

Red River Gorge

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 4 – December 2014, January, February 2015

Upcoming Events

www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf



Koomer Ridge Campground

Off season rates
\$10/night any site
Water and vault toilets available

Winter Hours

8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday
Closed on Weekends

Contact the Gladie Center at 606-663-8100 or click [Koomer](#) for more information.

Natural Resource Management

Why are Some Campsites and Trails Being Closed?

While exploring the Red River Gorge, visitors may encounter Forest Service staff closing and rehabilitating some of the 924 backcountry campsites and 194 miles of user created trails. But why, aren't lots of campsites and trails a good thing? Not if they damage forest resources.

A campsite or trail closure can happen for a variety of reasons. Campsites in rockshelters or within 100 feet of a cliff base are closed to protect artifacts and the threatened white haired goldenrod. Campsites that are too close to official trails and roads are closed to preserve forest scenery. Please remember to camp at least 300 feet away from roads and official trails and 100 feet away from rockshelters and the base of cliffs! Campsite and user trail closures also fall into a third category, improving water quality.



Backcountry Campsite Closure

Numerous backcountry campsites and user trails have become severely impacted and eroded from overuse. Many of these are very close to water sources. Sediment from these campsites and user trails then washes into the Red River and creeks, diminishing water quality. Poor water quality has negative impacts on both people and wildlife.



Many Campsites are Heavily Eroded

In an effort to improve water quality, a grant from the Kentucky Division of Water was awarded to the Daniel Boone National Forest. This grant has helped fund the closure and rehabilitation of eroded campsites and user trails. Each campsite rehabilitation prevents 500 pounds of sediment from washing into the river and creeks every year! Rehab projects in 2014 will reduce stream sedimentation by 53 tons!



Campsite Rehabilitation

Visitors can help improve water quality by staying on official trails while hiking, respecting closures of trails and campsites, and camping at least 200 feet away from water sources. Click [here](#) to learn more about the efforts to improve water quality in the Red River watershed!

News and Updates

Winter Road Closures?

The Gladie Center has been receiving questions about potential winter road closures. All forest roads in the Red River Gorge are open year round. The only time that they are closed, is if they become unfit for travel. For example, last winter brought an unusual amount of snow and ice, which rutted the forest roads and littered them with downed trees. Because of this, they had to be temporarily closed to prevent further damage and ensure visitor safety. Unless the Red River Gorge experiences another harsh winter, all forest roads will remain open.

Visitors should also know that forest roads are not plowed or treated. Only state highways (77, 715, and 15) are plowed, but are often considered low priority. As always, please use extra caution while traveling in the Red River Gorge this winter!



February 2014 had Severe Impacts on Forest Roads

Gladie Center Holiday Hours

The Gladie Center will be closed from December 20th through January 4th. Gladie will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on January 5th. Additionally, the Gladie Center will be closed on all Federal Holidays in January and February. Happy Holidays!

Meet the Forest Service

Staff Departures

The Red River Gorge is sad to announce that two of its staff members are moving on. Both Anita Hall, Customer Service Representative, and Denise Carpenter, Backcountry Ranger, have accepted new positions within the Forest Service.

In November, Anita moved to the Forest Supervisor's Office in Winchester. Anita started with the Forest Service in 2004 at the Stanton Office, then moved to the Gladie Center in 2008. If you have ever visited Gladie, you most likely have talked to Anita about hiking, camping, kayaking, or purchased a permit from her.



Come December, Denise will travel to Arizona to work on Wilderness and Trails in the Kaibab National Forest. After interning at the gorge in 2007, Denise accepted a permanent position in 2012. Since then, Denise has maintained trails, conducted river clean ups, and suppressed wildfire, among other duties.

Both Anita and Denise will truly be missed and we wish them much luck in their new positions!

Contact Us

Mark A. Engler, Director
Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center
3451 Sky Bridge Rd, Hwy 715 Stanton, KY 40380
(606) 663-8100 www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region