



Outdoor Update



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

December 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, 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

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

 **Seasonal Closings January 1, 2009 - Table Rock Picnic Area.**

Brown Mountain OHV Area will be open until January 5, 2009. Last riding day is January 4, 2009.


They will reopen in the Spring of 2009.

Road closings are:

McDowell County: FR482-Curtis Creek; FR106-Dobson Knob; FR150-Bald Mountain 1st section; Avery County: FR464A-Lost Cove

Caldwell County: FR2055-Boone Fork; FR4096-Carroll Creek; FR198-Big Chestnut Mountain; FR4068-Schoolhouse Ridge

Burke County: FR456-Barkhouse; FR4101-Pearcy Creek; FR228-Steels Creek; FR99-Table Rock; FR496-New Gingercake.

 **The Capitol Christmas Tree Tradition** - Did you know that the custom of placing the Nation's holiday tree on the front lawn of the U.S. Capitol dates back to 1964? Since 1970, the "People's Tree" has come from a National Forest. Each year the honor is rotated to a national forest either "east" or "west" of the Mississippi. The Bitterroot National Forest in Montana has the honor of providing this year's Capitol Holiday Tree. The tree is a 73ft tall Subalpine Fir. The official lighting of the tree in Washington, D.C. was on December 2nd at 5:00 pm by Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

 **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. After hours call 911.**

*****District Office Closings: December 25, 2008 & January 1, 2009**



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.

The event at Curtis Creek campground near Old Fort, NC., on November 1, 2008 included wagon rides, a narrative program about the CCC and their contributions to our National Forest lands, the unveiling of a bronze plaque monument to commemorate the historic site and interpretive exhibits which provided a glimpse into the world of the CCC enrollee. An interpretive walk around the camp was provided at the end of the program. Local partners helped in the planning and implementation of activities.

DID YOU KNOW. (from www.cccalumni.org)

- The CCC restored 3,980 historical structures. There were over 4,500 CCC camps and in every state including Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- Through the efforts of the CCC soil erosion was ultimately arrested on over 20 million acres. They spent 4,827,426 man days surveying and mapping millions of acres and hundreds on lakes. They built 46,854 bridges. The CCC installed approximately 5,000 miles of water supply.
- They improved 3,462 beaches.
- They built 7,622 impounding and large diversion dams.
- They erected 405,037 signs, markers and monuments.
- They developed 6,966 miles of wildlife steams and built 28,087 miles of foot and horse trails, and 8,304 foot and horse bridges.
- They built 32,149 wildlife shelters, 1,865 drinking fountains and 204 lodges and museums. They also built 3,116 lookout towers.
- The CCC built 27,191 miles of fences and 38,550 vehicle bridges. The CCC spent 202,739 man-days fighting coalfires which had been burning since earliest history.

Photos of CCC 75th Anniversary



Bronze Monument at Curtis Creek

Paul Gibbs CCC Member



Root Cellar, built by CCC, at Curtis Creek



Timber

Chestnut Mountain Timber Sale in Burke and Caldwell counties is contracted. Log hauling trucks will 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 contracted. Log hauling trucks will likely be using Roseboro-Gragg Road (FSR192) and Watauga Turnpike (FSR 45) onto Edgemont Road (SR 1514) and then to 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 work 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.

Reminders for Forest Users

Due to reduced workforce we do not have the resources available to pick up trash. If you are using National Forest lands: **PLEASE PACK IT IN – PACK IT OUT, AND TAKE IT HOME.**

**** HUNTING SEASON REMINDER****

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

Silviculture

Mechanical and Chemical Site Preparation in Burke and Caldwell counties is currently contracted with work underway. Undesirable understory vegetation in recently harvested timber areas will be targeted for removal 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 underway. Undesirable competing tree species in 15-25 year old harvested timber areas will be targeted for removal in order to provide selected oaks, hickories and other species a competitive edge.

Forest Product Permits: Firewood

Gathering Permits are issued year around at the Grandfather Ranger District office in Nebo, NC. A minimum permit of \$20.00 for 6 cords (4 ccf or approx. 12 pickup truckloads) must be purchased to gather firewood within the National Forest. Only dead downed (on-the-ground) trees in pieces less than 4 feet in length may be gathered with this permit. Please be aware of the restricted collection areas map provided at our office and always follow safe sawing techniques and practices during collection.

