



Allegheny National Forest Camping Regulations



The goal of our dispersed recreation regulations is to protect resources and provide a quality experience for both current and future users. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you and enjoy your visit.

Vehicle Use:

- The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) shows all roads and trails open for public use and is the official tool for managing vehicle use on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) (36 CFR 212.13). Over-snow vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft are exempt from MVUM, but covered under 36 CFR 261.14.
- The use or possession of motor vehicles off of National Forest System roads is prohibited. [36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 261.13)]. Vehicles should be parked no more than 50' from a designated road.
- Vehicles may not be parked in a manner blocking or restricting the use of any roadway OR in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to any person. (36 CFR 261.12(d), 36 CFR 261.10(f)).
- ATVs, snowmobiles, and unregistered motorcycles (non-street legal) are prohibited from using National Forest roads and are restricted to the designated trail systems (36 CFR 261.13, 36 CFR 261.14).

Occupancy and Use:

- Do not camp or park in front of closed gates or in roadways - allow entry for emergency vehicles and administrative access [36 CFR 261.12(d), 36 CFR 261.10(f)].
- All campsites are on a first come basis and cannot be reserved. Reserving campsites is strictly enforced.
- At least one person must occupy a campsite during the first night [36 CFR 261.16(h)].
- Leaving camping equipment or other property unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited [36 CFR 261.58(e)].
- Permissible length of stay is no more than 14 days in a 30 day period [36 CFR 261.58(a)]. Forest Order 17-001.
- Construction of custom, temporary structures in conjunction with camping will be allowed. Examples include tents and tarps. All structures must be removed from the National Forest by the user at the end of their stay at the site [36 CFR 261.10(e)].

Firearms: Firearms may be carried in accordance with federal and state law.

- All firearms users must provide for an adequate backstop behind their target area. Trees, signs, and other public property shall not be used as targets or backstops [36 CFR 261.9(a)]
- It is prohibited to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, or potentially occupied area. With the exception of legal migratory waterfowl hunting, it is prohibited to discharge firearms across or adjacent to a public roadway or body of water [36 CFR 261.10(d)]
- All trash, including brass and spent targets, must be removed from National Forest lands [36 CFR 261.11(d)].

Unreasonable Noise: All Forest users are prohibited from causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise [36 CFR 261.4(d)].

Natural Resources:

- Do not cut or otherwise damage live trees. Do not put nails in trees, picnic tables, or other government property. Do not use trees to hang camp lanterns. The use of live trees for target backstops or to "plant" camp axes is prohibited [36 CFR 261.9(a), 36CFR 261.6(a)].
- Cutting incidental amounts of dead wood for campsite firewood within the National Forest is allowed and does not require a permit. Removing wood from the National Forest requires a firewood permit which is available at local ranger district offices [36 CFR 261.6(a), 36 CFR 261.6(h)].
- Excavations are limited to those required to make safe campfire rings and sanitary pit toilets. Any excavation will be re-leveled prior to vacating your campsite.
- Digging for and/or removal of archaeological resources (artifacts) is prohibited [36CFR 261.9(g)(h)].

Sanitation:

- *If you pack it in then please, pack it out!* All garbage, including paper, cans, bottles, or rubbish must be placed in appropriate containers when on site and removed from National Forest lands when the site is vacated. Burying or otherwise disposing of garbage at the campsite is strictly prohibited. Do not dispose of cans, bottles, and other material in campfire rings [36 CFR 261.11(b), 36 CFR 261.11(d)].
- A pit toilet or "cathole" is required for each camp except on Clarion River, where public toilets must be used, or when camping is limited to "self-contained" trailers. Pit toilets shall be located at least 200 feet from any lake, pond, or stream. Pit toilets must be refilled to ground level with a minimum of six (6) inches of soil. Pack out toilet paper, diapers, and other sanitary products.
- "Self-contained" trailers must use designated dump stations for sewage and gray water.

Campfires:

- Do not leave campfires unattended. Thoroughly extinguish campfires before leaving your campsite [36 CFR 261.5(d)].
- Possessing, storing, or transporting any amount of wood or firewood of any species that has originated outside of the counties of Elk, Forest, Warren, and/or McKean within Pennsylvania is prohibited [36 CFR 261.53(e), Forest Order 17-020].

Special Regulation Areas:

The following areas have certain regulations that may include a restriction on camping:

Allegheny Reservoir

- Camping is prohibited on the shores and within 1,500 ft. inland of the tree line around the Reservoir EXCEPT at designated campgrounds [36 CFR 261.58(e), Forest Order 17-009].
- Camping is prohibited within 1,500 ft. of the centerline of Longhouse Scenic Byway (includes Longhouse Scenic Drive and portions of State Routes, 59, 346, and 321) and the main access roads into Jakes Rocks and Rimrock Recreation Area except at designated recreation sites (Forest Order 17-009).

Arroyo Heritage Site

- Camping is prohibited (Forest Order 17-015).
- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire is prohibited (Forest Order 17-015).

Buzzard Swamp Propagation Area, Corydon-Riverview Cemetery

- All entry is prohibited (Forest Orders 17-005 and 17-009, respectively)

Clarion River and Millstone Creek (along River Road and FR 132)

- Camping is restricted to designated sites along Clarion River from the eastern-most boundary of Elk County to the western-most boundary of Forest County and along Millstone Creek from Loleta Recreation Area and FR 130 to the confluence of Millstone Creek and Clarion River. (Forest Order 17-015)

Forest Roads 401 and 125

- Camping is prohibited within 500 feet of the centerline of FR 401 from the Forest boundary to the stone pit at the Marienville ATV trailhead (Forest Order 17-015).
- Camping is prohibited within 500 feet of the centerline of FR 125 (Pigs Ear Rd) between the intersections with FR 124 and State Route 66 (Forest Order 17-015).

Hemlock Road

- Camping or building/maintaining/attending a fire within 500 feet of the centerline of Hemlock Road in Glade Township, Warren County (Forest Order 17-015).

Hickory Creek Wilderness/ Allegheny Islands Wilderness

- Motorized equipment and mechanical transports are strictly prohibited in Wilderness areas [36 CFR 261.16(a), 36 CFR 261.16(b)].

Jake's Rocks and Rimrock Overlooks

- Camping is prohibited.
- Securing ropes or other devices to the stone ballasts and/or steel railings for the purpose of rappelling and/or climbing at Rimrock is prohibited (Forest Order 17-014).

Kinzua Creek from Red Bridge to Meade Run

- Camping is prohibited on either side of the main channel.

Salmon Creek Road

- Camping in non-designated areas from the southern-most forest boundary of F.R. 145 and Muzette Rd north to the western-most forest boundary on F.R. 127 near Kellettsville (Forest Order 17-015).

Tionesta Research Natural Area and Heart's Content Scenic Area

The following are prohibited under Forest Order 17-012:

- Camping
- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire.
- Possessing or using a saddle, pack, or draft animal.
- Possessing or using a bicycle

Tionesta Reservoir

- Camping is prohibited on National Forest lands within 1,500 feet inland of the shore except at designated sites.
- Possession of a beverage which is defined as an alcoholic beverage by state law is prohibited (Forest Order 17-008).

Additional Information:

- Bradford Ranger Station – 814-362-4613
- Marienville Ranger Station – 814-927-6628
- Supervisor's Office – 814-723-5150
- Website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny