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## 2017 Superintendent's Compendium of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Woods".

Date: February 6, 2017

Mark H. Woods  
Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway

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In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7. Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

## I. 36 CFR §1.5 - VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

**(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:**

Closures:

- The following areas may be partially or completely closed from November 1 through May 1 each year:

- Otter Creek Campground, Milepost 60.9
- Peaks of Otter Campground, Milepost 86
- Rocky Knob Campground, Milepost 167.1
- Doughton Park Campground, Milepost 239.0
- Price Park Campground, Milepost 297.0
- Linville Falls Campground, Milepost 316.3
- Crabtree Falls Campground, Milepost 339.5
- Mount Pisgah Campground, Milepost 408.6

*o Campground closures are necessary because of potential damage to water lines from freezing and periodic road closures due to ice and snow.*

- Heintooga Spur Rd. Closed from Dec 1 thru April 1.

*o This area lies at approximately 5000 ft. elevation and during the winter is subject to accumulation of snow and ice. In addition, trees and rocks frequently fall into the road as a result of winter storms. This road receives little traffic when open during the late fall, winter and early spring. During normal operations, Great Smoky Mountains NP closes their section of the Heintooga Rd from Nov. 1 to May 10. It is determined that this road will be closed from Dec 1 thru April 1 to better protect the visitor and the resource.*

- Waterrock Knob--Closed from Dec 15 thru April 1.

*o This area lies at approximately 5000 ft elevation and during the winter is subject to accumulation of snow and ice. During the winter when the road is open there is little traffic in this area at night. Consequently it is subject to and has been vandalized, breaking and entering, illegal camping and illegal fires at this location. The area is a popular location to view meteor showers. Therefore*

*to better protect the facilities located at Waterrock while still accommodating star gazers, it is determined that this area will be closed this area from Dec 15 (the approximate end of the Gemini meteor shower) until April 1. This area was gated at one time and the gates could be reinstalled.*

- Sections of the Parkway motor road may be closed periodically to protect employees and visitors during new construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance. Areas closed to all public access will be posted with appropriate signage.

*o Areas of new construction and reconstruction or rehabilitation may be closed to visitors for safety reasons and to avoid unreasonable conflict with authorized work.*

- Climbing, rappelling, and any other similar activity is prohibited on any man-made structure.

*o Structures were not constructed to facilitate climbing and rappelling, and such activities may create unreasonable risk of injury to participants and others as well as cause damage to structures.*

- Except for the Parkway motor road, established parking overlooks and the Mountains to Sea Trail, all lands within the Asheville Watershed area closed to public use and occupancy.

*o By agreement, Asheville Watershed land is closed to access, except for the motor road and overlooks, in order to protect water quality. Recreational rock climbing, rappelling, and ice climbing are prohibited within 100 feet of any established trail and 50 feet of any road unless such road has been closed to vehicular traffic.*

*o Climbing in open areas would create a risk of personal injury to others or property damage resulting from rocks or other debris being dislodged or damage to critical natural or cultural resources.*

- Ice skating, sledding, walking, or otherwise entering upon any frozen Parkway lake or waterway for any purpose is prohibited.

*o No Parkway waters are deemed safe for recreational ice activities. Ice accidents would result an unacceptably high life-safety risk to participants and to potential rescuers.*

- Superintendent may close any portion of the Parkway to motor vehicle use during periods of ice, snow, or any other hazardous condition, or based on forecasts of such impending weather.

*o The Superintendent may affect road closures during or prior to impending inclement weather or during periods of other hazardous conditions in order to ensure public safety. These closures are posted in real time and available to the public via the Parkway webpage and Live Map feature:*

*<http://www.nps.gov/maps/blri/road-closures/>*

- Entering the Linville River between the upper and lower falls and any impoundment of the Linville River within Parkway boundaries is prohibited.

*o The Linville River has proven to be particularly hazardous to waders over the years. Several fatalities have resulted from waders being swept over the falls. Also, such activity poses an unacceptable risk to potential rescuers.*

- No special interest group or persons involved in a special use activity shall occupy an overlook or parking area so as to prevent its use by Parkway visitors wishing to participate in other recreational activities.

*o Activities that are carried out under special permit could result in entire parking areas or overlooks being filled to capacity, thus denying parking opportunity to all other visitors, and resulting in a serious user conflict.*

- The Devils Courthouse area, defined as all National Park Service lands: south from Devils Courthouse Parking Overlook at Milepost 422.4 along the unofficial Devil's Courthouse Creek drainage trail to the 5,200 foot contour, east along the 5,200 foot contour over Devils Courthouse Ridge to Chestnut Creek drainage, north up the Chestnut Creek drainage to the Parkway motor road, west along the Parkway motor road to Devil's Courthouse Parking Overlook, is closed to all visitor use with the following exceptions: Public access will be permitted on the maintained foot trail from the motor vehicle parking area to the summit and that part of the summit that is enclosed by the rock wall. This closure does not apply to employees, cooperators and researchers authorized by the Superintendent.

