and have received invaluable support from the Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT) organization,” said Stull. “I encourage the public to come out on Saturday to learn more about this new recreation opportunity in the county.”

The Santeetlah Lake Trail is a 9 mile trail that will be open to both mountain bikes and horses. The trail follows a number of open and closed Forest Service roads and has a short portion of single-track. Large portions of the trail hug the shoreline of Lake Santeetlah offering beautiful lake views to trail users. Trail users should exercise caution when using the portion of the trail on open Forest Service roads due to the possibility of encountering vehicular traffic.

The primary trailhead is located at the intersection of Hwy 143 and Snowbird Road

(1115). An alternate trailhead is located at the intersection of Long Hungry Road (FSR #2586) and Highway 143, adjacent to Carver Cemetery. Trail users using the Snowbird Road trailhead will have a 14 mile round-trip riding opportunity. The trail offers a four mile loop opportunity using the Long Hungry Road trailhead.

The grand opening will be held at the Snowbird Road trailhead at 10:00 on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Nantahala Area Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association will lead a trail ride immediately following the grand opening festivities.

For more information about the grand opening event, call the Graham County Travel & Tourism Office at (828) 479-3790. Maps of the trails and driving directions to the trailheads are available at the Graham County Travel & Tourism Office and the Cheoah Ranger District.

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