

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE  
NATIONAL FORESTS in NORTH CAROLINA,  
Appalachian, Grandfather, Nantahala, and Pisgah Ranger Districts

**Closure of Select Rock Faces to Climbing, Rappelling, Hang Gliding,  
and Similar Recreational Activities to Protect Peregrine Falcon Nesting**

**Amendment to Order Number 01-02-2004**

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (a) and (b) the following acts are prohibited on the areas listed below and further described on the attached list and maps within the National Forests in North Carolina:

*It is prohibited to be upon the rock faces (or portions of rock faces as described in the attached table) within the posted boundaries from January 15 to August 15 of each year. Prohibited activities include rock climbing, rappelling, hang gliding, and other recreational activities on the rock faces themselves. Overnight camping within the posted areas is not allowed. **Through hiking on designated trails is permitted within the posted boundaries.***

*This closure is in effect for the protection of Peregrine Falcon nesting sites (36 CFR 261.53 (a)), and is effective January 19, 2016 through January 15, 2019.*

**Areas to Which This Order Will Apply:**

**Whiterock Cliff**, Madison County, Appalachian Ranger District

**Big Lost Cove Cliffs**, Avery County, Grandfather Ranger District

**Linville Gorge** (NC Wall & Shortoff Mountain), Burke County, Grandfather Ranger District

**Whiteside Mountain**, Jackson County, Nantahala Ranger District

**Looking Glass Rock** (North Face) Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District

**Victory Wall**, Haywood County, Pisgah Ranger District

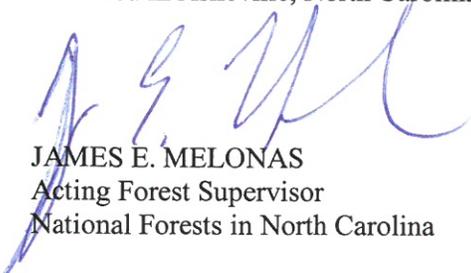
**Buzzard's Roost**, Haywood County, Appalachian Ranger District

Pursuant to 35 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission, and
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

**A site not used by falcons or a site where nesting terminates before August 15<sup>th</sup>, may be opened to public use, as determined by the Forest Supervisor.**

Executed in Asheville, North Carolina this 19th day of January, 2016.



JAMES E. MELONAS  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
National Forests in North Carolina

Violation of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine or not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.

### 2016 North Carolina Peregrine Falcon Climbing Site Closures

Site Name	Area Closed	Landowner
Whitesides Mountain	All climbing routes between and including Southwest Arete and Mainline are closed.	USFS, Nantahala Ranger District (828) 524-6441
NC Wall (Linville Gorge)	All climbing routes between and including Tightrope and Bumblebee Buttress are closed	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Shortoff Mountain (Linville Gorge)	All climbing routes between and including C.O. to and including Paradigm Shift are closed.	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Big Lost Cove Cliffs	All climbing routes are closed.	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Looking Glass Rock (North Face)	All routes to the right* of Glass Menagerie and to the left of and including Twisted Laurel on the North Face of Looking Glass Rock are closed.	USFS, Pisgah Ranger District (828) 877-3350
Victory Wall	All climbing routes are closed.	USFS, Pisgah Ranger District (828) 877-3380
Whiterock Cliff	All climbing routes are closed	USFS, Appalachian Ranger District (828) 682-6146
Buzzard's Roost**	All climbing routes are closed	USFS, Appalachian Ranger District (828) 682-6146