*o The Devil's Courthouse area is closed to protect botanical resources at the site. A review of alternatives and final determination has concluded this level of action is necessary to mitigate human impacts on rare plants existing at the site.*

- The former social trail from the Yonahlossee Overlook to the rock outcropping, Milepost 303.9, is closed. The maintained trail directly from the overlook to/from the viaduct remains open.
- Leaving the Craggy Pinnacle Trail, Milepost 364.2 is prohibited.
- Thomas Mine AKA: Balsam Mine, Parkway Mine and area surrounding, is closed.

- Access to the Shiprock climbing area, Milepost 303.2 is restricted. Access to climbing routes shall be from the base of the rock along the motor road only. Access to climbing routes from the top is prohibited.

*o Pedestrian and climbing use on these trails and in these areas must be confined as the most effective means to protect critical and highly vulnerable plant communities that contain several federal and state listed rare or endangered plant species. Human trampling constitutes the single greatest threat to these plants.*

- The summit of Fishers Peak from the vehicle gate on Fishers Peak Road to the summit, to include the area around the radio repeater buildings and towers, is closed from sunset to sunrise. This area is closed to all unauthorized vehicle, pedestrian, horse, bike, and ATV traffic.

*o This area is closed from sunset to sunrise to prevent vandalism and other criminal activity.*

- The Roanoke Mountain Loop Road at Milepost 120.3 and Milepost 120.4 is closed to motorized travel from November 30 to March 15.

*o It is closed through the winter due to periods of inclement weather.*

- Access to the wooded area at the Roanoke Basin Overlook, Milepost 112.9, is prohibited.

*o This area is defined as the wooded area adjacent to the east side of the asphalt parking lot and extending to the NPS boundary, excluding the Roanoke Valley Horse Trail.*

*o This area is closed to prevent litter accumulation, vandalism, and damage to the resource.*

- Access to the wooded islands in the following overlooks is prohibited:

- Coyner Mountain Overlook, Milepost 107
- Reed Mountain Overlook, Milepost, 109.8

*o These areas are closed to prevent litter accumulation, vandalism, and damage to the resource.*

- Pedestrian traffic is prohibited on the Linn Cove Viaduct, Milepost 304- 304.4.

*o Pedestrian use of the Linn Cove Viaduct is unsafe due to hazards from motor vehicle traffic and the lack of space to establish safe walking zones.*

- Public access to the interior of the Linn Cove Viaduct structure is prohibited. Access is authorized for employees, inspectors, contractors, and approved researchers as necessary for the maintenance of the structure, to promote public safety, and to facilitate approved research.

*o Access doors are difficult and possibly dangerous to access without proper equipment. The interior has been occupied by an endangered species of bat during certain times of the year. Interior has been subject to illegal activity in the past including vandalism, illicit drug use, underage drinking, littering, unauthorized camping and fires, and occult activity.*

- The following locations are closed to visitor use from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.

- Stewart's Knob Overlook at Milepost 110.6
- The Roanoke Mountain Loop Road at Milepost 120.3
- The Roanoke Mountain Picnic Area at Milepost 120.4 (1.3)
- Orchard's Overlook at Milepost 444.6

*o These areas have experienced an increase in illegal activity including disorderly conduct, alcohol consumption, and illegal drug use to the point where diligent enforcement of existing regulations will not adequately address the problem. Closing the area to all visitor activity during hours of darkness limits opportunities to conduct illegal activities.*

- The Sharp Top Mountain Road at the Peaks of Otter developed area is closed to all foot and vehicle traffic. This includes: bicycles, coasting devices, pack animals, hikers, etc. The Sharp Top Mountain parking area is closed to overnight parking

*o The Sharp Top Mountain Road is designed and designated for use by the concession operated tour bus. The road is extremely narrow, steep, and with numerous sharp blind curves. It is unsafe for anyone to be on this road surface while the bus is operating on the road. This road also serves as the emergency access to Sharp Top Mountain area. It is frequently used for emergency medical and rescue operations. The operation of emergency vehicles on this road poses a threat to other vehicles and people using the road. The Sharp Top Mountain parking area does not serve any areas where overnight camping is permitted.*

- Drivers of commercial passenger-carrying diesel-fueled motor vehicles are prohibited from idling their engines in all developed areas and at all parkway overlooks.

*o The noise and fumes caused by these engines severely impacts the natural*

*experiences sought by many visitors.*

- Fishing is prohibited in the following locations:

- From any bridge

- *Fishing from any motor road bridge is prohibited by 36CFR 2.3. Foot bridges and other non-motor road bridges do not provide adequate safe distances to fish and allow foot traffic.*

- In the lower Mabry Mill Pond

- In the Heart Pond in Moses Cone Memorial Park (the stone-lined ponds above Bass Lake)

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

- Launching, landing, operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge Parkway is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

- *The term “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle” or “UAV” means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g. model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.*

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

- The display and/or use of radio telemetry equipment or similar electronic tracking devices (such as GPS devices and smart phone apps) used to track wildlife and hunting dogs is prohibited in the park and may only be used to expedite the retrieval of a dog(s) believed to be running loose in the park.

