

# CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

## TITLE 36, CHAPTER 1

### **Compendium** of Designations, Closures, Request Requirements and Other Restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent

The following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of Great Smoky Mountains National Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. These are in accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, are required by Section 1.5(c) and appear in this document in *italicized* print.

Dale Ditmanson /s/ 5/4/07 .  
Approved By: Superintendent Date

William J. Wright /s/ 4/25/07 .  
Recommended By: Chief Ranger Date

Kevin FitzGerald /s/ 5/1/07 .  
Recommended By: Chief of Maintenance Date

Nancy Finley /s/ 4/25/07 .  
Recommended By: Chief of Resource Mgt & Science Date

Lisa Slobodzian /s/ 4/16/07 .  
Revised by: Law Enforcement Specialist Date

Compendium Distribution list (additional copies available by request to Chief Ranger's Office)

**Administration**

Superintendent  
Deputy Superintendent  
Supt. Secretary  
Management Assistant  
Concessions Mgr

Cataloochee  
Cosby  
Deep Creek  
Elkmont  
Look Rock  
Smokemont

**Maintenance**

Chief  
Asst. Chief  
DSC Project Supervisor  
Cades Cove District Office  
North District Office  
South District Office

**Resource Management**

Chief, Res. Mgt. & Science  
Fire Mgt. Office  
Cultural Resources Office  
Fisheries  
Air Quality  
Wildlife  
Vegetation  
Inventory and Monitoring

**Resource and Visitor Protection**

All Commissioned Personnel  
Communications Center  
Secretary x 3  
Staff Park Ranger  
Backcountry Specialist  
Sugarlands Backcountry Office  
VIP Coordinator  
Ranger offices  
    Big Creek  
    Cades Cove  
    Cataloochee  
    Cosby  
    Deep Creek  
    Little River  
    Oconaluftee  
    Twentymile  
All Campground offices (x10)  
    Abrams Creek  
    Balsam Mountain  
    Big Creek  
    Cades Cove

**Resource Education**

Chief  
Staff Park Ranger  
Writer/Visual Info Specialist (i.e. webmaster)  
Cades Cove Visitor Center  
Cades Cove District Supv  
Oconaluftee Visitor Center  
Oconaluftee District Supv  
Sugarlands Visitor Center  
North District Supervisor  
Librarian  
Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center

**Other**

Friends of GSMNP  
NHA Publications Specialist  
Sugarlands NHA book store  
Tremont Institute  
G'burg Welcome Center  
Townsend A Walk in the Park

## **Summary of changes**

The following items have been modified, added or deleted since the last approval (May 2006).

A variety of minor changes, i.e. spelling, formatting, etc. that do not change the meaning of the text have been made and are not recorded here.

### Section 1.5 Closures and public use limits

- Text under (a)(2) relating to designating 'C' loop as generator-free in Cades Cove Campground.
- Text was added under (a)(2) relating to the prohibited use of engines and generators in generator-free areas of campgrounds.
- Text was added under (a)(2) relating to the prohibition of climbing on and or jumping from rock cliffs and rock faces on the Little River at the Townsend Wye.
- Text was added under (a)(2) to better describe a hand-drawn, wheeled cart, based upon the original intent and evidence of expanded use.
- Text was added under (a)(2) prohibiting horse drawn carts on backcountry trails.
- Text was added under (a)(2) which sets a 50 yard distance for approaching bear and elk.

### Section 2.10 Camping and Food Storage

Text was added prohibiting the use of portable shower systems in developed campgrounds.

- Text was added prohibiting the use of portable stalls and corrals in frontcountry developed horse camps.

### Section 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals

- Text was added requiring horses to be cross-tied when no hitchracks are provided.

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## Section 1.5 CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

**Note: See the current Facility Operating Schedule for a listing of opening and closing dates of park facilities.**

### (a)(1) Closures Road closures

The following roads are closed to motor vehicles during **winter months**:

- Balsam Mountain Road
- Clingmans Dome Road
- Heintooga-Roundbottom Road
- Little Greenbrier Road
- Parson Branch Road
- Rich Mountain Road
- Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail

*These roads are closed during the winter months due to weather and road conditions that make them impassable.*

The following roads are closed intermittently due to extreme weather conditions:

- Abrams Creek Campground Road
- Big Greenbrier Road
- Cades Cove Loop Road
- Cataloochee Access Road
- Cherokee Orchard Road
- Cosby Campground Access
- Foothills Parkway-East
- Foothills Parkway-West
- Forge Creek Road
- Gatlinburg By-Pass
- Lakeview Drive
- Laurel Creek Road
- Little River Road
- Newfound Gap Road (aka U.S. 441)
- Upper Tremont Road

*These roads are closed intermittently due to extreme weather conditions such as heavy snow or ice.*

Travel on the Newfound Gap and Little River roads may be restricted at times to vehicles with specific equipment, e.g. 4-wheel drive or vehicles with tire chains, due to weather/road conditions. Restrictions will be posted and enforced pursuant to 36 CFR 4.12.

Uncompleted sections of the **Foothills Parkway-West** between Walland and Wears Valley are closed to motor vehicles except for official use.

*This closure is necessary to protect unsuspecting motorists from the hazards of irregular width, no signage and gravel surface.*

The following roads will be closed daily at official sunset by the closing of access gates:

- Cades Cove Loop Road
- Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail

*These roads are closed at night to allow undisturbed use of the area along the roads by wildlife species. This closure also provides security for irreplaceable historic structures that could not otherwise be afforded such protection.*

**Cades Cove Loop Road** will be closed to motorized vehicles from official sunrise until 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings and Wednesday mornings beginning on the Wednesday preceding the second Saturday in May until the Wednesday preceding the last Saturday in September. This restriction applies to all vehicles except those having official business along the Cades Cove Loop Road.

*The Saturday and Wednesday morning closures of the Cades Cove Loop Road are in response to a large number of requests from the public to have an opportunity to view wildlife, the historic scene and natural beauty of the Cove without the intrusion of motor vehicles.*

Cataloochee Valley Road may be temporarily closed to vehicles on the upper section (i.e. beyond the turn off to the horse camp) as determined by on-site personnel in response to traffic conditions.

*The narrow road is sometimes unable to accommodate the volume of traffic generated by visitors watching elk. Temporary closures are intended to improve traffic flow and safety.*

### Area closures

The following **picnic areas** are closed at 8:00 p.m. from May 1 through August 31 and closed at sunset from September 1 through April 30.

- Cades Cove (open year round)
- Chimney Tops (open year round)
- Collins Creek (closed during the winter months—see current Facility Operating Schedule)

*Wildlife, and especially bears, are adversely impacted by abandoned foodstuffs and garbage. Wild bears in picnic areas obtain food or garbage at night before becoming day active. Once habituated, they often cause property damage or personal injury. This closure assures sufficient daylight to allow picnickers and park personnel to gather up and properly dispose of all food and garbage before darkness falls.*

The collection of **historic structures** adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center and known as the Mountain Farm Museum is closed to public use from official sunset to official sunrise. (This closure does not apply to the Oconaluftee River Trail.)

*This closure is to protect the structures from vandalism.*

### **Trail and Backcountry closures**

The rocky ridge adjacent to the **Alum Cave Bluff area**, commonly known as: "Eye of the Needle", "Little Duck Hawk", and "Raven's Roost" is closed to public access. The closed area is a narrow rocky ledge that runs in a north/south direction. Closure signs will be posted approximately 100 yards from the junction with Alum Cave Trail along a manway leading to the mentioned ridge.

*This closure is to prevent disturbance of nesting Peregrine Falcons. The success of Peregrine Falcons in raising their young is significantly decreased by human disturbances. Successful nesting has been observed.*

**Chimney Tops:** The path commonly known as the "manway" or the "backside of the Chimneys" (located in a north northeast direction between the north side of the North Chimney and the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River) is closed to public use.

*The manway access to/from the Chimney Tops is not an official trail. Public use of this very steep route has resulted in several search and rescue operations, many of which involved the removal of injured persons by litter and one of which involved a fatality. This area is closed to preserve the public health and safety and to preclude resource damage.*

The short path extending along the right (east) side of the south Chimney is also closed to public travel. The closure begins at the intersection of two paths, one of which turns left (west) to ascend the south Chimney and one of which continues north around the east side of the Chimney. The path closed to public travel is that which proceeds northward from the intersection.

*The path in question goes virtually nowhere due to steep terrain and is a safety hazard to the unwary. However, continued use of a short section has trampled vegetation and led to significant erosion. This closure is effected to protect the natural resource and improve public safety.*

*Both of the above closures will be marked by signs. Both closures are marked on a map in Appendix E.*

The summit of **Mt. Le Conte at Cliff Top**--approximately a two-acre area west of Sunset Rock, including the ledges--is closed to public use.

*Public use of this area has resulted in disturbances which threaten the survival of several populations of Federally endangered species.*

### **(a)(2) Public Use Restrictions**

The following **caves and mine shafts** are closed to entry. Entry, under the guidelines of a Resources Activity Permit, for the purpose of conducting scientific investigations may be authorized only by the Superintendent:

- Bull Cave (except from May 15 through August 14)
- Eagle Creek Mines 107 -111
- Gregory's Cave
- Rich Mountain Blow Hole Cave (except from May 15 through August 14)
- Scott Gap Cave (except from May 15 through August 14)
- Snake Dance Cave (except from May 15 through August 14)
- Sugar Fork Mines 101 - 106
- Whiteoak Sink Blow Hole Cave (except from May 15 through August 14)

*These caves are closed due to the presence of high levels of radon gas, hazardous conditions, and/or are critical habitats for threatened or endangered species.*

**Caves** open to entry from May 15 through August 14 and all other non-listed caves may be entered after receiving a Cave Exploration Permit issued at the Cades Cove Ranger Station.

*Permits are issued for entering these caves to ensure only properly equipped and knowledgeable spelunkers enter the caves. The permit also documents the itinerary of the group entering the caves in the event of an accident.*

**Reservations** (via the National Park Reservation Service) are required for the use of the following facilities:

- Twin Creeks Picnic Shelter
- Developed Horse Camps
- Group Camping Areas, including the pavilion at Cades Cove

*Reservations are required because of the high demand for the limited facilities and/or space available.*

Note: Reservations are strongly recommended, and the only way to guarantee access, at the following facilities:

- Picnic pavilions at Collins Creek, Cosby, Deep Creek, Greenbrier, and Metcalf Bottoms.

The possession of **glass containers** is prohibited in all areas of the park where people gather to swim, wade or tube.

