



# Allegheny Brambles

An informational article about the Allegheny National Forest

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United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
P. O. Box 847  
Warren, PA 16365-0847

Contact: Steve Miller  
Telephone: 814/723-5180, X198

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## Firearms in the Allegheny National Forest

### *Fourth article in a series about recreation on the Allegheny National Forest (NF)*

I answered the phone and the voice on the other end said “I’m coming to the Allegheny NF for the weekend. Can I bring my .22 pistol and plink at cans?” This is actually a common question. You can interchange .22 pistol with .45 mag or .357 or a myriad of other firearms but the questions come regularly from visitors using the Allegheny NF.

All Federal and State firearms laws apply to National Forest System lands. In addition there are a number of regulations specific to the National Forest. Some of these regulations are:

- You may not shoot from a vehicle (exceptions apply to people with the Disabled Person’s Permit from the Pennsylvania Game Commission).
- You may not shoot across or on a road or across a body of water.
- You may not shoot within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area.
- Target shooting with firearms, bows and arrows, and other devices capable of launching projectiles must be done in a manner that will not expose people or property to injury or damage.
- Target shooting must be done in daylight hours.
- Shooting at signs or other public property is extremely dangerous and is strictly prohibited.
- All shooting must be directed to a safe backstop that does not consist of live trees, signs or other public property. Use an earthen berm or some other obstruction large enough to absorb the

bullets and stop them from damaging anything behind the backstop. You are responsible for that bullet from the time it leaves the barrel until it comes to a complete stop.

- Be aware and considerate of other recreationists using the forest in the vicinity of your recreational shooting, e.g., have you fired off 100 rounds with your automatic weapon during your 'plinkin' or have you fired off 500+ rounds?
- Clean up all your spent shells and remove your targets and other trash from National Forest System lands when you have finished your recreational shooting for the day.

Target shooting is just one of the many forms of recreation that can be experienced on the Allegheny NF. By following these simple rules you can keep target shooting safe for you and you fellow forest visitors.

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