- Permission to use this equipment to retrieve a loose dog(s) 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. 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 address the*

*specific use of telemetry as a means of hunting which is expressly prohibited within the boundaries of the Parkway.*

*o GPS devices are a common form of navigation used for many legal recreational activities. GPS devices can also be used to track wildlife or to facilitate a hunt by tracking dogs in pursuit of wildlife. This restriction is intended to address the specific use of GPS technology as a means of hunting which is expressly prohibited within the boundaries of the Parkway.*

*o When engaged in an active and otherwise legal hunt that utilizes any form of electronic tracking technology for wildlife or dogs, persons may not utilize these systems/devices while within Parkway Boundaries. Persons must move to an area outside of the parkway boundaries to conduct any hunt-related tracking or activities.*

- Bear Pepper Spray, also known as bear deterrent, bear repellent or bear spray, may be carried on the Blue Ridge Parkway by individuals for the strict purpose of protecting one's self or others from bodily harm against aggressive wildlife. It should not be applied to people, tents, packs, or other equipment or surrounding areas as a repellent. Bear Pepper Spray must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. It must be commercially manufactured and labeled as "Bear Pepper Spray." Bear Pepper Spray must contain between 1% and 2% of the active ingredients capsaicin and related capsaicinoids.

## 36 CFR §1.6 – PERMITS

Compilation of activities requiring a permit:

- 1st Amendment based gatherings/demonstrations that involve 25 or more persons. The designated areas for these demonstrations are as follows:
  - Humpback Rocks Visitor Center, Mile Post 5.8
  - James River Visitor Center, Mile Post 63.6
  - Peaks of Otter Visitor Center, Mile Post 85.9
  - Rocky Knob Visitor Center, Mile Post 169
  - Blue Ridge Music Center, Mile Post 212.8
  - Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, Mile Post 294
  - Linn Cove Visitor Center, Mile Post 304.4
  - Linville Falls Visitor Center, Mile Post 316.4
  - Museum of North Carolina Minerals, Mile Post 331
  - Crabtree Falls, Mile Post 339.5
  - Craggy Gardens Visitor Center, Mile Post 364.5
  - Folk Art Center, Mile Post 382.2



- Parkway Headquarters and Visitor Center Locations, Mile Post 384.4
- Waterrock Knob Visitor Center, Mile Post 451.2

*o Additional information on these locations and the permit process can be found on the Blue Ridge Parkway Website at*

*<http://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/first-amendment.htm>*

## II. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 36 CFR §2.1 - PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**(a)(4) The possession and/or use of any firewood originating from any location outside the Blue Ridge Parkway that is not certified and marked as “Heat Treated” is prohibited. Dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires. Collection of wood for campfires in campgrounds shall be limited within National Park Service property to an area not more than 100 yards beyond campgrounds, picnic areas, and picnic tables with fire grates. Wood collected for fuel may not be removed from the campground or picnic area in which it is gathered.**

- The required use of “Certified Heat Treated” firewood bearing a federal or state agency seal prohibits the movement of firewood with potential damaging insects into the park. Firewood in violation of the above will be seized and quarantined by NPS staff upon discovery.
- The Parkway considers firewood to be any wood cut, sold or intended for use as firewood, including chips, limbs, branches, etc. with or without bark. Kiln-dried, finished and cut lumber or lumber scraps from which the bark has been removed during the milling process and like that purchased from a hardware store or discarded at construction sites, is not considered firewood.
- Exception: Firewood which is in the original packaging and is accompanied by a certificate or limited permit issued and attached in accordance with 7 C.F.R. § 301.53-5 and 7 C.F.R. § 301.53-8 is allowed.

*o This closure is intended to prevent or slow the introduction of exotic insects or diseases into the Blue Ridge Parkway. The emerald ash borer (EAB) has already killed tens of millions of trees in those states that have been infested. As a result, the movement of firewood within and from infested areas is regulated by the states and the federal government. The USDA has documented that a number of other harmful species can be transported in firewood. Therefore, it*

*has been determined that this action is necessary to protect the natural resources of the park.*

*o Consistent with the recommendations of the National Firewood Task Force, the National Park Service strongly discourages the movement of any firewood and encourages campers to burn wood where they buy it. Information about firewood quarantines is distributed in affected areas by states and the federal government via a wide variety of media. Information on the park's enforcement of existing quarantines is available on the park website, in bulletin boards and via campground maps.*

**(b) Leaving the Tanawha Trail between Milepost 302.0 and Milepost 304.5, to shortcut between portions of the trail or to gain access to an adjacent trail or trailside feature is prohibited. Leaving the Craggy Pinnacle Trail, Milepost 364.2, to shortcut between portions of the trail or going beyond the overlooks at the terminal ends of the trail is prohibited. Shortcutting through wooded areas between the Moses Cone Carriage Roads is prohibited.**

*o Hiking and pedestrian use must be confined to the established and designated Tanawha Trail in order to protect a critical and highly vulnerable plant community and rare animal species and to reduce unauthorized access to the privately owned lands of Grandfather Mountain; and on the Craggy Pinnacle Trail in order to protect a fragile plant community on high elevation rock outcrops, including several federal and/or state listed rare or endangered plant species; and along the Moses Cone Carriage Roads to protect road edges and control damaging erosion*

**(c)(1), Fruits, berries, and nuts. Climbing trees to gather fruits and nuts is prohibited. One gallon per person, per day, of the following edible fruits, berries, and nuts may be gathered for personal use or consumption:**

