

# National Forests in North Carolina



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

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 23, 2001  
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### **Temporary Closure of Looking Glass Falls Recreation Area to Begin**

The parking lot and viewing area at Looking Glass Falls on the Pisgah Ranger District will be closed to the public beginning Monday, August 27, for a period of up to 60 days. This closure is necessary to insure public safety during reconstruction of the lower steps that lead to the base of the falls.

“We certainly didn’t plan for this closure to coincide with Labor day and the fall color season,” said Acting ranger Mary Noel, “but pavement on the existing steps is 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 are asking the public to please not stop on Highway 276 to try and view the falls,” Noel said, “as this will create a traffic hazard on the highway. As construction progresses, we hope to open a portion of the parking lot, but it may be several weeks until this can happen.”

Several other waterfalls in the area make good alternatives to Looking Glass Falls for public viewing – these include:

Moore Cove Falls - on an easy trail 0.7 mile from the road, these falls are

accessed from a trailhead located on Highway 276 a mile north of Looking Glass Falls (look for trailhead parking at the bridge).

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

Graveyard Fields – several falls are an easy hike 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. As always, please be careful not to stand close to the edge of waterfalls as wet rocks lead to slips and several serious injuries every year.

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