\* As seen from the base of Looking Glass Rock

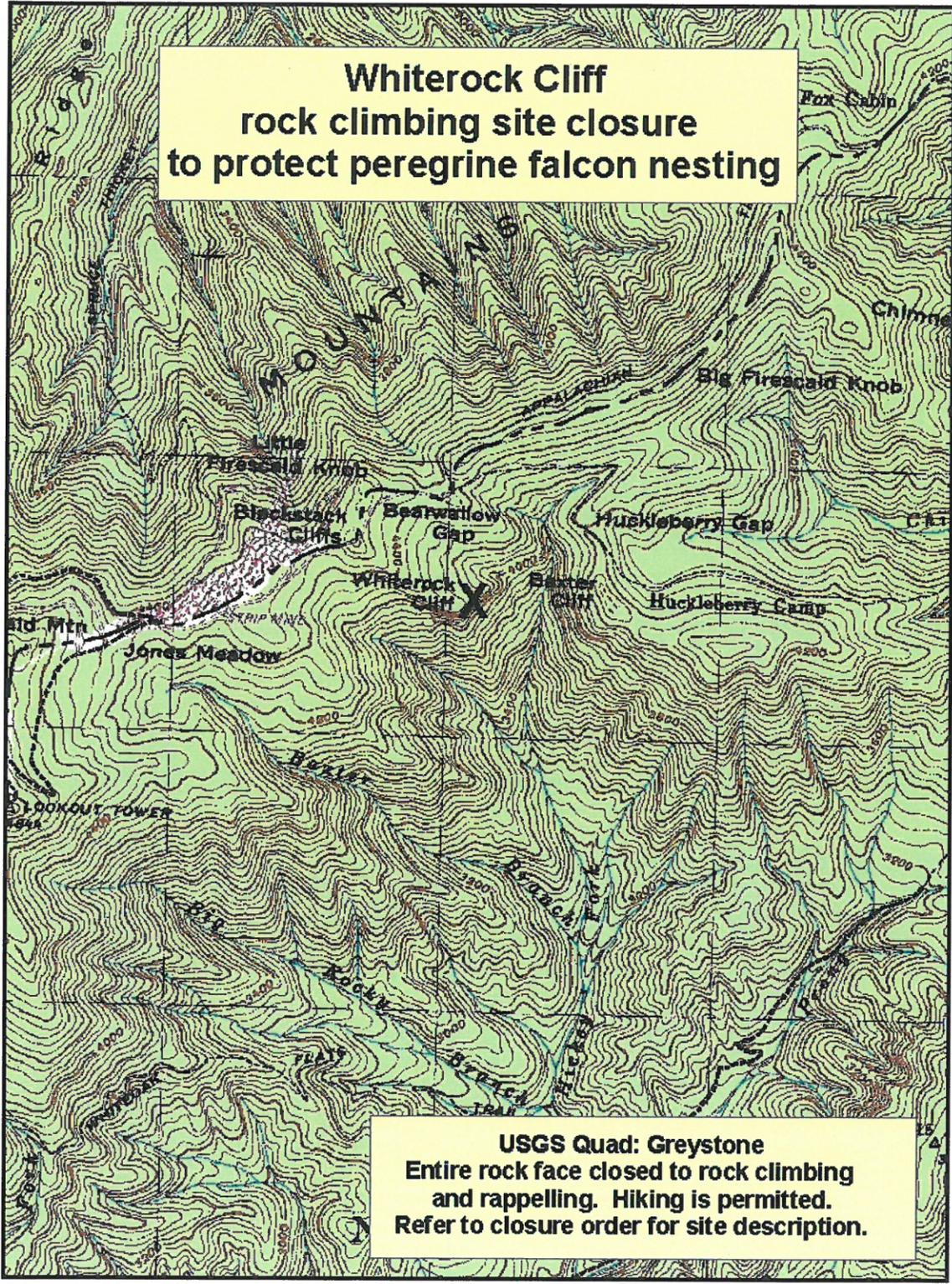
\*\* New closure area in 2012

Climbing route names are taken from: Kelley, Thomas. 1995. *The Climber's Guide to North Carolina* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Earthbound Sports Inc., Chapel Hill, NC 332pp. and from Lambert and Shull. 2002. *Selected Climbs in North Carolina*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. The Mountaineers Books. Seattle, WA. 326pp.

All sites are closed from January 15 - August 15; except that in the event that falcons are not using the site or nesting terminates at an earlier date than August 15<sup>th</sup>, the site may be opened to public use, as determined by the appropriate landowners. The specified closed (or open) routes will change if the falcons nest on a part of the cliff outside the existing closed area, or if they do not nest in an existing closed area, as determined by monitoring throughout the breeding season.

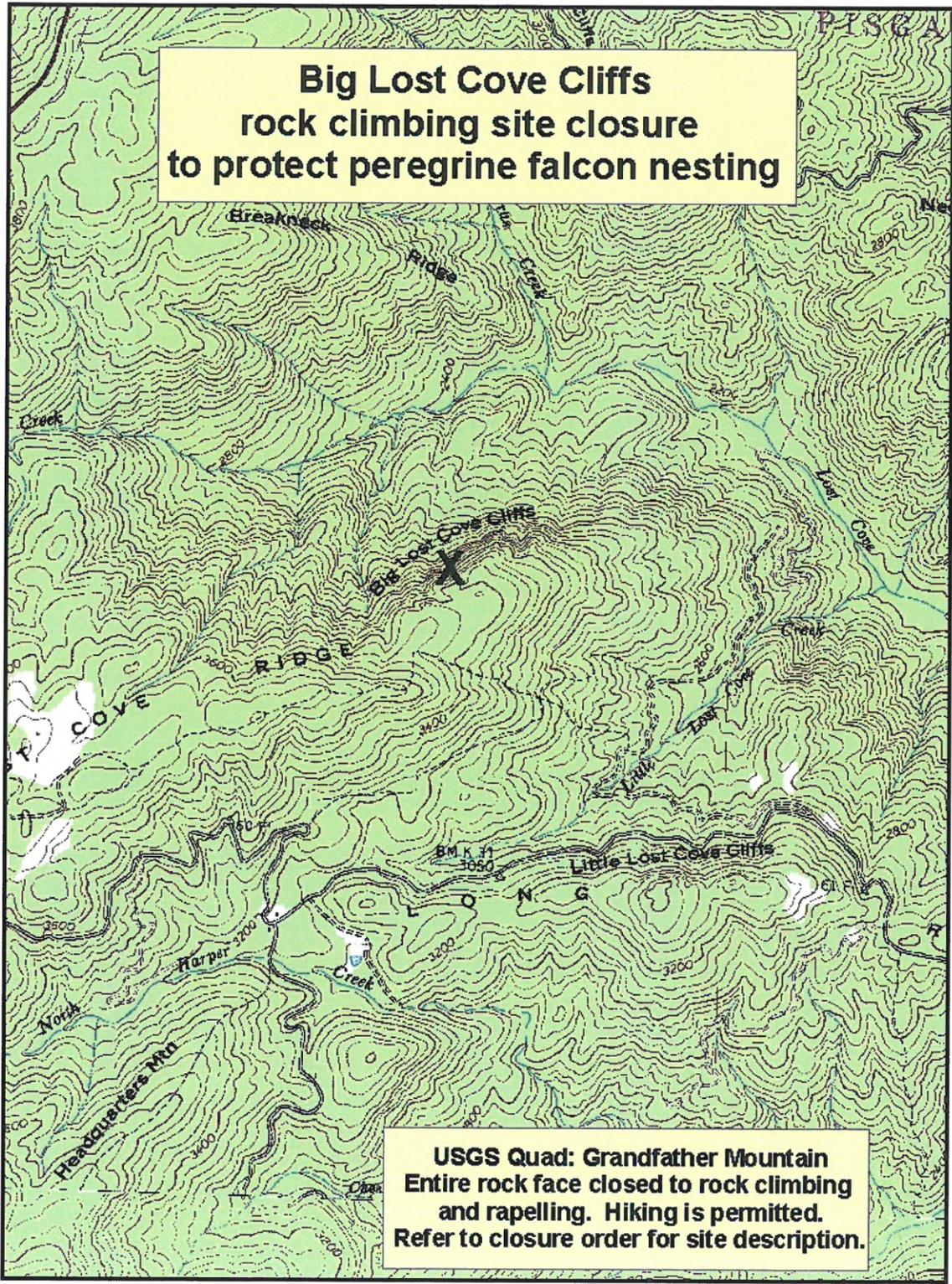
This summary of climbing-site closures represents the best available knowledge regarding closure orders issued by the U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina State Parks as compiled by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission works in collaboration with the above landowners to recommend closure areas that protect peregrine falcon nest sites and minimize restrictions on climbers. Changes in the specific closures and publication of the notices are the responsibility of the respective landowners.