- Mushrooms and related edible fungi
- Blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.)
- Strawberries (*Fragaria virginiana*)
- Blackberries/raspberries/wine berries (*Rubus* spp.)
- Grapes (*Vitis* spp.)
- Elderberries (*Sambucus pubens*)
- Gooseberries/currants (*Ribes* spp.)
- Huckleberries (*Gay/ussacia* spp.)
- Cherries/plums (*Prunus* spp.)
- Serviceberries (*Amelanchier /aevis*)

One bushel per person, per day, of the following edible fruits and nuts may be gathered for personal use or consumption:

- Persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*)
- Hickory nuts (*Carya* spp.)
- American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- Apples (*Malus* spp.)
- Pears (*Pyrus* spp.)
- Peaches (*Amygdalus persica*)

*o Collecting the edible berries, nuts, and fruits specified herein causes no adverse impact on Parkway resources.*

## 36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

### **(a) The following are prohibited:**

*o Willfully approaching within 50 yards of bear, deer, or elk or within any distance resulting 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 travel route.*

### **(b) Hunting and trapping are prohibited on all Parkway lands.**

*o Hunting is expressly prohibited within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge Parkway by 36 CFR 2.2(b). It is recognized that when using animal tracking technology from Parkway overlooks, parking areas, roadsides, or any property within the legislative boundary of the Parkway to track dogs that are pursuing wildlife outside of Parkway boundaries, persons are clearly engaged in a hunt and are in violation of 2.2(b).*

**(d) The transportation of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:**

- Taken in accordance with state hunting regulations.
- Taken on lands adjacent to the Parkway boundary when the only access to such lands is the Parkway motor road.
- Notification must be made to the Blue Ridge Parkway Communications Center at 828-298-2491, and transportation must be approved prior to such transportation taking place.
- Transportation of wildlife is prohibited in developed areas such as picnic areas, campgrounds, and concession areas.
- Transport being limited to the nearest reasonable access to an intersecting state road or highway.
- This section does not apply to lawfully-caught fish.

*o Transportation of lawfully taken wildlife as specified will not pose an unreasonable threat to Parkway wildlife resources and in some cases the Parkway motor road provides the only reasonable available access. Requiring prior permission facilitates the legal transport of lawfully taken wildlife, and assists law enforcement personnel in distinguishing legitimate from illegal use.*

**(e) All lands of the Blue Ridge Parkway are closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light.**

*o Viewing of wildlife with an artificial light disturbs normal activities of certain animals and greatly facilitates poaching.*

### 36 CFR §2.3 - FISHING

**(a) In consultation with appropriate agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina, the following are prohibited:**

- Fishing from any bridge.
- Fishing with more than one line per person.

*o Fishing without a valid State fishing license issued by the state with jurisdiction. Waters within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge parkway may be legally fished with a valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license.*

- Snagging fish by pulling or jerking a hook, lure, or other implement through the water.

- Fishing in the lower Mabry Mill Pond.
- Fishing in the Heart Pond in Moses Cone Memorial Park (the stone-lined ponds above Bass Lake)
- Fishing from the dam and adjacent walls at Price Lake or any footbridge in Price Lake picnic area (Watauga County, NC) and from the James River Parkway Bridge (Bedford & Amherst Counties, VA). (36 CFR 7.34 (b)(2))
- Violate Hatchery Supported Waters regulations on the following North Carolina designated waters:
  - Brush Creek (Alleghany County)
  - Big Pine Creek (Alleghany County)
  - Linville River (Avery County)
  - Meadow Fork (Alleghany County)
  - Middle Fork New River (Watauga County)
  - Peak Creek (Ashe County)
  - Price Lake (Watauga County)
  - Swannanoa River (Buncombe County)
- Hatchery Supported Water regulations include Daily creel limit of 7 trout, closed to fishing from March 1 to first Saturday in April at 7am.
- Possessing trout under 7 inches in length or possessing more than 4 fish while fishing in the following waters:
  - Upper Boone Fork River upstream from Price Lake (Watauga County, NC)
  - Camp Creek (Burke County, NC)
  - Trout Lake (Watauga County, NC)
  - Cold Prong Branch (Watauga County, NC)
  - Laurel Creek (Watauga County, NC)
  - Sims Creek (Watauga County, NC)
  - Sims Mill Pond (Watauga County, NC)
  - Bass Lake (Watauga County, NC)
- Fishing in the following waters by means other than an artificial lure having one single point hook, unless authorized by the Superintendent as part of a special educational program:
  - Little Stoney Creek, (Bedford County, Virginia)
  - Rock Castle Creek, (Patrick County, Virginia)
  - Little Rock Castle Creek, (Patrick County, Virginia)
  - Mill Creek (Nelson County, Virginia)
  - Chestnut Creek (Grayson County, Virginia)