*Broken glass on the river bottoms and along the river banks has caused a safety problem for persons wading, swimming and walking along the river.*

The searching of government-owned **refuse containers** and/or the removal of recyclable materials from these containers by persons other than the official collection contractor or authorized NPS staff is prohibited.

*The removal of recyclable materials is contrary to the provisions of the park's refuse collection contract.*

Drivers of commercial passenger-carrying **diesel-fueled motor vehicles** are prohibited from idling their engines in parking lots of developed areas.

*The noise and fumes caused by these engines severely impacts the natural experiences sought by many visitors.*

Those **Brook trout streams** and their tributaries upstream from the points described in Appendix A, are closed to fishing.

*Research indicates that the Brook trout of the Smokies may be a unique genotypic species, worthy of protection status.*

The use of **generators** in park campgrounds is prohibited between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM, except when a waiver has been granted for the powering of medical equipment. Persons who require the use of a generator during quite hours should obtain a waiver from the campground office or by calling ahead.

Generator use is prohibited at all times in campground loops/sites designated as "**generator free**", as follows:

- Cades Cove: All of 'C' loop
- Elkmont loops A,B,L,M,N (generators are allowed in handicapped sites A1 and A2)
- Smokemont: A, B and C loops
- Cosby Campground: A54-64, B1-B21.

Generator use is prohibited in group sites.

Generator waivers should not be granted in generator free areas except at sites designated as accessible sites.

The use of generators and the idling of engines to recharge batteries is strictly prohibited in designated generator-free areas of campgrounds.

*Generator noise is counter to the semi-wilderness atmosphere sought by many campers, especially at certain times of the day or when present for extended periods of time. The lack of discretion displayed by some campers necessitates further restrictions on generators.*

**Jumping or diving from bridges** is prohibited. Loitering is prohibited within 20 feet of the Laurel Creek Road bridge that spans the Middle Prong of Little River.

*Public gatherings in the vicinity of bridges have impeded traffic and created an unreasonable risk of a pedestrian/vehicle accident due to the narrow width of the park roads. Jumping or diving from bridges is prohibited due to the potential hazard of shallow waters and because of the associated hazard on the roadway.*

**Climbing on and or jumping from cliffs and rock faces** of the shoreline of the Little River, one-quarter mile north and one-quarter mile east of the confluence of the Little River and Middle Prong River, in the area of the Townsend Wye, is prohibited

*The Townsend Wye is a heavily used area for many water-related recreational activities. Climbing on and or jumping from the rock faces and cliffs into the Little River is a high-risk activity, and unnecessarily jeopardizes the safety of visitors recreating (swimming, tubing, fishing) in the river below.*

The use of **hand-drawn, wheeled carts** is prohibited on all but the following trails:

- Hazel Creek from Fontana up to campsite #83.
- Noland Creek from Fontana up to campsite #64.
- Forney Creek from Fontana up to campsite #74.

A hand-drawn, wheeled cart is a two-wheeled cart, having tub dimensions no greater than 48"Lx24"Wx18"H. The cart should be easily moved by one person.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

*The use of wheeled vehicles such as carts and bicycles is counter to NPS management policies for proposed wilderness areas. The designated trails are excluded from the proposed wilderness area, as they are designated as administrative roads. Hand-drawn cart use has been allowed on these designated trails for several years, and provides the opportunity for individuals who may not be physically able to carry a heavy pack, to cart-in their equipment for a backcountry camping experience. The maximum size of the hand carts provides sufficient capacity for the equipment needs of the average backcountry camper.*

The use of **horse drawn carts** is prohibited on all backcountry trails.

*Horses are considered a pack animal, have the ability to pack equipment, and can haul a load into the backcountry. Therefore horse drawn carts are not necessary and are prohibited.*

The open display and/or use of **radio telemetry equipment**, e.g. that commonly used to track wildlife and hunting dogs, is prohibited in the park without the prior permission of the Chief Ranger's Office [i.e. a commissioned law enforcement ranger or the communications center], and may only be used to expedite the retrieval of a dog that is believed to be running loose in the park. Persons seeking permission to display or use radio telemetry equipment shall, on a daily basis, provide their name, telephone number and vehicle description as well as a description of the dog/s sought and the area in which the search is to be conducted.

Permission to use this equipment to retrieve a loose dog does not exempt a person from any other regulation or law. Persons with a valid Research Permit are exempted from this requirement.

*Radio telemetry is an efficient method of catching a dog that has entered the park. However, radio telemetry can also be used to track wildlife or to facilitate a hunt by tracking dogs in pursuit of wildlife. This restriction is intended to facilitate the legitimate use of telemetry equipment in the park and to assist law enforcement personnel in distinguishing legitimate from illegal use.*

Willfully approaching within **50 yards of bear or elk, or within any distance that results in their disturbance or displacement**, is prohibited.

*Wild animals have behavior that is often unpredictable. Engaging in any activity which places a person in close proximity to wild animals places the person at risk for injury or death. Wildlife may interpret*

*this human behavior as threatening or aggressive, which in turn jeopardizes the well being of the animal. This restriction does not apply to inadvertent or casual encounters with wildlife in developed areas where foot traffic is normal and routine, e.g. sidewalks and established walkways, campground roads, etc. or in other areas where there is no reasonable alternative travel route.*

The **parking of non-government (private) vehicles** within fenced and or gated park compounds or installations is prohibited. An exception to this prohibition may be granted by the Superintendent or his designee. In these instances, employees would be directed where to park their vehicles within the compound.

*Park compounds are limited in space and vehicle capacity, must provide for repeated ingress and egress by government vehicles, and must provide for the security of government-owned vehicles and property. The parking of private vehicles within these compounds increases vehicle traffic congestion, reduces parking areas for government vehicles, decreases work space within the complex, and presents a potential liability for the government should private vehicles incur damage(s) while parked within the complex.*

## Section 1.6 PERMITS

Pursuant to the provisions of 36 CFR 1.6(f) the following is a compilation of the activities for which a permit is required.

- Cave Exploration Permit 2.1
- Specimen Collection Permit 2.5(a)
- Campground Permit (Developed Campground Fee Receipt) 2.10(a)
- Backcountry Camping Permit 2.10(a)
- Fee Waiver 71.13(d)
- Pet Permit (park residents) 2.15(e)
- Special Event Permit 2.50(a)
- Public Assembly Permit 2.51(a)
- Sale/Distribution of Printed Material 2.52(a)
- Agricultural Permit 2.60(b)
- Memorialization (Scattering of human ashes) 2.62(b)
- Business Operations Permit 5.3
- Commercial Photography Permit 5.5
- Commercial Vehicle Permit 5.6(c)

Permits will be specific in nature to the activity being permitted. In those cases where permit use is frequent a specific permit form has been designed, i.e. backcountry permit, campground fee permit, commercial photography/filming permit. In most other cases a special use permit or letter of authorization will be prepared laying out the specific conditions under which the permitted activity is authorized. In all cases a permit or letter of authorization must be in the permittee's possession at all times and exhibited to any authorized person upon request.

**Recreational Fee Permits** for overnight stays in developed area campgrounds will be issued by a self-registration system, or by visitor contact collection system as posted at the campground entrance. In self-registration campgrounds, the application requirement shall be met by completing the fee collection envelope, inserting the required payment into the envelope, and depositing the envelope in the security container at the registration station. In campgrounds that use a visitor contact collection system, the application requirement will be met by purchasing the permit directly from the ranger collecting the fee or by having made payment through the National Park Reservation Service (NPRS). For group sites, horse camps and picnic shelters that require reservations through the NPRS, the application requirement will be met by purchasing the permit through the NPRS.

(b) **Backcountry permits** will be available at the following locations:

Visitor Centers

- Oconaluftee
- Sugarlands

Ranger Stations

- Abrams Creek
- Big Creek
- Cades Cove
- Cataloochee
- Greenbrier
- Twentymile

Campgrounds

- Abrams Creek
- Cosby
- Deep Creek
- Elkmont
- Smokemont

Appalachian Trail

- Fontana Boat Dock, NC (TVA) near the restrooms
- Fontana Dam Visitor Center, NC (TVA)

- Hot Springs, NC (USFS)

Other

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

**Section 2.1**

**PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

(a)(2) For informational purposes: Bringing firewood into the park from other areas is not a violation of park regulations but is discouraged because of the concern with introduction of exotic pests. However, the USDA has quarantined firewood from portions of Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Indiana and Ohio. The USDA quarantine will be enforced in the park. The importation of the gypsy moth is also a special concern. Visitors are encouraged to abide by relevant USDA recommendations found at

<<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/factsheets.html>>.

(a)(4) Gathering and possession of **dead and down wood** is permitted in all areas, provided such wood is collected as fuel for campfires within the park and will be burned in a designated fire ring.

*Collecting only dead and down wood is specified so that living materials are not unnecessarily destroyed.*

(a)(5) Public entry to any **historic building or structure**, or part thereof, is permitted, provided the building is open to normal public access.

(c)(1) The following **fruits, berries, nuts** and fruiting bodies of certain **mushrooms** may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption (commercial use is prohibited):

- Blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.)
- Strawberries (*Fragaria virginiana*)
- Blackberries (*Rubus* spp.)
- Grapes (*Vitis* spp.)
- Elderberries (*Sambucus pubens*)
- Gooseberries/Currants (*Ribes* spp.)
- Black raspberries (*Rubus occidentalis*)
- Huckleberries (*Gaylussacia* spp.)
- Cherries (*Prunus* spp.)
- Serviceberries (*Amelanchier laevis*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Mushrooms (only edible species)
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- Hickories (*Carya* sp.)
- American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

- Apples, pears, and peaches
- Red Mulberries (*M. rubra* L.)

(c)(2)(i) The amount of fruits, berries, nuts and fruiting bodies of mushrooms, that are authorized for collection, shall not exceed 1 pound per person per day for each species, except for apples, pears and peaches.

*The unrestricted collection of native fruits, berries, nuts and fruiting bodies could adversely impact plant propagation and/or wildlife food sources.*

(c)(2)(i) Persons gathering edible fruits and nuts are prohibited from climbing trees, using stools or ladders.

*The use of these methods are restricted to protect the vegetation from undue damage (i.e., broken branches, etc.), and allow sufficient supplies of food for wildlife species.*

(c)(2)(ii) The gathering of designated fruits, berries, nuts, and mushrooms, is prohibited within 200 feet of nature trails, motor nature trails, handicapped accessible trails and scientific and natural study areas.

