



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

J.B.

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is in regard to scattering ashes or cremains within Buffalo National River boundaries. The conditions pertaining to this activity are outlined in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.62 (b), which states: "the scattering of human ashes from cremation is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit, or in designated areas according to conditions which may be established by the Superintendent."

At Buffalo National River, human ashes may be distributed only within the following conditions:

- The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized and must be fully refined with no detectable remains (no teeth, bone fragments, etc.).
- The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed only in undeveloped areas and at least 100 yards away from any trail, road, developed facility, campground or body of water including the river or any waterfall.
- The scattering of remains from the air is to be performed at a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above the ground. No scattering of remains from the air is to be performed over developed areas, facilities, or bodies of water.
- Access to the area must be kept open to the public and the memorialization cannot interfere with normal visitor activity. The park will not exclude nor allow you to exclude other park visitors from the site.
- Scattering must result in complete dispersal of ashes. Cremains may not be piled in one location or buried. No rocks, vegetation or other natural resources will be moved, stacked, cut or disturbed in any way.
- No monument, memorial, plaque, structure, urn, photo or other commemorative item may be left within the boundaries of Buffalo National River.
- Do not bring any potted plants, dried flower arrangements or any plant with seeds as these may introduce non-native or invasive species.

The National Park Service (NPS) does not commit to treating the area as sacred or as a burial ground or cemetery. Park uses, operations and programs will be continued without regard to the presence of the cremains. Please recognize and be aware of the sensitivity of this activity and perform it in a discreet and private manner.

Please notify the Commercial Services Office by phone (870) 365-2702 or (870) 365-2724 of your name, the exact area where ashes will be disbursed and the date and time the activity will take place. If your activities fall outside the guidelines listed above, or you intend to hold a ceremony such as a color guard or memorial service, you must have a Special Use Permit in addition to this letter.

This letter serves as the permit requirement by the citation referenced above. Instructions regarding location and notification will serve as the terms and conditions required by the citation. This letter or a copy thereof must be in the possession of at least one member of the party when human ashes are scattered in the park.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Miller
Deputy Superintendent