- Fishing in the following waters by means other than an artificial lure, unless authorized by the Superintendent as part of a special educational program:
  - Abbott Lake (Bedford County, VA)
  - Otter Lake (Amherst County, VA)
- Retaining or failure to release and return to the water immediately any small mouth bass caught in Abbott Lake and Otter Lake.
- Possessing or failing to return immediately and release any fish caught in the following waters is prohibited. These waters are designated "Catch and Release."
  - East Fork of Chestnut Creek and its tributaries (Grayson County & Carroll County, VA)
  - Mill Creek (Nelson County, VA)
  - Lower Boone Fork River between Price Lake Dam and the Parkway boundary (Watauga County, NC)
- Possessing Trout under 10 inches in length while fishing in the following waters is prohibited
  - Little Stoney Creek (Bedford County, Virginia)
- Possessing more than two fish while fishing on the following waters is prohibited
  - Little Stoney Creek (Bedford County, Virginia)
    - *The Superintendent, having consulted with appropriate State agencies as required by 36 CFR, establishes fishing limitations and closures to protect fishery and other natural resources, conduct ongoing research in cooperation with State agencies, provide flexibility in managing fishery resources and provide for visitor safety. Fishing licenses issued by the State of North Carolina or the Commonwealth of Virginia are valid on all Parkway waters, in accordance with memoranda of concurrent jurisdiction with both states.*
    - *Additional fishing regulations are located in 36 CFR 2.3 and 36 CFR 7.34*

## 36 CFR §2.10- CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

**(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:**

- Camping within the Blue Ridge Parkway is limited 30 consecutive days in any one campground and 30 total days per calendar year across all Parkway facilities.

*o Occupancy of campsites is limited to allow fair and reasonable access to all campers, minimize resource impacts, and provide for recovery of vegetation.*

- All Parkway campgrounds are designated fee areas. Anyone who wishes to use the campground facilities including dump stations and water fill-up must pay the designated camping fee prior to utilizing those services.
- Campers must physically occupy the campsite for which they have paid within 24 hours. Failure to occupy the site in some manner with personal property may result in forfeiture of a reservation and/or reassignment of the site to another person.
- Party size may not exceed six persons per campsite.
- Vehicles will be parked only in designated parking areas.
- Use of generators is prohibited between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. The use of generators is prohibited at all times in the following areas:
  - B Loop - Otter Creek Campground
  - B Loop - Peaks of Otter Campground
  - C Loop - Rocky Knob Campground
  - C&D Loops - Mt Pisgah Campground

*o Generators cause a considerable amount of noise and can disturb other campers during periods of normal sleep.*

- With the exception of designated group campsites and those designated as reservation sites in the Julian Price, Linville Falls, Peaks of Otter, Rocky Knob, Doughton Park and Pisgah campgrounds, campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be held or reserved.

*o Occupancy of campsites is limited to allow fair and reasonable access to all campers, minimize resource impacts, and provide for recovery of vegetation.*

- Group campsites: Sites are established as follows:
  - Linville Falls Campground: Group Campsite #1 is comprised of sites 43, 44 and 45. Group Campsite #2 is comprised of sites 46 and 47.
  - Doughton Park Campground: Group Camping is authorized within C Loop.

*o Group campsites are deemed necessary to avoid overcrowding of existing sites, minimize resource damage, and reduce the potential for conflict with other campers. Designation of group campsites has been determined not to reduce the availability of campsites to other campers and will not degrade natural resources. Group sites for this campground can be reserved by contacting the Linville Falls Campground by phone at 828-765-1045 or Park*

*Headquarters at 828-348-3430.*

- Backcountry Camping (except areas adjacent to the Appalachian Trail): In addition to designated campgrounds, camping is permitted, subject to conditions of a National Park Service Backcountry Permit for Johns River Road at Price Park, Basin Cove at Doughton Park, the old CCC Camp in Rock Castle Gorge, and sites along the Mountains to Sea Trail(MST) within the Highlands District. Backcountry camping at any other location is prohibited. Backcountry camping is restricted as follows:

- Groups of campers larger than eighteen (18) people are prohibited.
- No More than six (6) people are allowed to occupy any one campsite.
- Camping at Johns River Road will be limited to 2 sites (12 person capacity)
- Camping at Basin Cove will be limited to 8 sites (48 person capacity)
- Camping at CCC Camp will be limited to 8 sites (48 person capacity) Camping more than three (3) consecutive nights in any one camping area is prohibited.
- Camping along the MST in the Highlands District (milepost 217-305) is by self-registration permit only which is valid for at least 2 consecutive nights. No person may camp at any one site for more than one night at a time.

- Backcountry camping (adjacent to Appalachian Trail): Dispersed backcountry camping is permitted adjacent to the Appalachian Trail on National Park Service lands in the section from milepost 0 at Rockfish Gap to milepost 9.6 at Dripping Rock parking area with the following exceptions:

- Camping is prohibited in the area from the spur trail joining the Appalachian Trail to and including Humpback Rocks.
- Camping is prohibited along the spur trail from the Appalachian Trail to and including the Humpback Rocks Picnic Area.
- Camping is prohibited at any other location within one-quarter mile of the Blue Ridge Parkway motor road.
- Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of any spring, stream, or other water source.
- Camping is prohibited within 500 feet of the Paul Wolfe Shelter located on Mill Creek.

- o *Backcountry camping is limited to certain specified areas of the Parkway that are determined not to create user conflicts or unacceptable resource impacts. Authorized backcountry camping areas are separated from roads and developed areas to avoid potential user conflicts. Backcountry campsite restrictions are established in order to prevent unreasonable overcrowding, resource damage, and conflict with other campers.*

- o *Special backcountry camping regulations apply in the Humpback Rocks area in*



*order to conform to Appalachian Trail camping regulations. As a condition of an agreement between the Appalachian Trail Park Office and the Blue Ridge Parkway, camping is regulated in this area by the Blue Ridge Parkway through this compendium.*

- Open fires are permitted adjacent to the Appalachian Trail on National Park Service lands in the section from milepost 0 at Rockfish Gap to milepost 9.6 at Dripping Rock parking area subject to closure during periods of extreme fire conditions. The use of camp stoves is encouraged.
- No backcountry permit is required to camp in the following area(s)
  - As delineated above, National Park Service lands adjacent to the Appalachian Trail from Rock Fish Gap (milepost 0) to Dripping Rock parking area (milepost 9.6)
- In following sections of the Appalachian Trail, camping is limited to three (3) nights at any one location and fourteen (14) nights in one calendar year in this area.
  - National Park Service lands adjacent to the Appalachian Trail from Rock Fish Gap (milepost 0) to Dripping Rock parking area (milepost 9.6)

**(d) Food storage requirement apply to all areas within Park boundaries.**

- All campgrounds of the Blue Ridge Parkway including approved backcountry camping sites, are areas where food, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food must be kept sealed in a vehicle, or camping unit that is constructed of solid, non-pliable material, or suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk, or other object, or stored in lockers installed by the government for the purpose of storing food, or within an approved Bear Resistant Food Container.

*o Food Storage Restrictions are established in Park Campgrounds and the Mount Pisgah area due to frequent human/animal conflicts that exist. Food scents attract animals that then consume human food and become habituated to it, increasing the potential for animal-human conflict.*

*o Approved bear resistant containers can be found here:*

[http://www.iqbconline.org/images/pdf/150202\\_Certified\\_Products\\_List.pdf](http://www.iqbconline.org/images/pdf/150202_Certified_Products_List.pdf)

## 36 CFR 2.11 - PICNICKING

- Shelters and tents up to 20 feet by 20 feet in size may be erected for the purposes of picnicking in designated picnic areas. Camping is prohibited in picnic areas, and shelters

may not be left up overnight.

- No modifications (i.e. digging, leveling) may be made to the picnic site to facilitate the erection of a tent or shelter. No stakes or in ground anchors are allowed.

*o Picnic areas are designed for temporary occupancy. Large shelters and tents detract from the scenic and historic nature of the area, and detract from other visitors' experiences.*

## 36 CFR 2.13 - FIRES

**(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:**

- Designated Areas:
  - All park campgrounds in allowed receptacle
  - Established picnic areas in allowed receptacle
  - Backcountry areas with a permit
  - Employee residential areas in allowed receptacle
  - Humpback Rocks area adjacent to the Appalachian Trail
- Receptacles Allowed:
  - Receptacles designed for containing open flames or for the purpose of cooking food. Including gas-powered stoves and grills, portable charcoal grills, canned heat devices and established fire rings.
  - Used charcoal should be disposed of in the existing fire receptacles in developed campgrounds and picnic areas. Disposal in trash receptacles is prohibited.
- Established Conditions for Fires:
  - The Superintendent may impose emergency fire restrictions during periods of high fire danger.

*o The backcountry permit is adequate control for authorized fires in backcountry camping areas. Fires in established picnic grounds, residential areas, and campgrounds, if contained in park-provided fireplaces or grills brought by visitors, present no danger to park resources. Confining open fires in developed areas to picnic grounds, residential areas, and campgrounds allows for a safe and suitable disposal site for fire residue. Gas stoves are permitted wherever picnicking or camping is allowed, as they carry very minimal risk of*

*wildfire. Further restrictions must be imposed during periods of high fire danger to minimize the threat of uncontrolled fire.*

## 36 CFR §2.15 - PETS

**(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are closed to the possession of pets:**

- No closures are listed at this time.

**(a)(5) Pet excrement must be picked up and disposed of in trash receptacles at:**

- campgrounds
- parking lots
- walkways
- all developed areas
- Within 3 feet of a trail edge.

*o Pet excrement is malodorous, unsightly, and unsanitary. It is unreasonable for other visitors to be exposed in close proximity to pet excrement.*

## 36 CFR §2.16- HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

**(a) The following animals are designated as pack animals for purposes of transporting equipment:**

- horses
- llamas
- mules
- burros
- donkeys

**(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas:**

- Moses Cone Park Carriage Roads, excluding the Bass Lake Loop Trail above the dam.
- Roanoke Valley Horse Trail, Milepost 110.6 to 121.4
- Fishers Peak Road within the Park boundary, Milepost 213.3 (from sunrise to sunset)
- Grassy Gap Fire Road, Milepost 243.8
- Parkway crossings contiguous with horse trails on adjacent U.S. Forest land

- Jordan Road, Milepost 44.3
- Enchanted Creek, Milepost 56.1
- USFS 318E, Milepost 57.0
- USFS 318, Milepost 59.1
- Petits Gap, Milepost 71.1
- Floyd Field, Milepost 80.5
- Bobblets Gap, Milepost 93.2
- Black Horse Gap, Milepost 97.5
- Curry Gap, Milepost 101.5

*o Horses and the animals defined as pack animals are not detrimental to park resources or a hazard to visitors not using such animals. The Fishers Peak Road has traditionally been used for horseback riding prior to the land being donated to the Park. The continuation of this activity is not detrimental to Park resources.*

- Pack animals are prohibited from overnight camping in the backcountry.