**Whiterock Cliff  
rock climbing site closure  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



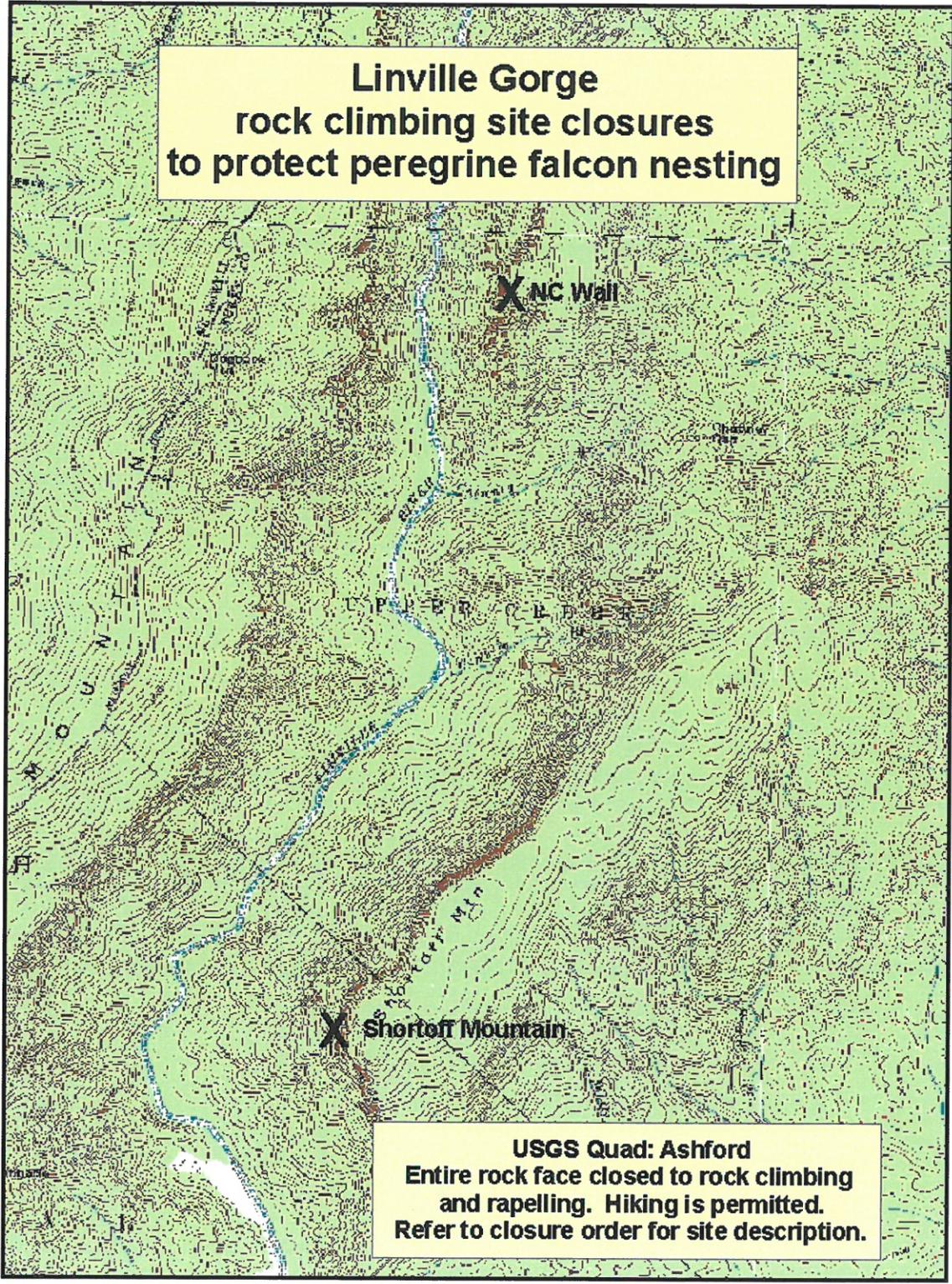
**USGS Quad: Greystone**  
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.  
Refer to closure order for site description.

