

**CITY OF HIAWASSEE TO ASSEMBLE AND INSTALL A NEW WATER INTAKE ON  
LAKE CHATUGE**

The City of Hiawassee has announced that a new Water Intake Structure for the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant will begin being assembled at the Lake Chatuge Recreational Area after Memorial Day. This multiyear project of the City of Hiawassee should be completed this summer.

The Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest has issued a Special Use Permit to Willow Construction, Inc. for the use of the Lake Chatuge Boat Ramp, as a staging area to construct the new water intake structure. This emergency construction, starting on May 28th with an estimated completion date of June 20, 2014, was needed to replace the existing water intake structure. The area needed for this project includes the boat ramp and two-thirds of the parking lot at the Lake Chatuge Recreation Area.

Visitors to Lake Chatuge Recreation Area will continue to have access to the area for hiking and other day-use activities, however, use of the boat ramp during this time will be prohibited. Other areas were considered for this project, however due to height restrictions for transporting the structure under bridges, the Lake Chatuge Boat Ramp was the best site for the construction of this structure. Other facilities providing public access to Lake Chatuge in Towns County are located at the North Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and The Ridges Marina.

“We sincerely appreciate the support of Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in issuing this permit”, stated Barbara Mathis, Hiawassee Mayor. “This project is of vital interest to the City of Hiawassee, Towns County, and all customers who rely on the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant for their drinking water supply.”

For further information, please contact: Rick Stancil, City Manager, City Hall, Hiawassee, Georgia (706) 896-2203.