### 36 CFR §2.17 - AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

**(a)(3) Hang gliding and paragliding are authorized under terms of a permit issued by the Blue Ridge Parkway at:**

- Ravens Roost, Milepost 10.8
- Roanoke Mountain, Milepost 120.5, Roanoke Mountain Overlook.

*o Hang gliding and paragliding in the specified allowable areas creates minimal risk to non-participants and does not significantly impact resources.*

### 36CFR §2.18 - SNOWMOBILES

**(b) The use of snowmobiles within the boundaries of the Blue Ridge Parkway is prohibited.**

- The use of snowmobiles is not consistent with the park's natural, cultural, scenic, and aesthetic values. Snowmobile use has not historically been a frequent activity, and safety concerns outweigh the interests of a small user group. In winter time, the motor road is frequently closed to motorized traffic, either by posting signs or closing gates. During these closures, visitors enjoy walking, skiing, and other activities that would be disturbed

and rendered unsafe by the use of snowmobiles in that same area.

### 36 CFR §2.19 - WINTER ACTIVITIES

**(a) Park roads and/or parking areas closed to motor vehicle traffic may be used for skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice climbing, inner-tubing, tobogganing, and similar winter activities. Animal drawn vehicles are prohibited at all times on park roads.**

### 36 CFR §2.20- SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

The use of roller skates, skateboards, hover boards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, non-motorized scooters, or similar devices are allowed only in the following area(s):

- Parkway residential areas

*o Use is permitted in residential areas in order for employees and their families to engage in roller skating, skateboarding, and similar activities. Such use does not pose a threat to park resources or impose a risk to park visitors.*

### 36 CFR §2.21 - SMOKING

**(a) Smoking in all buildings and facilities is prohibited with the following exceptions:**

No Exceptions.

### 36 CFR §2.22 - PROPERTY

**(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:**

- Personal property may be left unattended at campsites for more than 24 hours only by prior permission of the Superintendent and only if applicable fees have been paid in advance for the period during which the campsite will be unattended.
- In accordance with conditions set forth in a backcountry permit, For the purpose of backcountry trail camping and use, vehicles may be left unattended in excess of 24 hours at the following locations:
  - Humpback Visitor Center, Milepost 5.8
  - Humpback Gap, Milepost 6

- Reids Gap, Milepost 13.7
- White Rock Gap, Milepost 18.5
- Fork Mountain Overlook, Milepost 23
- Appalachian Trail Parking Area, Milepost 51.5
- Thunder Ridge Overlook Milepost 74.3
- Fire Road, Milepost 76.4
- Apple Orchard Overlook Milepost 76.6
- Sunset Field Overlook, Milepost 78.4
- Floyds Field, Milepost 80.5
- Peaks of Otter Visitor Center, Milepost 86
- Bearwallow Gap, Milepost 91.0
- Mills Gap Overlook, Milepost 91.8
- Sharp Top Overlook, Milepost 92.5
- Bobletts Gap Overlook, 93.2
- Harvey's Knob, Milepost 95.3
- Montvale Overlook, Milepost 95.9
- Taylor's Mountain Overlook, Milepost 97
- Black Horse Gap Road, Milepost 97.7
- Curry Gap Road, Milepost 101.5
- Lower fire gate on VA S.R. 605 at the bottom of Rock Castle Gorge; grassy bay at the entrance to Rocky Knob Campground, Milepost 167.1
- Saddle Overlook, Milepost 168
- Rock Castle Gorge Overlook, Milepost 168.8
- Rocky Knob Visitor Center Parking Lot, Milepost 169
- Twelve O'clock Knob Overlook Milepost 169.1
- Devil's Garden Overlook, Milepost 235.7
- Brinegar Cabin Overlook, Milepost 238.5
- Doughton Park Picnic Area, Milepost 241.1
- Fodder Stack Overlook, Milepost 240.7
- Alligator Back Overlook, Milepost 242.4
- Bluff Mountain Overlook, Milepost 243.4
- Grassy Gap Fire Road, Milepost 243.7
- Basin Cove Overlook, Milepost 244.7
- Sims Pond Parking Overlook, Milepost 295.9
- Boone Fork Parking Area, Milepost 299.9
- Walker Knob Overlook, Milepost 359.8
- Looking Glass Rock Overlook, Milepost 417
- Graveyard Fields, Milepost 418.8
- Devil's Courthouse, Milepost 422.4
- Rough Butt Bald Overlook, Milepost 425.4
- Haywood Gap, Milepost 426.5
- Bear Pen Gap Parking Area, Milepost 427.6

*o Allowing vehicles and other property to be left unattended by prior arrangement provides reasonable accommodation to visitors who are involved in extended backcountry trips or other activities.*

## 36 CFR §2.35 -ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

**(a)(3)(i) All public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed except:**

- Designated picnic areas between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. (overlooks not included)
- In developed campgrounds by registered campground users and their guests.
- People legally occupying backcountry camping areas overnight.
- Employee residential areas
- Special events with the Superintendent's approval
- Concession operated lodging and dining facilities

*o In areas closed to alcohol, the Parkway has experienced and documented a history of serious incidents of aberrant behavior related to the consumption of alcoholic beverages of such magnitude that the diligent application of the authorities in Sections 1.5, 2.34, and 2.35, over a reasonable time period, did not alleviate the problem.*

## 36 CFR §2.62- MEMORIALIZATION

**(b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation, without a permit, is allowed under the following terms and conditions:**

- Total group size conducting the memorialization / scattering of ashes is limited to 25 people or less.
- The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.
- The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 100 feet from any trail, road, developed facility, or body of water.
- The scattering of remains is prohibited at Craggy Gardens and Devils Courthouse.
- Permits are required for ceremonies or assemblies that might conflict with normal park operations or result in impact to park resources.

