



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

NEWS • RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Alcohol Restrictions Placed on Recreation Sites

ASHEVILLE, NCEleven recreation sites on the Nantahala National Forest will be safer through a ban on alcohol. There have been numerous safety incidents in which alcohol was a factor. To assure a safer more enjoyable experience for all recreationists at those sites, the Forest Supervisor has signed a closure order to ban the use of alcohol. The sites include: Balsam Lake Recreation Area, Big Choga Dispersed Camping Sites, Bristol Fields Campground, Cheoah Point Swimming Area, Dry Falls Recreational Area, Fire's Creek Hunter's Camp, Fire's Creek Picnic Area, Jackrabbit Recreation Area, Pine Ridge Dispersed Camping Sites, Wayah Bald Tower and Picnic Area, and Whiteside Mountain Recreation Area. All sites are within the Tusquitee, Cheoah and Nantahala Ranger Districts.

Several sites have been vandalized in association with alcohol consumption. Law enforcement officials have been called out for related incidents. Broken beer bottles in streams pose safety concerns for barefoot children and adults in adjoining creeks. Cheoah Point Swimming Area is the only public, free swimming on Lake Santeetlah and brings large numbers of visitors. An alcohol closure at the site will reduce the potential for drowning. Steve Lohr, Tusquitee District Ranger, stated "I would not stay at some of the sites with my kids with the current alcohol issues we are experiencing."

The US Forest Service appreciates the cooperation of all visitors to forest recreation sites in following regulations for those sites for the enjoyment of everyone. For more information on recreation sites across the forest and Ranger District contact information see the Carolina Connections publication online at

www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/connections/Connections2010.pdf.