



# Outdoor Update



From Black Mountain to Blowing Rock – Including Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell and Watauga Counties

November 2008

*This update is published by the USDA Forest Service, Grandfather Ranger District. If you have any suggestions for improvement or newer information about an area, please contact Teresa Eisenbraun at 828-652-2144 or [teisenbraun@fs.fed.us](mailto:teisenbraun@fs.fed.us), or come by our office at 109 East Lawing Drive (I-40, Exit 90), Nebo, NC 28761. For more information about the National Forests in North Carolina check out our website at [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc)*

## About the Area

The lands that make up the Grandfather Ranger District are those public lands that run from the McDowell/Buncombe county line on Black Mountain just east of Asheville over to US 321 between Lenoir and Blowing Rock. The Blue Ridge Parkway forms the northern boundary of the district.

The Grandfather Ranger District began under the Weeks Act with the purchase of an 8,100-acre tract in 1912. Now, the district covers over 192,000 acres.

**Enjoy your visit!**

## Highlights of the Month

### **Civilian Conservation Corps Celebrates 75th Anniversary.**

The CCC was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and provided employment for more than 3.2 million men who developed over 800 state parks, planted over 45 million trees and shrubs, built over 4,500 fish rearing ponds and completed many other projects. There will be an event at Curtis Creek campground near Old Fort, NC., to learn about their contributions and celebrate their accomplishments to our National Forest lands. The event will be from 2-4:30 pm, on November 1, 2008. The event will include the unveiling of a bronze plaque to commemorate this CCC historic site. Interpretive exhibits will provide a glimpse into the world of the CCC enrollee. Local partners helped in the planning and implementation of activities. Any available enrollees, FS employees and interested public are invited to attend.

### **Point Lookout Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation and McDowell County are hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for Point Lookout Trail on Old Hwy 70. The ceremony will be held on October 30, at 10:00 a.m.. Featured speakers include NCDOT Board member Alan Thornburg, McDowell County Commission Chairman Andrew Webb, Mayor Garland Norton of Old Fort, Bill Hendley of the McDowell Trails Association and other honored guests that helped make the trail a reality. The trail is structured for hiking and biking.

### **Fall Fire Season is October 15 – December 15.**

Be extra careful with campfires during this time of the year. If you build a fire make sure it is attended and put out properly when you leave the area. Remember, "Only you can prevent forest fires!"

Please report any fires to the district office at 828-652-2144.

### **Seasonal Closings**

Mortimer Campground will close on November 30, 2008.

Old Fort Picnic Area closed on October 31, 2008.

Linville Gorge Cabin closed on October 31, 2008.

Curtis Creek Campground closes on November 30, 2008. The water will be turned off and restrooms closed at the paved campground.

## District Office Closings:

November 11, 2008 – Veterans Day

November 27, 2008 – Thanksgiving Day

### \*\*\* Hunting Season Reminders \*\*\*

Forest users are reminded to, *BE SAFE*, wear **bright or hunter orange** during hunting seasons.

## Silviculture

Mechanical and Chemical Site Preparation in Burke and Caldwell counties is currently contracted with work to begin soon. Undesirable understory vegetation in recently harvested timber areas will be targeted in order to provide selected oaks, hickories and other species a competitive advantage. Please be aware of these treatments within our selectively posted areas.

Mechanical Timber Stand Improvement in Burke and Caldwell counties is currently contracted with work to begin later this fall. Undesirable competing tree species in 15-25 year old harvested timber areas will be targeted in order to provide selected oaks, hickories and other species a competitive edge.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control efforts are again underway across the entire area Ranger District. The recent drought in 2007 and into 2008 has hindered this annual project progress and we will be spending extra time while the ground is moist to try and stay ahead of this forest pest at our selected conservation sites.

# Fee Free Day for Veterans & Armed Forces Personnel



November 11, 2008 is a fee free day for all Veterans, members of the Armed Forces and their families for any day use area.

Grandfather District:  
Brown Mountain OHV Area.

## Hunting

### Disabled Hunters Program

The areas are Limekiln in McDowell County and Spencer Branch in Caldwell County. Keys for gun season, November 24 - December 13, can be picked up starting November 20 and keys must be returned by December 19.

Those applying for the disabled hunters access permit must have a disabled hunters license, or the disabled hunters access pass issued by NC Wildlife Resources Commission or a medical certificate completed by their doctor. The keys are available only on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations will be taken. There is also a \$20 deposit that is refunded upon return of the key.

Please remember that ATV's are not permitted on Forest Service lands, except at the Brown Mountain OHV area.

## Timber

**Chestnut Mountain Timber Sale** in Burke and Caldwell counties is to be contracted soon. Log hauling trucks will likely be using Mortimer-Piedmont Road (FSR982) onto State Highway 181 and south down the mountain. Please be extremely careful in these areas.

**Old House Gap Timber Sale** in Avery and Caldwell counties is to be contracted soon. Log hauling trucks will likely be using Roseboro-Gragg Road (FSR192) onto Edgemont Road (SR 1514) and then State Highway and the State Highway 221. Please be extremely careful in these areas.

## Roads

2008 Fall Road Maintenance in McDowell, Burke, Caldwell and Avery counties is underway. Maintenance equipment will be working periodically on most open Forest Service Roads (FSR's) across the entire Ranger District throughout the fall and early winter of 2008. Please watch for our contractors warning signs and be careful in these areas..

*Happy Thanksgiving*



**Fall Colors** fade rapidly this month as the leaves begin to fall and as winter begins to move in. Some areas will still have some color. Places to view this spectacular event are Wiseman's View at the Linville Gorge, the Brown Mountain Overlook on Hwy 181 and Table Rock Mountain on Forest Service Road #99. Colors that can be seen are reds of the gum trees and red maples; golds of the oak and hickorys and yellows of the poplars. The traffic can be heavy at times so be safe and use extra caution. For more information about the fall colors go to the website

<http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/press/fall.htm>