*Gathering fruits, berries, nuts and mushrooms near nature trails, where visitors view nature, would irreversibly impact the natural scene. Gathering near research areas could negatively impact research results.*

The collection of **ramps** is not allowed under 36 CFR or 16 USC. The exception contained in prior compendiums is terminated.

## Section 2.2 WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(d) **Game animals** lawfully taken outside of Great Smoky Mountains may be **transported by vehicle** through the park using the following roads:

- Any paved section of the Foothills Parkway.
- Newfound Gap Road from Cherokee Indian Reservation boundary to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, or to U. S. 441 by way of the Bypass.
- Tow String Road from Newfound Gap Road to Cherokee Indian Reservation boundary.
- U. S. Forest Service Road 288 within park boundary.
- Old NC 284 from U. S. Forest Service Road 288 North to park boundary.
- U. S. 441 between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

Wildlife taken lawfully outside the park, may be transported through the park on the above approved routes under the following conditions:

- Persons transporting will have in their possession a valid State/Tribal hunting license.
- Animal carcasses will display a valid State/Tribal game tag when required and will have been checked through a State/Tribal checking station.
- Animal carcasses must be covered or out of sight.
- Animal carcasses will be subject to inspection at any time by an authorized person.

The carcasses of animals legally taken adjacent to the Foothills Parkway outside of the Parkway boundary may not be transported on or across the Parkway without first contacting the communication center in the Headquarters building in Gatlinburg, TN.

*The park does not wish to impede those hunting legally in jurisdictions outside the park, nor the transportation of legally taken game. However, the transportation of game through the park, an area closed to hunting, has elicited visitor complaints and could cause confusion with the park's hunting regulations.*

(e) The **viewing of wildlife** or areas frequented by wildlife by using a **hand-held light or vehicle headlight** or any other type of mounted light within the park is prohibited.

*The viewing of wildlife at night with the use of artificial lights temporarily blinds the animals, causing them to become unnaturally easy prey for predators.*

## Section 2.3 FISHING

See Section 1.5 and Appendix A for stream closures. See section 7.14 for reference to dropper flies, license exemptions and use of scented baits.

## Section 2.5 RESEARCH SPECIMENS

Pursuant to the authority found in 36 CFR 2.5, the Superintendent may issue permits for the collection of plants, fish, wildlife, rocks and minerals for research purposes according to general and park-specific conditions established by the National Park Service for scientific

research and collecting permits. These conditions are found online at <http://science.nature.nps.gov/research> and are subject to revision. The guidelines found at that web site are hereby adopted and made a part of these orders.

## Section 2.10 CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a) Camping is prohibited in areas being restored or revegetated and so posted, pursuant to 36 CFR 1.7(a).

*Restoration efforts are compromised by camping activities.*

Camping in any **historic structure** or building is prohibited.

*Historic structures are fragile and need protection from any activity that could adversely impact the structure or degrade the historic scene.*

### Frontcountry camping

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds are designated on a map located in the office of the park Superintendent, by appropriate signing, and by brochures available to the public at ranger stations and visitor centers.

**Stay limits:** No person or their equipment shall occupy a campground for more than (7) seven consecutive days from May 15 through October 31, or 14 consecutive days from November 1 through May 14.

An extension of the above seven day limit of stay may be obtained at the campground kiosk, not to exceed a total consecutive stay of more than 14 days. Such extensions shall be made on a case by case basis, one day at a time, and shall be based upon anticipated vacancies.

**Fees:** Camping fees, where applicable, are due upon occupying a campsite. Sites for which required fees are not paid will be considered unoccupied and available for use.

**Vehicle limits:** No more than two (2) motor vehicles or one vehicle with trailer are allowed per campsite. Vehicle(s) and wheeled camping units must be parked on pavement or a designated parking area.

**Camping structure limits:** Camping structures must be placed on the tent pad, where a pad is provided. One additional camping structure may be placed off the tent pad on the hardened/impacted area around the picnic table. The intent is to allow those structures which provide overhead

protection from weather or protection from insects. All camping structures must be erected within the foot print of the campsite's impacted and hardened area. At those campsites without tent pads, camping structures must be located within the existing impacted/hardened foot print of the campsite. Campers wishing to use additional structures should consider renting two campsites or a group site. (Group sites may be occupied by a minimum of seven (7) persons.)

Tarps, para wings, and wings: Their use is permitted as long as they do not impact, injure or damage park resources by their deployment. They are not considered camping structures.

The combined use of **portable structures and water-holding containers** for the purpose of showering within developed campgrounds is prohibited. Such equipment includes but is not limited to sun showers, shower shelters and rooms, privacy shelters, porta-showers, and shower systems.

*The use of portable shower systems within developed campgrounds presents a sanitation issue, since portable shower systems do not provide for the proper collection and disposal of grey water.*

**Size limitations:** No one camping structure shall exceed a maximum size of 170 square feet. Any one tarp, para wing, or wing may not exceed 625 square feet.

Motorhomes and camping trailers are prohibited in group campgrounds. Pickup mounted campers are permitted only as transportation / storage vehicles, i.e. campers cannot be used for lodging.

*Group campgrounds are intended to provide for a primitive camping experience by larger groups, particularly youth groups. RVs are inconsistent with that experience. Parking space is also limited.*

**Occupancy limits:** Occupancy of developed campgrounds is limited to one (1) immediate family or six (6) persons per family campsite. **Group sites** may be occupied by a minimum of seven (7) persons; maximum occupancy is site specific and shown in the current Facility Operating Schedule.

### Miscellaneous

Tents shall be placed on tent pads where provided.

Entry and occupancy of developed campgrounds is restricted to registered campers and vehicles between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

When the "NO VACANCY" or "FULL" sign is erected at developed campgrounds on the reservation system, camping is limited to reservation holders only.

The **pavilion** in the Cades Cove group camp is closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Sleeping and camping is permitted in the group site but not within the pavilion.

Tent camping by students and chaperones is permitted at the **Great Smoky Mountains Institute** (Tremont) between June and August as part of a formal Institute program teaching Leave No Trace principles.

*This is a short term seasonal educational program restricted to the grounds of the Institute.*

Tent camping by education groups and researchers is permitted at the **Purchase Knob Learning Center** as part of the park's science education program. Prior approval must be obtained from the Learning Center staff.

*Lodging facilities at the site are inadequate for the numbers of people involved in the program. Until such time as facilities can be developed, limited tent camping will be permitted.*

(b)(4) See section 1.5 regarding **generator use** restrictions.

Sites may not be unattended for more than 24 hours.

### **Frontcountry Developed Horse Camps:**

Parties using developed horse camps must have at least one horse with them.

Reservations through the National Park Reservation Service are required for the use of developed horse camps.

Length of stay shall not exceed seven (7) consecutive nights.

Horses must be restrained or under physical control at all times. Horses shall not be tied to trees. Provided stalls or hitchracks must be used. Portable stalls and corrals are prohibited in frontcountry developed horse camps.

*The use of portable stalls or corrals would create disturbances (mud holes) within the designated sites, that would require some time to recover and rehabilitate. Allowing the use of portable stalls and corrals that could be repositioned many times has the potential to create a very large disturbed area.*

### **Backcountry Camping:**

**Permit:** A backcountry permit is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The permit must be in the camper's possession while in the backcountry and must be exhibited upon the demand of an authorized person.

*Backcountry permits and the permit system aid the park in distributing and monitoring use and in locating lost/overdue persons.*

**Stay limits:** Persons may not stay more than three (3) nights in a row at any backcountry campsite or more than one (1) night in a row at any backcountry designated shelter. Persons may not stay more than 30 consecutive days in the backcountry or 60 days total in a one year period.

*Stay limits at backcountry sites are imposed to minimize the impacts associated with longer-term use and/or to offer additional persons the opportunity to use high-demand sites.*

**Party size:** Backcountry camping parties are limited to a maximum of eight (8) persons. At designated backcountry sites where stock are permitted, the number of animals in any one party is limited to one per person plus one stock animal per person, but shall not exceed a total of ten (10) animals from the same group. For the purpose of this use limit, a party is defined as people and their associated horses/pack animals from the same group who travel together and/or assemble together each night at a common backcountry campsite or shelter. A group is defined as people and their associated horses/pack animals who come from the same organization, come from a common location and/or who otherwise assemble at the park for the purpose of camping *together* in the backcountry.

Groups which exceed eight persons and ten horses or pack animals must divide into two or more camping parties. The number of people and horses/pack animals from the same group who stay at a campsite on any single night cannot exceed eight people and ten horses/pack animals, regardless of the number of parties into which the group is divided.

*This limitation is intended to preserve the tranquility of the wilderness setting. Groups larger than eight tend to develop more social interaction than are found in smaller groups. The social noise and commotion is disturbing to other visitors and detracts from the wilderness experience of those within the group. LEAVE-NO-TRACE principle #1 recommends group sizes of 4 - 6 people in backcountry areas. Larger groups also generate the need for larger fires resulting in greater impacts to natural resources*

**Reservations** obtained from the Backcountry Reservations Office are required for backcountry shelters and campsites which are designated as "rationed". Rationed sites are limited to a specific number of persons and/or horses that may occupy a given site on a given night. The rationed campsites and shelters and their capacities are listed below:

### Rationed Backcountry Campsites And Shelters

9	Anthony Creek	(12)
10	Ledbetter Ridge	(8)
13	Sheep Pen Gap	(15, 8H)
23	Camp Rock	(12)
24	Rough Creek	(15)
29	Otter Creek	(10)
36	Upr. Walnut Bottoms	(20, 20H)
37	Lwr. Walnut Bottoms	(20)
38	Mount Sterling	(12)
47	Enloe Creek	(8)
50	Lwr. Chasteen Creek	(15, 15H)
55	Pole Road	(15, 15H)
57	Bryson Place	(20, 12H)
61	Bald Creek	(12, 6H)
71	CCC Camp	(12, 12H)
83	Bone Valley	(20, 10H)
113	Birch Spring Gap	(12, 12H)

### SHELTERS

Davenport Gap	(12, 12H)
Cosby Knob	(12, 12H)
Tricorner Knob	(12, 12H)
Pecks Corner	(12, 12H)
Icewater Spring	(12)
Mount Collins	(12)
Double Spring Gap	(12)
Silers Bald	(12, 12H)
Derrick Knob	(12)
Spence Field	(12, 12H)
Russell Field	(14, 14H)
Mollies Ridge	(12, 12H)
Mt. Le Conte	(12)
Kephart	(14, 14H)
Laurel Gap	(14, 14H)

*Reservations are required because of the high demand for the limited space available.*

The use of tents at shelters is prohibited except by persons qualifying as **thru-hikers** on the Appalachian Trail (by definition an Appalachian thru-hiker is a backpacker who is using the Appalachian Trail exclusively while in the park and whose trip begins and ends a minimum of fifty miles outside the park). Thru-hikers may pitch tents outside shelters only when all bunks are otherwise occupied.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

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*It is unrealistic to expect thru-hikers to obtain advance reservations when they do not know when they will be entering the park.*

*Note: A Compendium of Orders for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail sets forth additional restrictions which apply to specific sections of the A.T. outside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For information, contact the Appalachian National Scenic Trail office in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.*

### Crosscountry camping

Camping in the backcountry is permitted only at established backcountry sites, except as authorized by a cross-country permit. Cross-country permits may not be self-issued and must be approved by a Resource and Visitor Protection Division employee. Cross-country camping (at other than designated sites) is permitted under the following conditions:

- The maximum party size is four persons. The use of horses or other stock is prohibited.
- The campsite must be at least one-half mile from any designated trail, one mile from any designated road and 100 feet from the nearest surface water.
- Camping in spruce-fir, beech gaps or on grassy or heath balds is prohibited.
- The duration of stay at each location cannot exceed one night and the same location cannot be used a second time on the same trip.
- Wood fires are prohibited.
- Campers are required to obliterate all traces of human presence upon leaving a cross-country camp.
- Camping locations for each night should be as closely pinpointed as possible using natural landmarks or map coordinates and so noted on the permit. Trips are expected to follow the designated itinerary as closely as possible.