**Big Lost Cove Cliffs  
rock climbing site closure  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



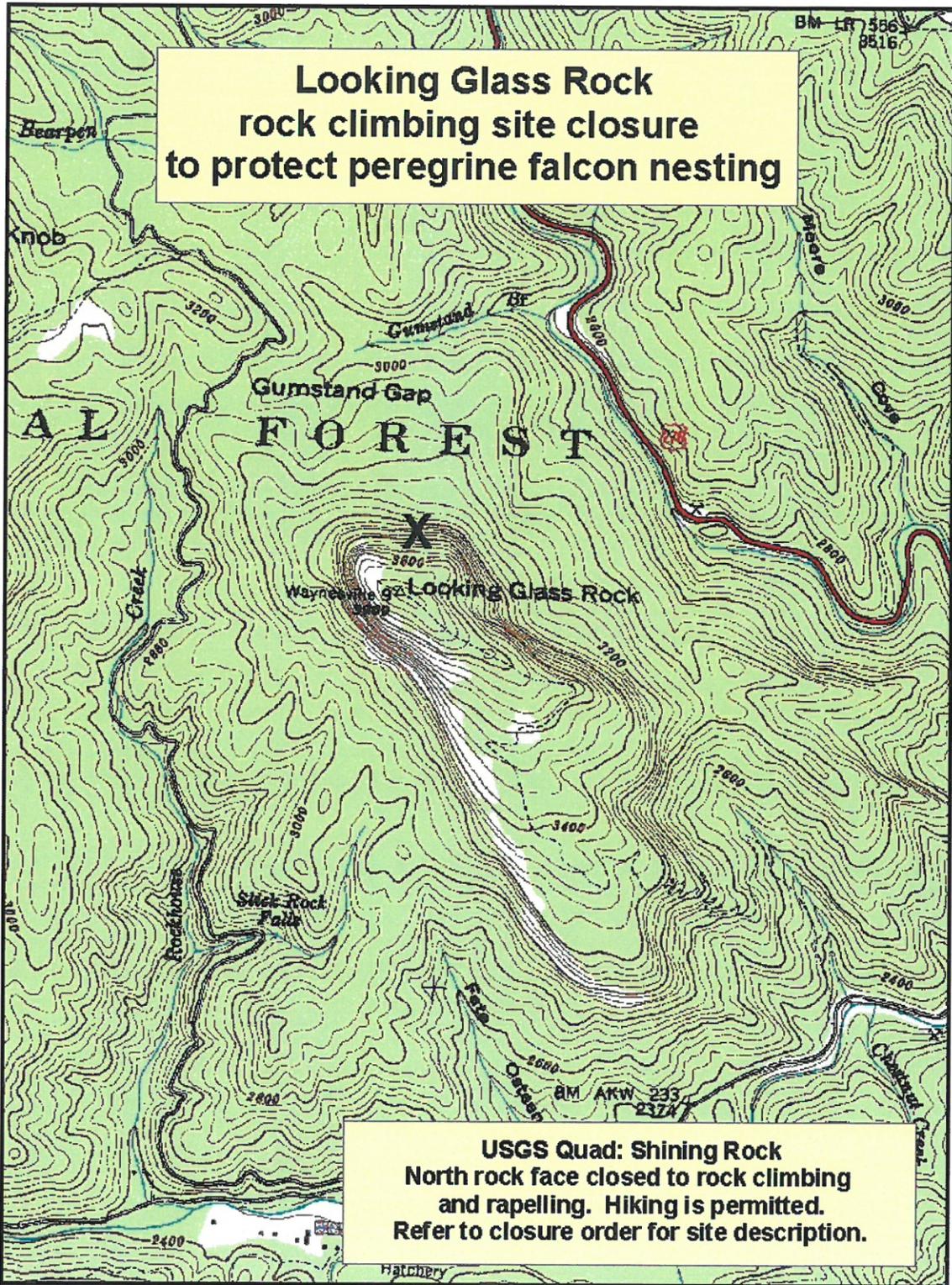
**USGS Quad: Grandfather Mountain  
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rapelling. Hiking is permitted.  
Refer to closure order for site description.**

**Linville Gorge  
rock climbing site closures  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



**USGS Quad: Ashford  
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.  
Refer to closure order for site description.**

