

# National Forests in North Carolina



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USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

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## NEWS RELEASE

September 22, 2003

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### **Temporary Closure of Looking Glass Falls Recreation Area to Begin**

PISGAH FOREST--The parking lot and viewing area at Looking Glass Falls on the Pisgah Ranger District will close Monday, Sept. 22, through the end of December. This closure will ensure public safety during reconstruction of the upper steps that lead to the base of the falls.

"We certainly didn't plan for this closure to coincide with the fall color season," said District Ranger Randall Burgess, "but the existing steps are breaking up and becoming a safety hazard, so we felt the need to initiate the project as soon as the necessary design work was completed. We're asking the public to please not stop on U.S. 276 to try and view the falls," Burgess said. "This creates a traffic hazard on the highway."

These other area waterfalls are good viewing alternatives to Looking Glass Falls:

Moore Cove Falls - on an easy trail 0.7 mile from the road, these falls are accessed from a trailhead located on U.S. 276 a mile north of Looking Glass Falls (look for trailhead parking at the bridge).

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Whitewater Falls –Highest waterfalls in the Eastern United States, located on Highway 281, 9 miles south of Highway 64 at Sapphire.

Graveyard Fields Falls – Several falls here are easy hikes from the parking lot at Milepost 418 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

More information and maps to these and other waterfalls are available at the Pisgah District Office and on the Forest's website at <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc>.

As always, please be careful not to stand close to the edge of waterfalls. Wet rocks can lead to slips, and, unfortunately, several serious injuries and fatalities occur every year on the Forest.

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