*Cross-country hiking is a special use and requires special equipment, training and/or experience. These regulations are an attempt to permit this special use, while minimizing the potential impact on natural resources.*

(b)(3) Camping within 100 feet of a flowing **stream**, river or body of water is permitted only at designated front and backcountry campsites.

*Camping within 100 ft. of water normally increases erosion and sanitation problems in water sources.*

## Food Storage

(d) Food storage requirements apply to all areas within the park boundary.

In locations where cable systems are provided for storage of food and garbage, such facilities must be used at night and when the camp is unattended. This requirement also applies to shelters. When cable systems are full, 36 CFR 2.10 (d) applies.

*Food scents attract animals. Animals which gain access to human food sources tend to return to those sources and may cause property damage or injury. Subsequent behavior problems often necessitate the removal or destruction of an animal.*

## Section 2.11 PICNICKING

Picnicking by groups of 15 or fewer persons shall be allowed in all areas except:

- Within 100 feet of:
- structures or areas considered to be cultural or archeological resources
- research sites
- maintenance or administrative compounds
- government owned housing (except by the current occupant)
- When the activity would interfere with normal agency functions or visitor use activities already in progress.
- In those areas posted as closed to picnicking.

Picnicking shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations in regard to open fires, food storage and sanitation.

Picnicking by groups of more than 15 people may be considered an event and shall require a Special Use Permit unless done in a designated picnic area.

*Picnicking is restricted from those areas that would adversely impact the historic scene or interfere with the operations of the park. Large groups present potential problems with litter, parking and resource damage and for that reason group events will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

The “holding” or “reserving” of additional picnicking sites and or tables, within designated picnic areas, for

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

other individuals, is prohibited. Large groups should consider using picnic shelters available by reservation.

*The use of picnic sites and tables within designated picnic areas of the park are based on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals may not “hold” sites or tables for individuals or groups who are not on-site, when other picnickers have a desire to use the site or table. Large groups should consider using picnic shelters wherein reservations insure space availability.*

## Section 2.13 FIRES

(a)(1) The kindling of a fire in the fireplace of any historic building or structure is prohibited.

In frontcountry campgrounds and picnic areas fires must be kindled in provided grates, grills or within existing fire rings.

The use of **portable stoves, including charcoal burners**, is prohibited in frontcountry areas except in picnic areas and campgrounds.

In backcountry areas, fires must be kindled within existing and established fire rings located at the designated backcountry campsites.

At backcountry shelters, fires are permitted only in the fireplace inside the shelter and at the central, metal fire ring in front of the shelter. Where no metal fire ring exists, fires are permitted only in the fireplace. At the Le Conte shelter, fires are prohibited altogether.

*Fires are prohibited in structures to protect those resources. Fires or stoves are prohibited in other areas to reduce litter and ash, minimize wildlife problems associated with food odors or residue and/or to reduce resource impacts from firewood gathering.*

(c) The Superintendent may close all or part of the park to fires, except stoves, when the conditions meet the guidelines identified in the "Fire Management Plan" for Great Smoky Mountains National Park as staffing class four (4) or five (5). That plan is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. Closure notices will be posted at trailheads, campgrounds, visitor centers and through media notification.

*The use of open fires in the park is regulated to protect human life, structures and natural resources. During extreme weather conditions, open-pit fires may be restricted to preclude the accidental ignition of wildfires.*

## Section 2.14 SANITATION AND REFUSE

In non-developed areas more than a quarter of a mile from restroom facilities, **human body waste** must be buried four (4) to six (6) inches deep in organic soil in an area not frequented by the public, not visible from trails, campsites or developed areas, and at least 100 feet from any water source.

During the winter when organic soil is not exposed, solid human body waste must be buried 100 yards from any campsite or established travel route to a depth of 12 inches in snow whenever possible.

*These regulations minimize the contamination of water supplies, minimize the presence of unsanitary conditions and preserve site aesthetics.*

## Section 2.15 PETS

(a)(1) Dogs (except guide, search and hearing ear dogs), cats, and other pets, are prohibited on any park land or trail except in those locations identified below:

- All park roads, including those seasonally closed for public vehicular use, parking areas, established picnic areas, and frontcountry campgrounds including group and frontcountry horse campsites, as well as the two-mile trail from park headquarters to Gatlinburg and the two-mile trail between Cherokee and the Oconaluftee Visitor Center. Pets must be on a **leash** not to exceed 6 feet in length.

*For informational purposes: Guidance on service animals can be found in DO-42 and the Director's memo dated 9/5/02 and titled "Use of Service Animals by Persons with Disabilities in the National Park System."*

(a)(3) Leaving a pet **unattended** and tied to an object is prohibited, except in developed camping facilities while the owners are away from the campsite for a short period of time. Under no circumstances will a pet be left unattended overnight.

(a)(5) Pet **excrement** must be immediately collected by the pet handler and disposed of in the nearest trash receptacle.

*These regulations are not intended to restrict pets from the park but rather to enhance the natural experience of all visitors. Pets are natural predators and their scent alone will scare wild animals into hiding places.*

(e) Pets kept by **residents of the park** will be maintained consistent with the provisions of this section and in accordance with provisions established in the park's Housing Management Plan.

## Section 2.16 HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

### Coggins test

For informational purposes: Pursuant to both North Carolina and Tennessee state law, all equine brought to or kept at any park horse camp or ridden on any park trail shall be accompanied by either the original or a copy of an official negative test for equine infectious anemia (EIA) (aka "Coggins test") administered within the previous 12 months. Proof of such test must be provided upon request.

*Both North Carolina and Tennessee state law requires this test. They also impose liability for non-compliance.*

Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are designated as pack animals.

(b) **Designated Trails:** The official list of "trails, routes or areas designated for [horse] use" is contained in appendix D of the current Backcountry Management Plan. The *current* (i.e. most recent) version of the Trail Map is considered an official but incomplete list because it does not show some trails listed in the Backcountry Management Plan. As a rule of thumb, the use of saddle and pack animals is permitted on official park trails except in the following areas:

- Nature Trails and Quiet Walkways
- Handicapped Access Trails
- Paved Trails
- Designated foot trails as listed in Appendix B

Private horse use is permitted **on trails assigned for horse concession use**, including those that are concessionaire-maintained, except that the following Smokemont riding stable trails are closed to private horse use during the concession operating season:

- The Smokemont Stables Trail
- The connector trail between the Towstring Horse Trail and the Smokemont Stables Trail.

Deep Creek Trail is closed to horse use from the Deep Creek Trailhead to the Indian Creek/Deep Creek Junction.

(c) **Designated roads:** The use of saddle and pack animals on park roads is prohibited except as follows:

- Paved portion of Cataloochee access road between the Ranger Station and the access road bridge
- NC 284 north of the wye-intersection
- Old Cataloochee access road
- Cataloochee Valley Road west of Palmer Creek bridge
- Parson Branch Road, after 6 p.m. and before 10 a.m. and when closed for the season.
- Schoolhouse Gap parking area to Bote Mountain Trailhead.
- Big Creek Access Road from North Carolina 284 to Big Creek Horse Camp.
- Heintooga-Roundbottom Road from the Palmer Creek Trailhead to the Enloe Creek Trailhead.
- Uncompleted sections of the Foothills Parkway-West that are not yet open to motor vehicle traffic may be used by riders except that, when construction work is underway, access gates will be closed and all public entry will be prohibited to ensure public safety.
- The Cades Cove picnic area roadway when en route to or from the Anthony Creek trailhead, provided that riders must dismount and lead their horses and must immediately remove to a trash container any horse excrement dropped en route.

The use of saddle and pack animals is allowed on the following roads when they are closed to motor vehicle traffic for the season:

- Balsam Mountain Road
- Forge Creek Road
- Heintooga-Roundbottom Road
- Parson Branch Road
- Rich Mountain Road
- Upper Tremont Road

(g) Horses must be tied to **hitchracks** at backcountry locations where they are provided. In campsites with no hitchracks, horses must be cross-tied so they cannot chew on or otherwise damage trees or other vegetation. Tying of horses and pack animals is not permitted within 100 feet of established backcountry campsites, fire rings, shelters, or

sleeping areas in the backcountry, or within 100 feet from any stream or water source.

Horses are not permitted within one hundred feet of frontcountry campsites, except at developed horse camps.

**Party size:** At designated backcountry sites where stock are permitted, the number of animals in any one party is limited to one per person plus one stock animal per person, but shall not exceed a total of ten (10) animals.

In an area without hitch posts or stalls, pack animals **MUST** be tied on a **cross-tie system**. If picket stakes for the cross-tie system are not available, a tree of no less than eight (8) inches in diameter should be utilized.

Stock are hereby restricted from stopping, standing, or travelling across or adjacent to any **water spring**.

*Stock are restricted from water springs to prevent contamination. Springs do not normally have the water volume necessary to cleanse themselves. It is recommended that pack animals be watered with the use of a container.*

**Manure scattering:** In backcountry areas with hitch racks or stalls, any manure shall be scattered no less than 100 feet from any campsite area before departing the area. In developed horse camps, all manure shall be moved from the stall and hitch rack areas to a designated collection area.