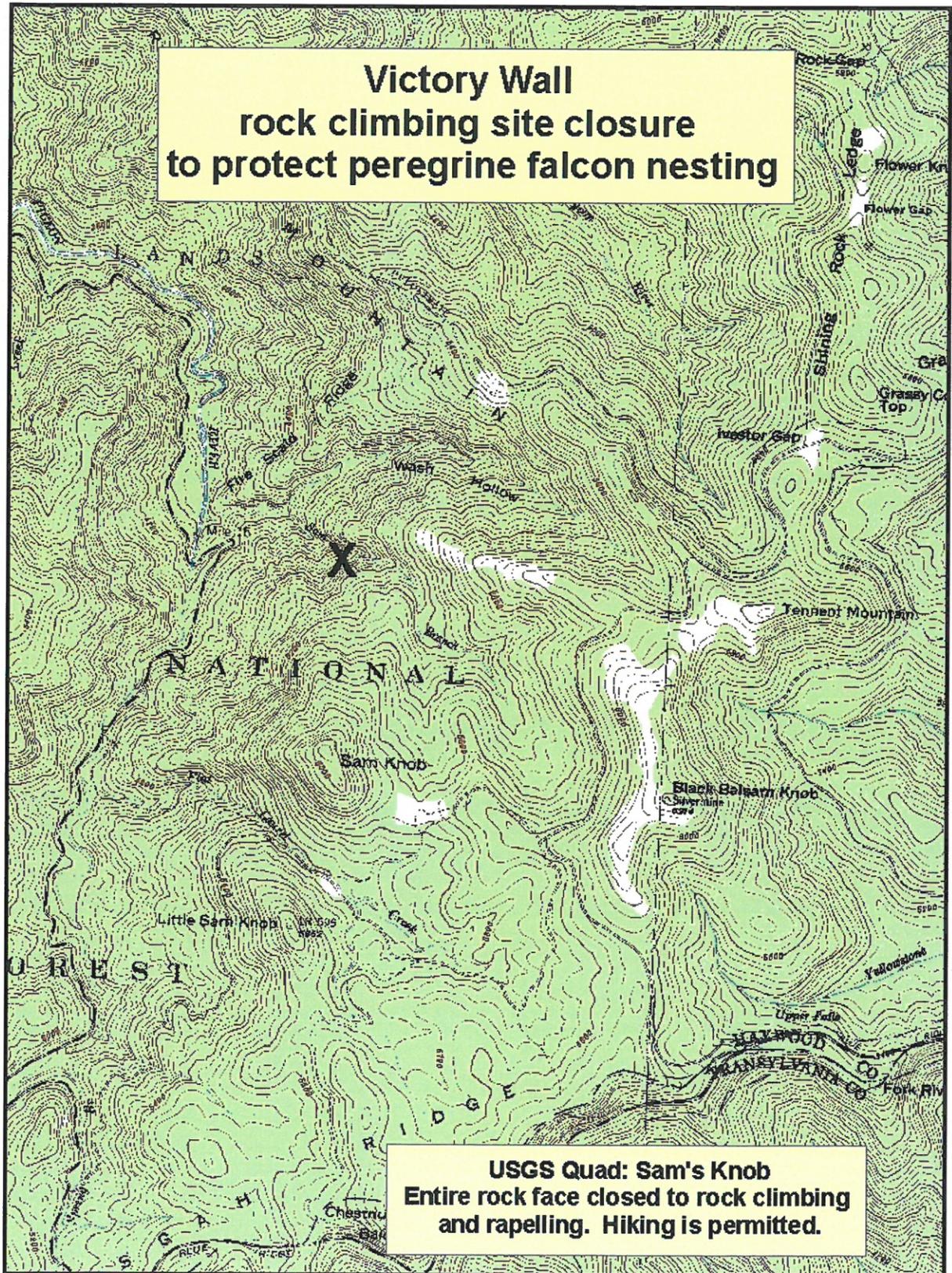




**Looking Glass Rock  
rock climbing site closure  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**

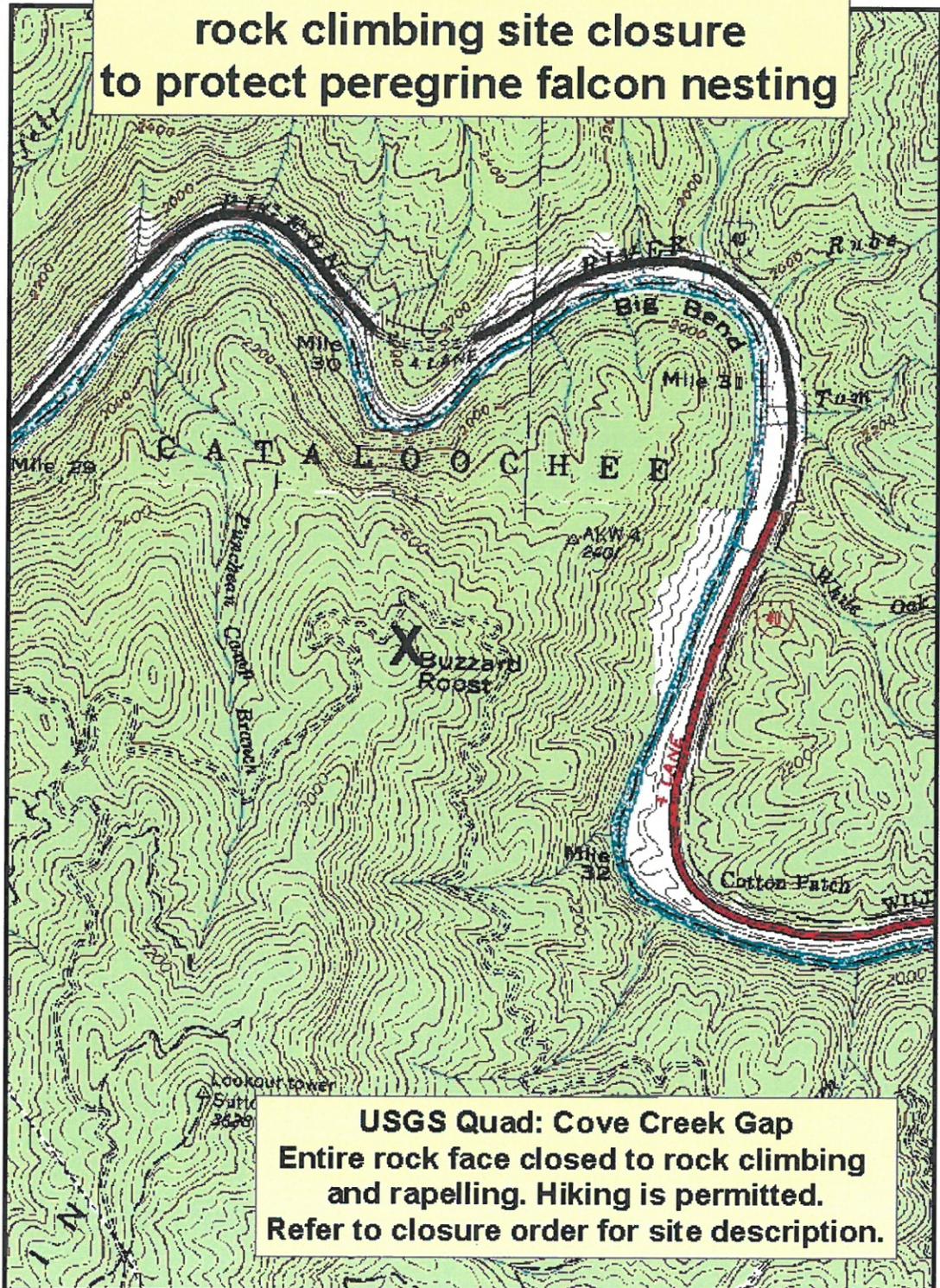
**USGS Quad: Shining Rock  
North rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.  
Refer to closure order for site description.**

**Victory Wall  
rock climbing site closure  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



**USGS Quad: Sam's Knob  
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.**

**Buzzard's Roost  
rock climbing site closure  
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



**USGS Quad: Cove Creek Gap**  
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing  
and rapelling. Hiking is permitted.  
Refer to closure order for site description.