*o Scattering of cremated human remains is a reasonable accommodation to visitors and does not result in negative resource impact.*

*o The scattering of remains at Craggy Gardens and Devils Courthouse has led to a buildup of these materials in cracks of the cliff faces. This changes the pH and*

*character of the soils that are collecting in the crevices, resulting in a different substrate than naturally occurs there. This could have adverse impacts to federally listed plants that grow on the cliff face and could alter use of the cliff face by peregrine falcon and others species of wildlife.*

### 36 CFR §3.21 -SWIMMING AND BATHING

**(a)(1) All Parkway waters are closed to swimming and bathing.**

*o Parkway waters have been determined to be unsuitable and unsafe for swimming or bathing. No suitable beaches are provided, water quality is unknown, and numerous underwater hazards exist. Swimming is not compatible with the aesthetic character of Parkway waters that is a vital part of the Parkway visitor's experience.*

### 36 CFR §4.11 -VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS

**(a) Gross vehicle weights shall not exceed the following:**

<u>Single/ Combination</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Gross Vehicle Weight- lbs. (kg.)</u>
Single	3 axles	48,000 (21,800)
Single	4 or more axles	52,000 (23,600)
Combination	4 axles	62,000 (28,100)
Combination	5 or more axles	66,000(29,600)

- Permission/Permits etc. will not be authorized for vehicles/loads exceeding the established limits, UNLESS the vehicle/load is for a location such as a deed reserved road, concession facility, or Mt. Mitchell State Park. In addition, the Superintendent may further restrict or suspend hauling when the ground is saturated with water or during periods of freezing and/or thawing or for any other cause, and may, on a case- by-case basis, permit hauling of units in excess of the limits set forth above, in consultation with the Parkway Civil Engineer.

*o Limits are essential in order to protect the motor road and appurtenances, to protect resources, and for reasons of visitor safety.*



## 36 CFR §4.21 - SPEED LIMITS

### **(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:**

- The Blue Ridge Parkway motor road has an established speed limit of 45 miles per hour except in areas where that speed limit has been identified as unreasonable or unsafe. Speed limits may be changed on a temporary basis during periods of construction or other similar activities.
- The following sections of Parkway are designated as 35 miles per hour:
  - Milepost 62.9 to 63.9, James River Corridor
  - Milepost 85.3 to 86.2, Peaks of Otter developed area
  - Milepost 114.8 to 115.5, Roanoke River Parkway and Explore Park
  - Milepost 175.8 to 176.8, Mabry Mill developed area
  - Milepost 198.7 to 199.5, Route 608 intersection
  - Milepost 217.3 to 217.5, Cumberland Knob Picnic Area
  - Milepost 240.9 to 241.3, Bluffs Lodge area
  - Milepost 293.7 to 298.5, Moses Cone Manor, Sandy Flat, and Price Park
  - Milepost 383.4- 388.8: Asheville Corridor
  - Milepost 408 - 409: Mount Pisgah Developed Area
  - Milepost 416.8 – 420.2: Graveyard Fields Corridor
- The following areas have been reduced to 25 miles per hour due to documented traffic safety concerns:
  - Milepost 364: Craggy Gardens Visitor Center Area
    - o *The designed speed and established speed limit for the Parkway motor road is 45 miles per hour, except where a lower speed limit is established by general regulations or because of accident frequency, traffic safety engineering recommendations, or for other safety considerations. Each of these sections of roadway has been identified as an area in which the 45 mile per hour speed limit would not be reasonable or safe, given the nature of the roadway, intersecting roads, heavy traffic flow, and/or pedestrian and bicycle use.*

### **(d)(3) Boating**

- Vessels launching at Price Lake may launch only at established ramps. The following locations are authorized for launching:
  - The asphalt launch ramp near the concessions stand

- The concessions stand launch ramp
- The use of boats or any buoyant device used by persons for floatation is prohibited in the following waters:
  - Abbott Lake
  - Rock Castle Creek
  - Sims Pond
  - Otter Creek
  - Little Glade Mill Pond
  - Linville River
  - Bass Lake
  - Trout Lake
  - Otter Lake
  - Hare Mill Pond
  - Rakes Mill Pond
  - Boone Fork River

*o Boats are restricted from many Parkway waters due to conflicts with public enjoyment and lack of adequate launching areas. These lakes were created as an element of a cultural landscape and not for the purpose of providing boating opportunities.*

- The use of any propulsion device on a boat used in waters open for boating must be approved by the Superintendent.

*o Boats are restricted from many Parkway waters due to conflicts with public enjoyment and lack of adequate launching areas. These lakes were created as an element of a cultural landscape and not for the purpose of providing boating opportunities.*

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