



Outdoor Update


From Lake Toxaway to Asheville – Including Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties


Highlights for the Season


Winter 2008


Winter Schedule for Developed Facilities

- **Pisgah Ranger Station Visitor Center:** Monday – Friday, 8 to 5
- **Campgrounds**
 - **Davidson River:** Open
 - **North Mills River Recreation Area:** Open, without water (half fee)
 - **Lake Powhatan Recreation Area:** Closed until April
 - **Sunburst:** Closed until April
- **Picnic Areas**
 - **Sycamore Flats:** Open with restrooms
 - **North Mills River:** Open (vault toilets only)
 - **Lake Powhatan:** Closed until April
 - **All others:** Open without restrooms

 **Most gravel Forest Service roads in the Pisgah Ranger District will remain open** throughout the year, but can be closed on short notice if hazardous road conditions are caused by ice or snow. If you are planning a trip and inclement weather is predicted, please contact the Ranger Station: 828-877-3266.

 Due to construction at Gorges State Park, there is currently **NO public parking for visitors who are trying to access the Horsepasture River** and waterfalls from NC Highway 281


 **The Grimshaw Mine area, located along NC 281 in Transylvania County, will be closed to all entry** after a Forest Supervisor's order is signed. Recent activities in the area, including digging and excavating, have severely damaged the site. This temporary closure will allow resource specialists to assess the damage, develop a rehabilitation plan and provide for public safety. Please contact Jeff Owenby at the Pisgah Ranger Station (ext 216) with any questions.


 **Alcohol will be prohibited along Avery Creek Road (FS Road 477) in Transylvania County** after a Forest Supervisor's order is signed. With the exception of the White Pines Group Camps, no alcohol will be allowed within 1,000 feet of either side of the roadway.

 **The new footbridge along the Barnett Branch Trail has been completed.** It is located near the southern intersection of the Barnett Branch Trail and the Pink Beds Loop, and allows hikers to pass over any backwaters of the beaver pond downstream.

 **Several campsites have been rebuilt at Lake Powhatan Campground and Davidson River Campground has added electricity to several sites.**

This update is published by the USDA Forest Service, Pisgah Ranger District. If you have any suggestions for improvement or would like more information, please call Jeff Owenby at 828-877-3265 or come by our office at 1600 Pisgah Highway (U.S. 276), Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. For more information about the National Forests in North Carolina visit www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc.

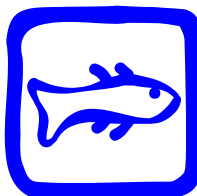
 **The lower portion of *Fletcher Creek Trail* will be temporarily closed** until dredging operations are complete at the Hendersonville Reservoir. Contact the Pisgah Ranger District for trail updates.

 **Firewood collection permits can be purchased year-round.** Permits obtained at the Pisgah Ranger Station can be used only in that district, and other restrictions apply. Contact Pamela Ice-Williams (ext 210) for additional information and to confirm her availability.



Historic Preservation Specialists Work at the *Cradle of Forestry*

A team of National Park Service Employees has been busy working on the Cantrell Lodge near the ***Cradle of Forestry Visitor Center***. They are currently repairing the roofs using methods and materials that will ensure historic and structural integrity. They are scheduled to repair the roofs on the King House and Black Forest Lodge later in the spring.



Fisheries

The Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited has partnered with the Forest Service to create four new river access areas near the ***Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education***. These access points will provide safer access to the river and improve the water quality of the ***Davidson River***.



Camping Reminders

Dispersed camping is ***not*** allowed within 1,000 feet of any road open to public vehicle travel, except at designated, signed roadside campsites.

(Primitive campsites beyond the 1000-foot limit are not designated; please follow *Leave No Trace* practices.) No camping is allowed within the boundary of the ***Bent Creek Experimental Forest*** or in the vicinity of ***Moore Cove Falls***.



A wildfire can happen at any time!

Please exercise caution with all fire—build fires only in grills and fire rings. Be sure your fire is completely out before leaving. Remember, campfires are **NOT** permitted in ***Shining Rock*** or ***Middle Prong Wilderness*** areas.



Wildlife

Hunting in the Forest: In the fall and winter, many people enjoy hunting in the Pisgah Ranger District. All North Carolina state game laws must be obeyed and other trail users in the forest are encouraged to wear orange.



Timber Sales & Road Repair Projects

Case Camp timber sale is currently underway. Log hauling trucks will be using upper Headwaters Road (FSR 475B). Please be careful in this area.

Baldwin Gap timber sale is currently underway. Log hauling trucks will be using Bill Moore Creek Road (NC 3439). Please be careful in this area.