At trailheads, any manure spilled from the trailering unit and any fresh excrement must be replaced in the trailering unit.

*This is necessary to prevent the introduction of exotic plant seeds into the park.*

**Feed:** In the backcountry, the use of loose hay or grain containing viable seeds is prohibited. Stock users are required to carry supplemental feed such as pellets, rolled grains, or dehydrated alfalfa cubes on all trips.

**Unloading; trailer parking:** Stock will not be unloaded nor shall trailer units be parked in the Deep Creek trailhead parking area. The designated parking and unloading area for stock must be used at the Noland Divide Trailhead.

Stock will not be unloaded nor shall trailer units be parked in the Smokemont Church parking areas. The designated parking and unloading area for stock at Tow String must be used.

Stock will not be unloaded nor shall trailer units be parked in the parking areas at the entrance to the Cades Cove loop

road or adjacent to the campground store. A trailer parking and stock unloading area is provided at the entrance to the Cades Cove horse concession.

## **Section 2.21 SMOKING**

(a) All public buildings are closed to smoking except those areas designated open in accordance with Great Smoky Mountains National Park Smoking Policy. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

Smoking is prohibited in all historic structures.

## **Section 2.22 PROPERTY**

For information only: Items found in violation of 36 CFR 2.10(d) are considered to interfere with visitor safety and present a threat to park resources. As such, they may be impounded under 36 CFR 2.22 (b)(2) by campground employees, campground VIPs or wildlife management staff.

(2) Motor vehicles may be left at trailheads while the vehicle operator is using the park backcountry. Boats may be left at water access trailheads while the boat operator is using the park backcountry.

*Except for vehicles/vessels left while the operator is in the backcountry on an overnight hike, there should be no reason for objects to be unattended for more than 24 hours.*

## **Section 2.35 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

(a)(3)(i) The possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage and/or the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which has been partially removed is prohibited. This alcohol prohibition includes all park areas within the park boundary except: government owned housing, overnight lodging facilities, designated picnic areas, and frontcountry and backcountry campgrounds and shelters as identified in the current Great Smoky Mountains Trail Map, the official Great Smoky Mountains folder, and the current park newspaper. The Superintendent may authorize the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages as part of a special event.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

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## **Section 2.51 PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES**

(e) The following areas are designated for public assemblies or meetings. Detail maps of most areas are included in appendix C and will be furnished upon request and/or with a permit. Additional areas will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the regulation.

- Abrams Creek - Field next to Ranger Station adjacent to day use parking. (limited locations, see map)
- Balsam Mountain - Grassy area in Balsam Mountain picnic area parking area.
- Big Creek - Parking area near Picnic Area.
- Cades Cove - Grass area between the Ranger station/store parking area and campground
- Cataloochee - Lawn area adjacent to the west side of the Ranger Station.
- Cherokee Orchard - Alternate Rainbow Falls parking lot
- Cosby - Parking lot adjacent to campground kiosk. Partition off parking spaces to accommodate expected turnout.
- Deep Creek - Lawn area across road from Ranger Office
- Foothills Parkway - Parking lot at entrance to Look Rock Campground
- Headquarters - Front lawn area
- Oconaluftee - Lawn area south of visitor center
- Sugarlands Visitor Center - Extreme west parking lot and/or sidewalk and lawn area in front of Visitor Center.
- Tremont - Environmental Center Parking Lot
- All campground amphitheaters, provided that no conflict exists with scheduled park programs.

*The use of these areas minimizes impacts to the natural and historic scene, to resources, and to activities and public enjoyment of the park.*

## **Section 2.52 SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIAL**

(c)(3) The number of individuals selling or distributing printed material is limited to no more than three (3) within a designated area at one time.

(e) The following areas are designated for the sale and distribution of printed material. Detail maps of specific areas are included in appendix D and will be furnished upon request and/or with a permit. Additional areas will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the regulation.

- Cades Cove Ranger Station
- Clingmans Dome
- Newfound Gap
- Oconaluftee Visitor Center
- Sugarlands Visitor Center

*The use of these areas minimizes impacts to the natural and historic scene, to resources, and to activities and public enjoyment of the park.*

## Section 2.62 MEMORIALIZATION

(b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation will be permitted pursuant to a permit issued by the park and pursuant to the following conditions:

- The chosen site must be no less than 300 feet from any buildings or historic sites, including historic structures and cemeteries.
- The chosen site must be no less than 150 feet away from any other developed area, e.g. roads, trails, campgrounds and picnic areas.
- The chosen site must be no less than 150 feet from a stream or other watercourse.
- The ashes must be scattered and not deposited in any type of container. Remains may not be buried even without a container.
- No marker or memorial of any sort may be placed or left at the site. The placement or planting of real or artificial flowers, memorial trees, brass markers, wooden crosses, etc. is prohibited.
- A copy of the permit must accompany the person performing the scattering.
- Cremation must be accomplished in accordance with state law.

## Section 4.11 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

For informational purposes: Vehicles which are not manufactured for street use and which do not meet applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards (e.g. golf carts and ATV's) are prohibited on park roads. When there is doubt about the status of a motor vehicle, it shall be the

obligation of the owner to provide documentation from the manufacturer that the vehicle meets federal motor vehicle safety standards. Generally, that can be confirmed by stickers on the vehicle or text in the owners manual, or by checking tires for "Not for Highway Use" text.

*The licensing of off-road vehicles by some jurisdictions has created confusion about which vehicles are allowed on public roads.*

Except by permit, motor homes, buses and vans longer than 15 feet, as well as any passenger vehicles towing a trailer, are prohibited on the following roads:

- Chimneys Picnic Area
- Elkmont Road above the campground
- Heintooga Road
- Little Greenbrier
- Parson Branch Road
- Rich Mountain Road
- Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail
- Tom's Branch Road
- Twin Creeks

*Large vehicles find it difficult to negotiate these narrow winding roads in combination with their steep grades. Some vehicles will find them impassible while others would severely restrict the flow of traffic.*

## Section 4.30 BICYCLES

(a) The following routes are designated for non-motorized bicycle use.

### Park Headquarters

- The Gatlinburg Trail between the park Headquarters building and Gatlinburg. (1.9 miles)

### Oconaluftee

- The Oconaluftee River Trail between the Oconaluftee Visitor Center and the town of Cherokee. (1.6 miles)

### Deep Creek Area

- That portion of the graveled road now existing from the trailhead to the end of the gravel on the:
- Indian Creek Trail (2.9 miles)
- Deep Creek Trail (1.4 miles)

### Foothills Parkway-West

- Uncompleted sections of the Foothills Parkway-West that are not yet open to motor vehicle traffic may be used by bicyclists;

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

except that, when construction work is underway, access gates will be closed and all public entry will be prohibited to ensure public safety.

Non-motorized bicycles may travel year-round on the following seasonally closed roads:

- Balsam Mountain Road
- Clingmans Dome Road
- Forge Creek Road
- Heintooga-Roundbottom Road
- Little Greenbrier Road
- Parson Branch Road
- Rich Mountain Road
- Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail
- Upper Tremont Road

### Section 4.31 HITCHHIKING

For the purpose of hiking a park trail, hitchhiking is permitted to obtain transportation back to one's vehicle or from one's vehicle to a trail entry point. Hitchhiking is also permitted to obtain assistance for a disabled vehicle. It shall not be permitted where it creates a traffic hazard.

*Many park trails do not loop back to their beginning point but come out some distance from the original entry point. Soliciting a ride for short distances has been an accepted practice for many years without any complaint or history of problems.*

### Section 5.6 COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

For informational purposes: Passenger-carrying motor vehicles (busses, taxis, etc.) are not specifically prohibited at GSMNP by 36 CFR 5.4. In addition, regulation under 36 CFR 5.3 is made difficult in the absence of entrance stations. Until such time as a Commercial Services Plan is developed and implemented or guidelines are developed to regulate such vehicles under an Incidental Business Permit, passenger-carrying motor vehicles such as busses and taxis are exempt from 36 CFR 5.6. Passenger-carrying motor vehicles engaged in other business or which are providing a service in addition to simple transportation, e.g. delivering tubers to a put in point on a river or delivering hikers and a guide to a trailhead, remain prohibited under §5.3 and/or §5.6.

### Section 7.14

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfrv1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfrv1_05.html)

### GSMNP (Fishing)

For informational purposes:

- In order to avoid confusion, the park will recognize the most liberal of North Carolina and Tennessee state regulations with regard to the minimum age required for a fishing license. As of 2004, the **minimum age requirement** is 16 years of age as specified in the North Carolina law.
- A license is not required anywhere in the park on Free Fishing Days. Check current state regulations for the specific days declared by each state.
- A license is not required of a person on military leave and carrying a copy of their leave papers. (Pursuant to TN regulations.)

(a)(6)(i) The use of a dropper fly having a single hook attached by  $\geq 12$  inches of line to a legal lure is permissible. The fly may be attached by a piece of line to the leader or tied to the hook of the fly that is tied to the leader.

*The use a dropper fly is consistent with both Tennessee and North Carolina game regulations and with 36 CFR 7.14 (a)(6)(i).*

(a)(6)(ii) For informational purposes: A **chemical, liquid or aerosol product** intended as a scented attractant, and any tackle manufactured with an impregnated scent, is considered "fish bait other than artificial flies or lures" and is therefore prohibited.

## Appendix A: Closed and Excluded Waters

The waters of Mingus Creek and Lands Creek will no longer be closed to fishing because they are no longer public water supplies. These waters will be opened under the Superintendent's Experimental authority 7.14(a)(9).

All streams previously listed within the Superintendent's Compendium as closed to fishing for brook trout **or** opened as an experimental brook trout fishery are now open to fishing under 36 CFR 1.5 and 36 CFR 7.14(a)(3)(ii).

The following streams and their tributaries upstream from the points described are closed to fishing in order that native brook trout can be protected, ***while the populations are being restored.*** For exact location, consult the appropriate USGS 1:24,000 Quadrangle Map available at all park visitor centers.

### NORTH CAROLINA

1. Bear Creek upstream of the Bear Creek trail crossing at 1,840' elevation.

### TENNESSEE

1. Sams Cr. at the confluence with Thunderhead Prong.
2. Indian Flats Prong where the Middle Prong Trail crosses at 2960'.

