



Accessible Hunting and Fishing in Pisgah National Forest



Hunting and fishing – traditional, time-honored sports – are popular in the Pisgah National Forest. Outside of developed recreation areas, fishing and hunting are permitted throughout the forest. While the Forest Service manages the habitat in the national forest, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regulates both hunting and fishing. State licenses are required.

The commission annually issues a publication listing regulations and license information. The Regulations Digest is available by calling 888-248-6834 and online at www.ncwildlife.org, select “Licensing.”



Many game animals, including white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and gray squirrels thrive in the forest. The Forest Service provides a variety of hunting opportunities, including accessible hunting for the disabled in the following locations. Contact the ranger district offices for more information about these areas.

- Appalachian Ranger District: Roaring Creek (Avery Co., below Appalachian Trail); Bowling Green (Mitchell Co., near Poplar); Mill Ridge (Madison Co., between Marshall and Hot Springs); Moye Tract (Madison Co., near Hot Springs); Max Patch (Madison Co., near Waynesville); and Cold Springs (Haywood Co., near Max Patch and Waynesville). Two accessible hunting blinds are available at Victor Fields off of Forest Service road (FS) 5511.
- Grandfather Ranger District: Jarrett Creek (McDowell Co., near Old Fort); Lime Kiln (McDowell Co., north of Marion); Dobson Knob (McDowell Co., between Marion and Morganton); Maple Sally (Caldwell Co., near Collettsville); and Percy Creek (Burke Co., near Glen Alpine).
- Pisgah Ranger District: Avery Creek Fields (Transylvania Co., off Hwy 276, near Cradle of Forestry); Wolf Ford Road (Transylvania Co., FS 476, off Yellow Gap Road); and Lickstone Road (Haywood Co., near Sunburst).



The Pisgah National Forest is a haven for fishing. Cold water, mountain streams are prime habitat for brown, rainbow and native brook trout. All national forest streams are “wild trout waters,” unless classified and posted otherwise. Most of Upper Davidson River, above Avery Creek, is “catch and release fly fishing” only.

Lake Powhatan, with its accessible fishing pier, is stocked with hatchery trout. In addition, disabled anglers will find accessible fishing piers at Max Patch Pond and Boone Fork Pond. Accessible piers on rivers and streams include North Mills River at North Mills River Campground; Davidson River at Sycamore Flats and Coon Tree day use areas; Jarrett Creek near Curtis Creek Campground; and the French Broad River at Murray Branch Day Use Area.

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