
File Code: 5350; 1720
Date: June 24, 2016

Dear Friend of the Forest:

I intend to update and issue a revised set of standing closure orders (those typically in place for 5 years or more) for the Ouachita National Forest no later than July 14, 2016. These orders are designed to promote public safety and resource protection on the Ouachita National Forest.

Standing closure orders are developed and issued pursuant to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261, Subpart B, which stipulates that Forest Supervisors (and certain other US Forest Service line officers) "may issue orders which close or restrict the use of described areas within the area over which he [she] has jurisdiction. An order may close an area to entry or may restrict the use of an area by applying any or all of the prohibitions authorized in this subpart or any portion thereof." From time to time, I may also issue shorter term closure orders in order to promote public safety and/or protect resources. Orders issued under Subpart B are supplemental to the general prohibitions enumerated in Subpart A of 36 CFR 261.

I invite you to comment by July 11 on the proposed updates to the standing closure orders for the Ouachita National Forest by writing to me at the Ouachita National Forest, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902, or via email to: comments-southern-ouachita@fs.fed.us. Please specify in the subject line that your email comments relate to "closure orders." All current closure orders and the proposed updated versions are located on this website: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ouachita/prohibitions.

Although the proposed, updated orders are little changed from those that were issued 5 years ago, I wanted to provide this opportunity to comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


NORMAN WAGONER
Forest Supervisor