## Appendix B: Designated Foot Trails

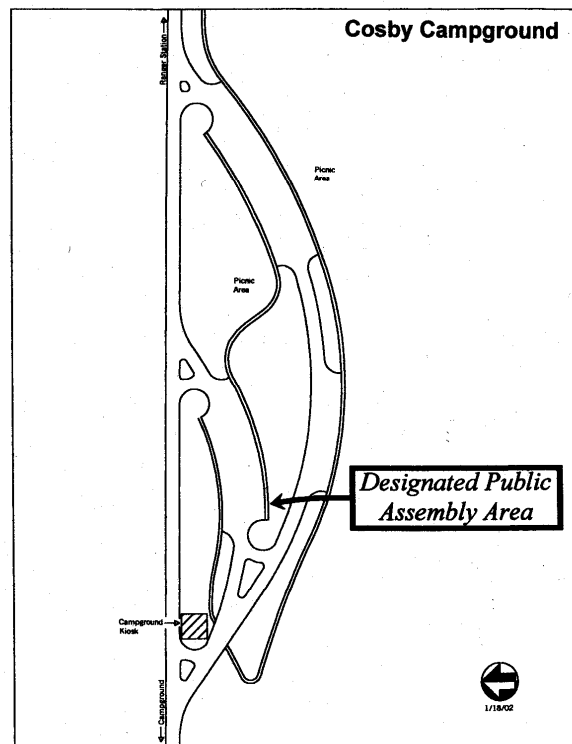
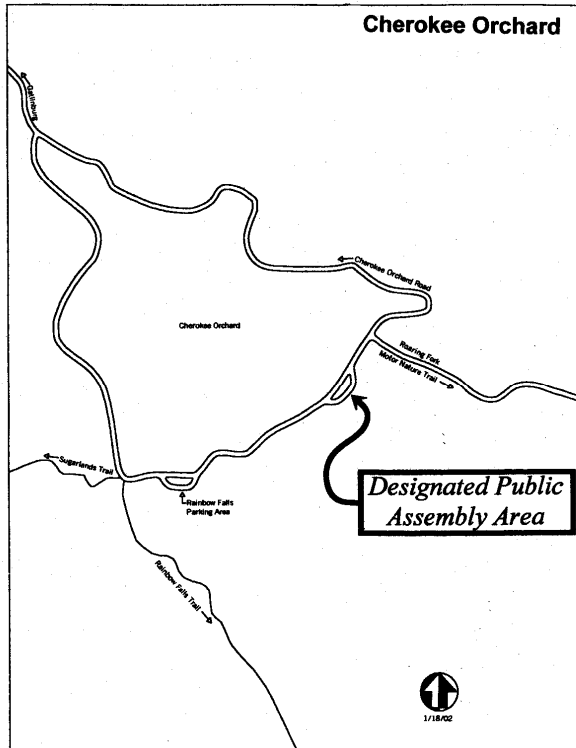
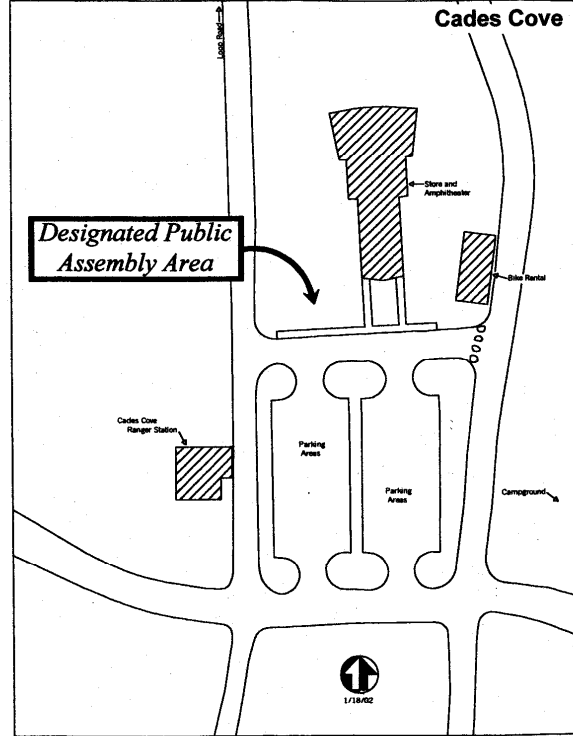
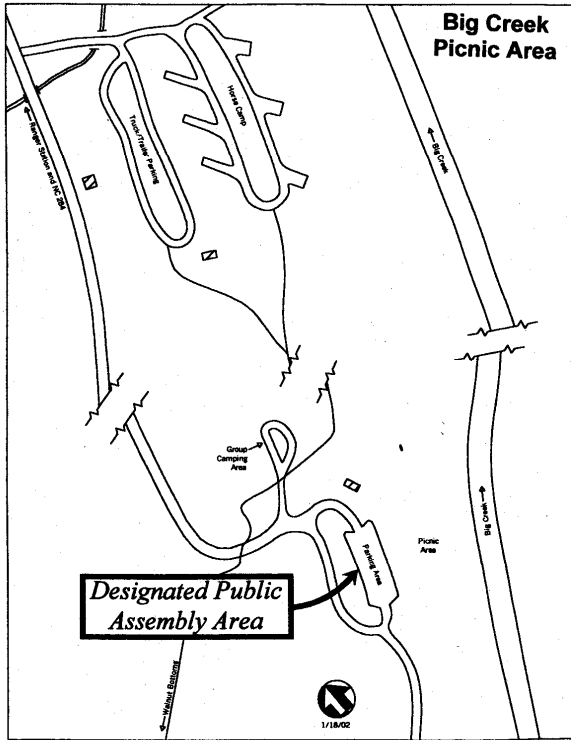
### Designated Foot Trails (Closed to Horse Use)

Trail Name	Location:	From - To
All self-guiding nature trails		
All Quiet Walkways		
Abrams Falls Trail	Abrams Falls Parking Area - Hannah Mtn. Trail	
Albright Grove Loop Tr.	Loop off Maddron Bald Trail	
Alum Cave Trail	Newfound Gap Road - Rainbow Falls Trail near Mt. Le Conte	
Appalachian Trail	Fontana Dam – Sassafra Gap	
Appalachian Trail	Bote Mtn Trail – Miry Ridge Trail	
Appalachian Trail	Silers Bald – Hughes Ridge Trail	
Baskins Creek Trail	Trillium Gap Trail - Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail	
Baxter Creek Trail	Big Creek Picnic Area - Mt. Sterling Tower hitch rack	
Boogerman Trail	Loop from Caldwell Fork Trail	
Boulevard Trail, the	Mt. Le Conte - Appalachian Trail near Mt. Kephart	
Brushy Mtn Trail	Trillium Gap to Overlook	
Bull Head Trail	Old Sugar Trail - Rainbow Falls Trail near Mt. Le Conte	
Chestnut Branch Trail	Big Creek Road - Appalachian Trail	
Chestnut Top Trail	Schoolhouse Gap Trail - Townsend Wye	
Chimney Tops Trail	Newfound Gap Road - Chimney Tops	
Clingmans Dome Bypass Tr.	Forney Ridge Trail - Appalachian Trail	
Cove Mountain Trail	Park Headquarters - Cove Mountain Tower	
Cucumber Gap Trail	Little River Trail - Jakes Creek Trail	
Curry Mt Trail	Little River Road - Meigs Mountain Trail	
Deep Creek Trail	Campsite 55 - Newfound Gap Road AND Deep Creek Campground Trailhead to Indian Creek Trail	
Eagle Creek Trail	Lakeshore Trail - Appalachian Trail at Spence Field	
Flat Creek Trail	Heintooga Ridge Road - Heintooga Picnic Area	
Fork Ridge Trail	Clingmans Dome Road - Deep Creek Trail	
Forney Creek Trail	Jonas Creek Trail Junction - Forney Ridge Trail	
Forney Ridge Trail	Clingmans Dome Parking Area - Springhouse Branch Trail	
Gabes Mt Trail	Maddron Bald Trail - Cosby Picnic Area and campground	
Gatlinburg Trail	Sugarlands Vis. Center - Boundary at Gatlinburg	
Goshen Prong Trail	Little River Tr.-Appalachian Tr. at Double Spr. Gap	
Grapeyard Ridge Trail	Greenbrier Road - Big Dudley Trail	
Greenbrier Ridge Trail	Middle Prong Tr.-Appalachian Trail at Sams Gap	
Gregory Ridge Trail	Forge Creek Road - Greg Bald Trail at Rich Gap	
Gunther Fork Trail	Camel Gap Trail - Balsam Mountain Trail	
Hazel Creek Trail	Proctor Creek - Welch Ridge Trail	
Huskey Gap Trail	Newfound Gap Road - Little River Trail	
Kanati Fork Trail	Newfound Gap Road - Thomas Divide Trail	
Laurel Falls Trail	Fighting Creek Gap - Cove Mountain Trail	
Little Bottoms Trail	Cooper Road Trail - Hatcher Mountain Trail	
Little Brier Gap	Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse-L. Greenbrier Trail	
Little Greenbrier Trail	Wear Cove Gap Road - Laurel Falls Trail	
Little River Trail	Barricade - #30	
Maddron Bald Trail	Barricade at Boundary - Snake Den Ridge Trail	
Meigs Creek Trail	Little River Road at Sinks - Meigs Mtn. Trail	
Metcalf Bottoms Trail	Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area-L. Greenbrier School	
Miry Ridge Trail	A.T. at Buckeye Gap - Lynn Camp Prong Trail	
Mingus Creek Trail	Newfound Gap Road – Deep Low Gap Trail	

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the regulations contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1 and Section 7.14 Special Regulations. 36 CFR can be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_05/36cfr1\\_05.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/36cfr1_05.html)

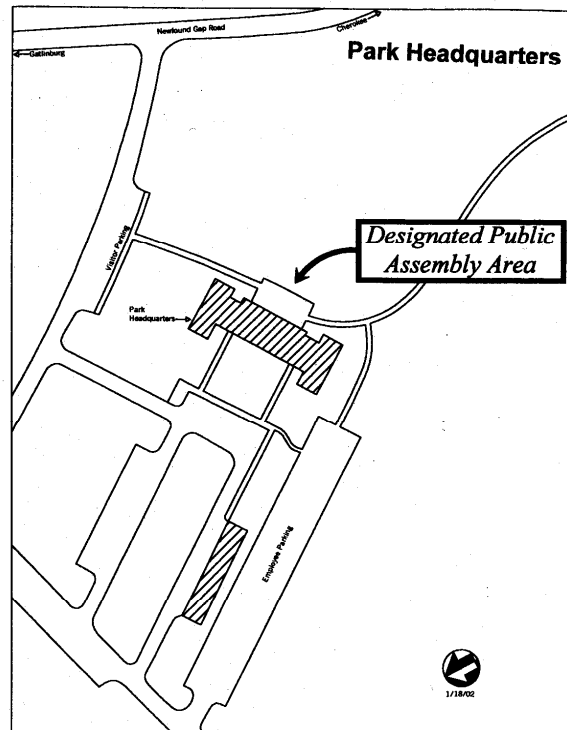
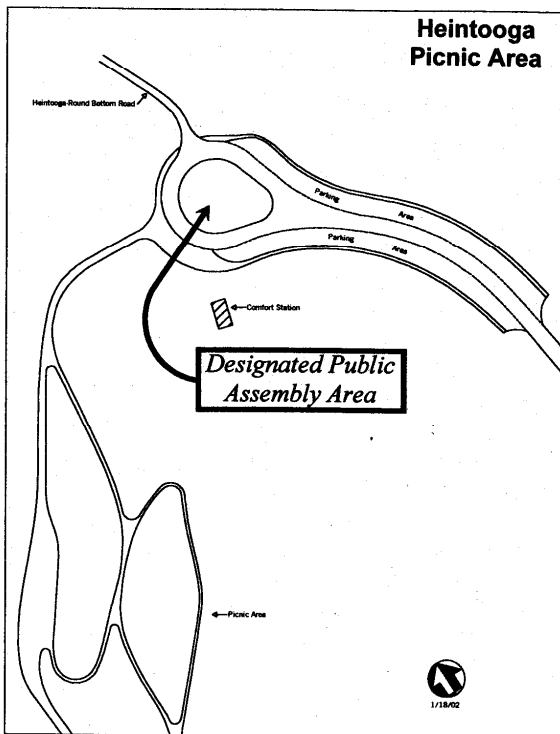
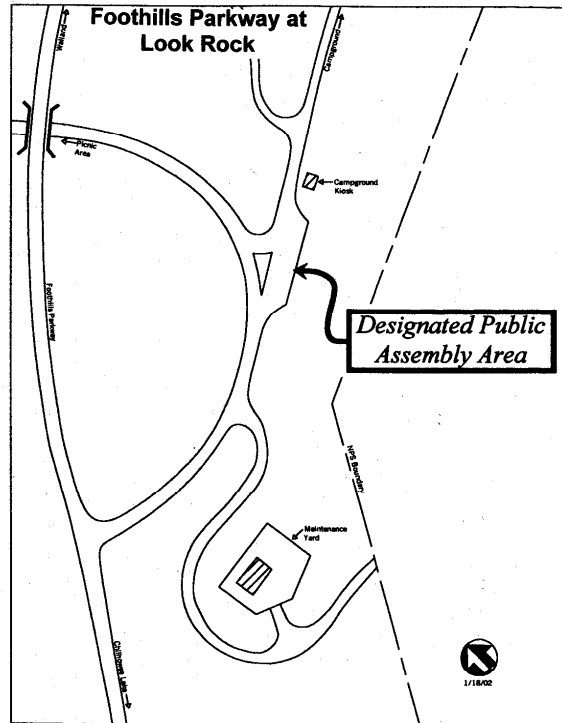
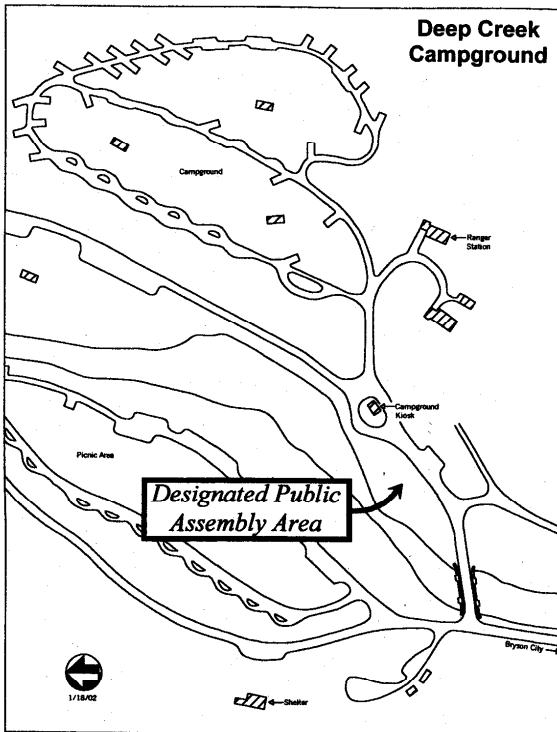
Oconaluftee River Trail	Oconaluftee Visitor Center - Park Boundary at Cherokee
Old Settlers Trail	Ramsay Cascades Road - Maddron Bald Trail
Porters Creek Trail	Brushy Mtn Trail jct - Vicinity of #31 on Porters Creek
Rainbow Falls Trail	Rainbow Falls Parking Area at Cherokee Orchard Mt. Le Conte
Ramsay Cascades Trail	Barricade - Ramsay Cascades
Road Prong Trail	Chimney Tops Trail - Indian Gap
Rough Creek Trail	Little River Trail - Sugarland Mountain Trail
Roundtop Trail	Wear Cove Gap Road - Townsend Wye
Scott Mountain Trail	Indian Grave Gap Trail - Schoolhouse Gap Trail
Smokemont Loop Trail	Smokemont Campground - Bradley Fork Trail
Spruce Mountain Trail	Balsam Mountain Road - Campsite 42
Sugarland Mountain Tr.	Fighting Crk. Gap-Appalachian Tr. at Mt. Collins
Sweat Heifer Creek Trail	Kephart Prong Trail - Appalachian Trail near Mt. Kephart
Thomas Divide Trail	Newfound Gap Road- Junction w/ Sunkota Ridge Trail
Twentymile Loop Trail	Wolf Ridge Trail - Long Hungry Ridge Trail
Twin Creeks Trail	Park boundary – Cherokee Orchard Road

Appendix C: Public assembly area maps



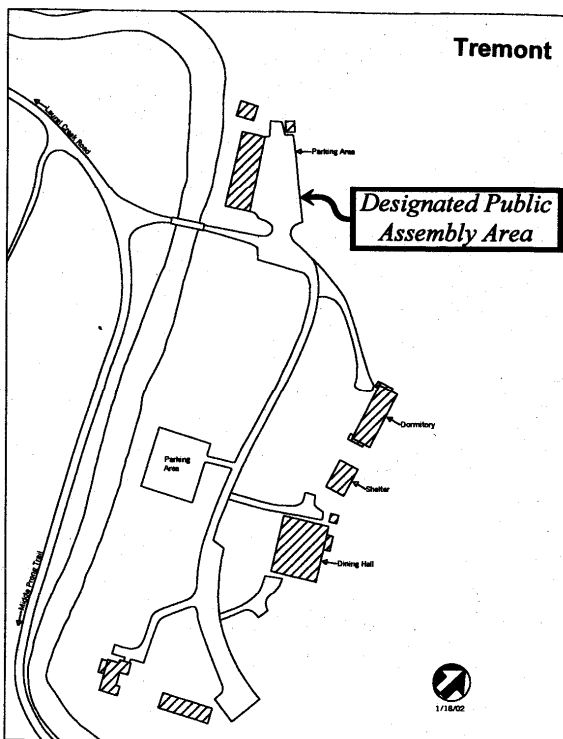
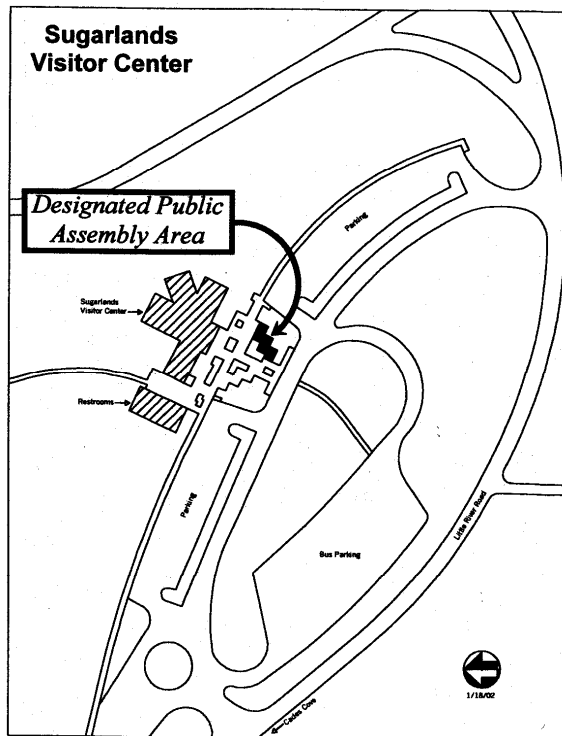
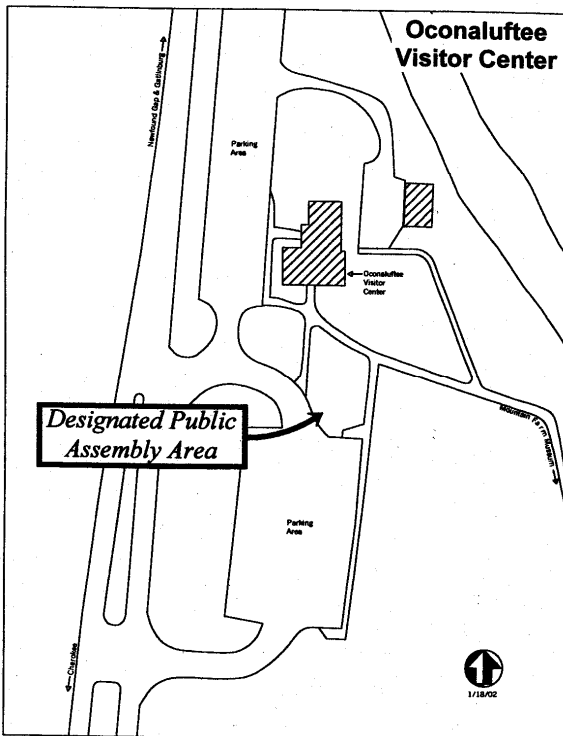
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Public Assembly Area detail maps



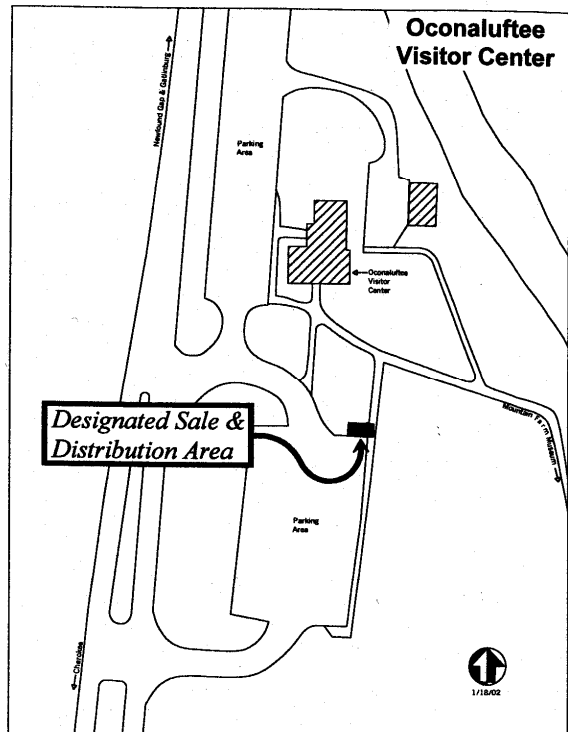
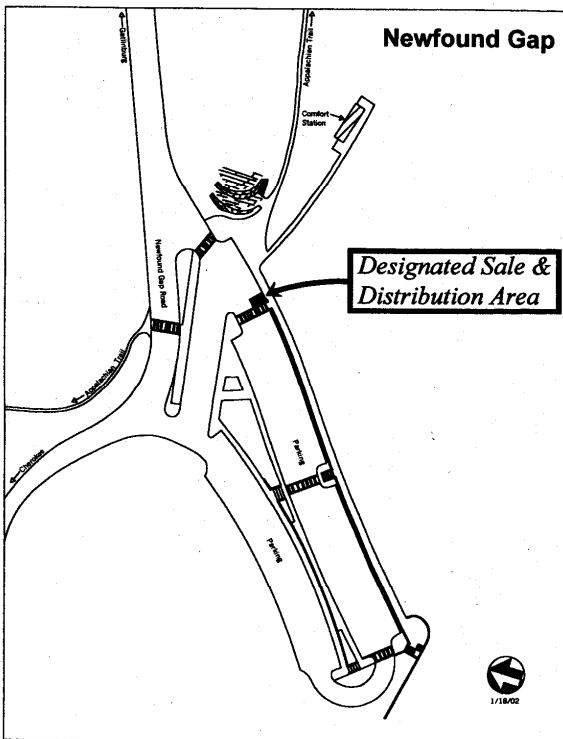
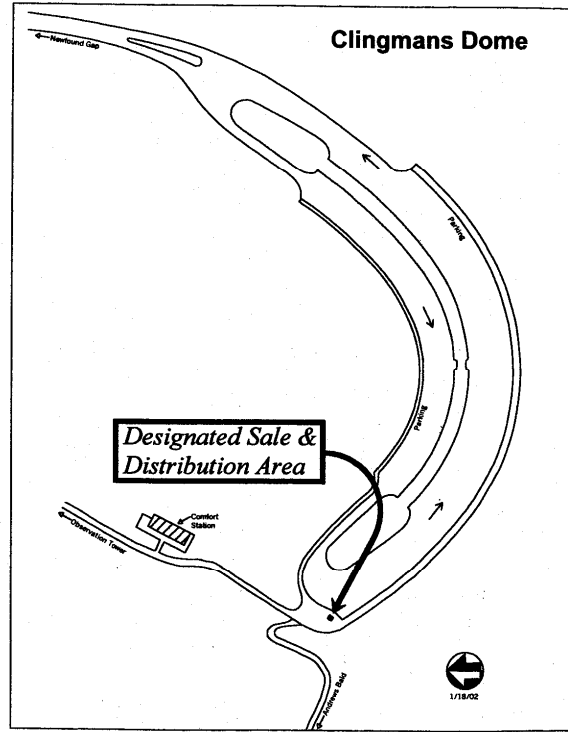
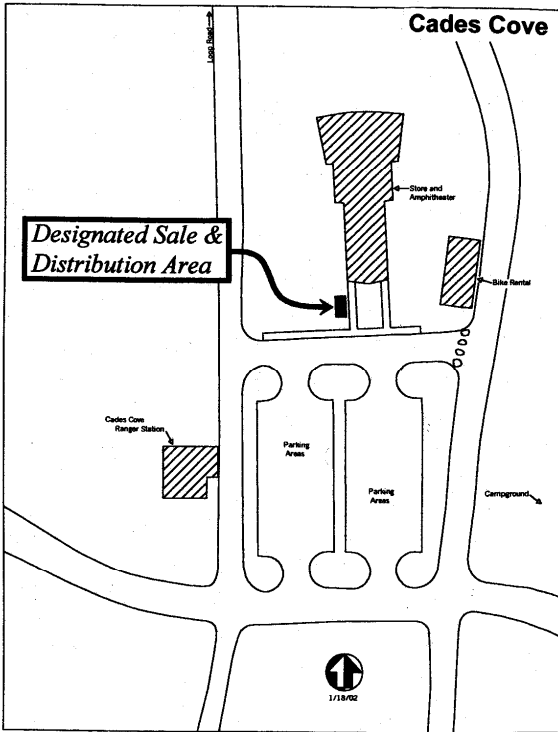
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Public Assembly Area detail maps

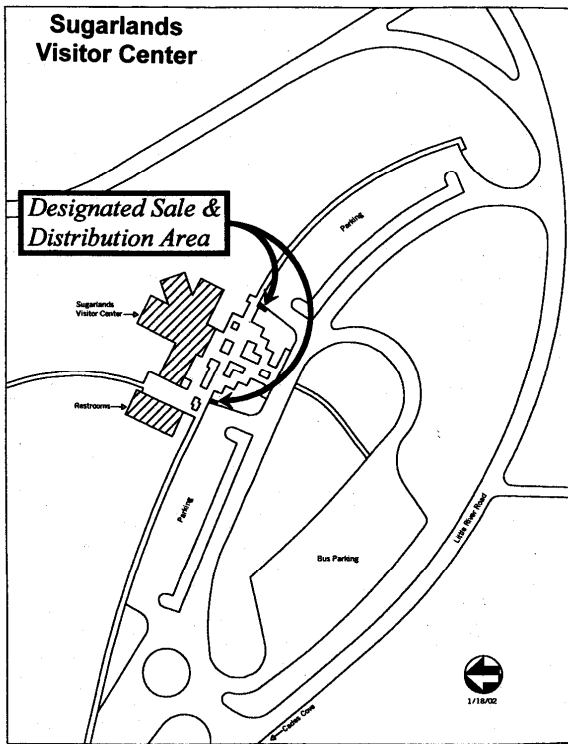


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Appendix D: Sale and distribution area maps

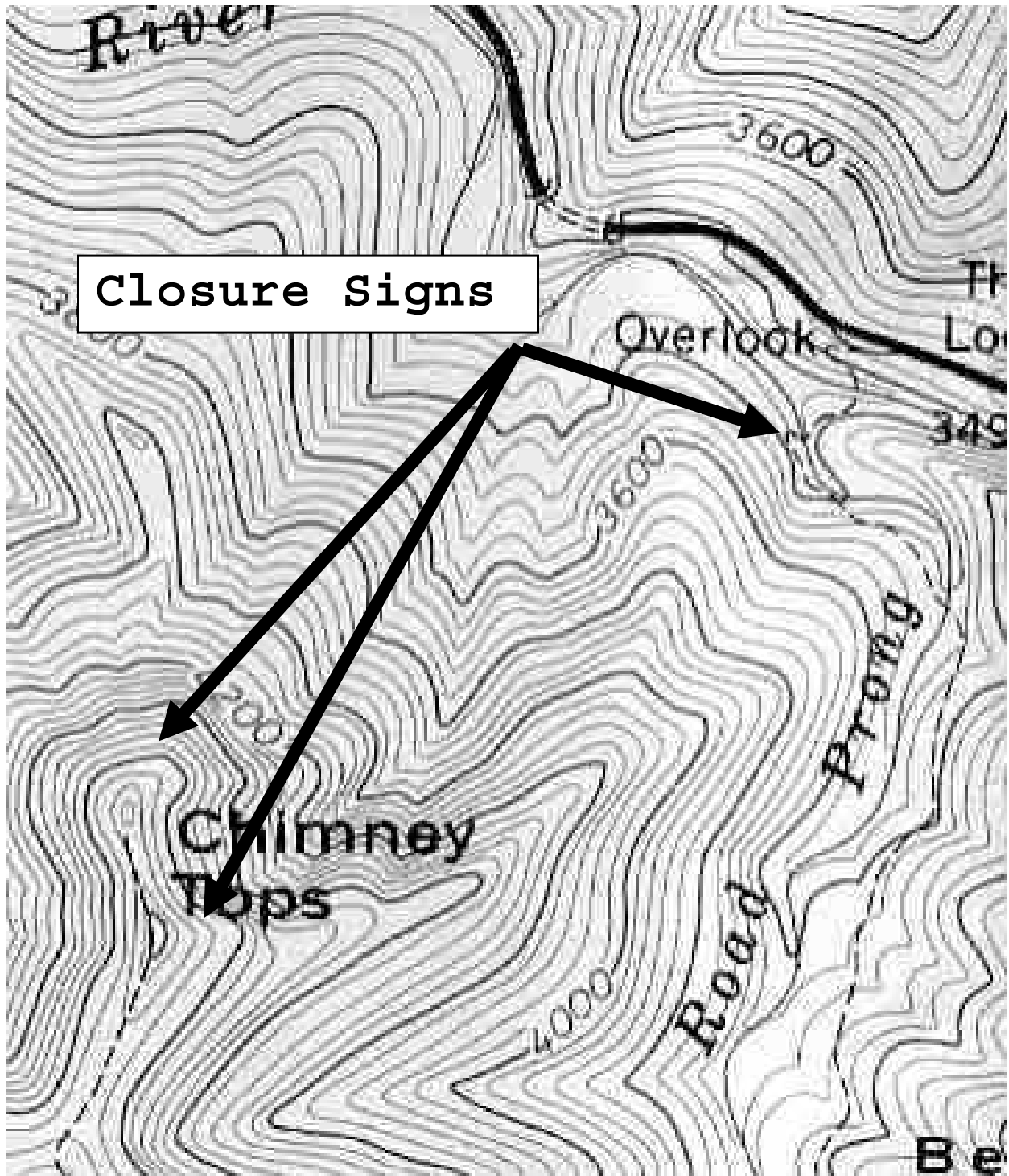


Sale and Distribution area detail maps



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Appendix E: Chimney Tops closure map



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