

Dispersed Camping Rules and Regulations

Daniel Boone National Forest



About These Rules

All users of national forests are subject to federal regulations. They are meant to control actions that cause damage to natural resources and facilities, as well as actions that cause unreasonable disturbances or unsafe conditions for visitors.

This is not a comprehensive list of regulations. The full set is published in Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property of the Code of Federal Regulations, available at Forest Service offices and at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

Violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.

Regional Foresters and Forest Supervisors may issue orders that will close or restrict the use of certain areas if the need arises. These orders are available at Forest Service offices and at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>.

Other rules that originate from various state and Federal regulations are enforced in this area. This is particularly true in the case of traffic, boating, hunting, fishing and trapping.

The federal government is not responsible for any loss or theft of personal property.

Fees

There are no fees for dispersed camping. However, in the Red River Gorge there is a fee for overnight parking between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Noise

The following are **prohibited**:

- Fighting or causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise. 261.4 (a, d).
- Operating or using in or near a campsite, developed recreation site, or over an adjacent body of water without a permit, any device which produces noise, such as a radio, television, musical instrument, motor or engine in such a manner and at such a time so as to unreasonably disturb any person. 261.10 (i).

Alcoholic Beverages

Kentucky law prohibits consumption and open containers of alcohol in public places, including national forest land and Kentucky lakes and waterways. KRS 222.202; 261.58 (bb), Supervisor's Order DB-06-10.

Fires

Dead and down material may be used for fires. Living trees, shrubs and plants may not be cut or damaged. 261.6 (a).

- Remove all flammable material from around the campfire to prevent its escape. 261.5 (f).
- Fires may be prohibited during burn ban conditions. Obey any special restrictions that have been issued or posted. 261.52, 261.53.

The following are **prohibited**:

- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it, or failing to maintain control of a fire. 261.5 (d, e).
- Carelessly or negligently throwing or placing any ignited substance or other substance that may cause a fire. 261.5 (a).
- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or the back of a rock shelter. 261.52(a); DB-02-11.

Fireworks and Firearms

The following are **prohibited**:

- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive. 261.16 (d).
 - Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition. 261.5 (b).
 - Displaying a firearm within a developed recreation site except for cleaning and or transporting to and from vehicle. 261.53 (e), Supervisor's Order DB-09-10.
 - Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows: 261.10 (d).
1. In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or
 2. Across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge.
 3. Into or within any cave.

Trail Use

The following are **prohibited**:

- Shortcutting a switchback on a trail. 261.55 (e), Supervisor's Order DB-08-10.
- Being on a trail not designated for that use. 261.55 (a), Supervisor's Order DB-08-10.
- Operating a bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle on a trail unless designated for this use. 261.16 (n).



Dispersed Camping

The following are prohibited:

- Camping or maintaining a campsite for more than 14 consecutive days in a dispersed or non-fee area without having terminated Forest occupancy for a minimum of 10 days within a 31-day time frame. 261.58 (a), Supervisor's Order.
- Failing to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the site. 261.16 (f).
- Occupying any portion of the site for other than recreation purposes. 261.16 (a).
- Camping in violation of posted signs. 261.58 (e).
- Camping within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or back of any rock shelter. 261.58(e); DB-02-11.

Red River Gorge Geological Area: Supervisor's Order 12-01-10

The following are prohibited:

- Camping within 300 feet of any developed road. 261.58(e)
- Camping within 300 feet of any developed trail. 261.58(e)
- Camping within 600 feet of Gray's Arch. 261.58(e)
- Camping within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or back of any rock shelter. 261.58(e)
- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or the back of a rock shelter. 261.52(a)

Gladie Creek Visitor Center and Area: Supervisor's Order 12-02-10

The following is **prohibited**:

Being in the Gladie Area Visitors Center and area compound after sundown and before sunrise. 261.58(l)

Pioneer Weapons Hunting Area: Supervisor's Order 11-03-10

The following is **prohibited**:

Camping within 300 feet of National Forest System Road #918, except at designated sites. 261.58(e)

White Sulphur OHV Trail System #124: Supervisor's Order 11-06-10

The following activities are **prohibited** from May 1st to November 30th:

Overnight camping within 300 feet of the edge of the trail. 261.58(e).

At Cave Run Lake, Laurel River Lake and Lake Cumberland: Supervisor's Order DB-07-10

The following are **prohibited**:

- Camping within 300 feet of the waters edge of Cave Run or Laurel Lake except at sites designated for camping. 261.58(e)
- Camping within 300 feet of any Road or Trail leading to the waters edge of Cave Run Lake or Laurel Lake except at sites designated for camping. 261.58(e)

At Laurel River: Supervisor's Order 14-01-08

The following are **prohibited**:

- Camping within 300 feet of the high water line of a portion of Upper Lake Cumberland, specifically that part of Upper Lake Cumberland located from the Mouth of Laurel Boat Ramp upstream on the Laurel River to the administrative boundary between the USDA Forest Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers. 261.58(e)
- Camping within 300 feet of the Sheltopee Trace National Recreation Trail (NRT-100) on the section from the Mouth of Laurel Boat Ramp to the administrative boundary between the USDA Forest Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers. 261.58(e)

Jellico and Rock Creek: Supervisor's Order 16-03-10

The following is **prohibited**:

Camping within 300 feet of NFSR 492 and NFSR 137, unless within a site designated for camping 261.58(e),



Resource Protection

The following are **prohibited**:

- Going into or being upon areas which have been closed for the protection of threatened and/or endangered, rare, unique, or vanishing species of plants, animals, birds or fish. Supervisor's Order 14-01-10, 11-07-10.
- Damaging or removing any natural feature or other property of the United States. 261.9 (a, b).
- Cutting, removing, or otherwise damaging any timber, tree, or other forest product, including special forest products and forest botanical products. 261.6 (a, h).
- Damaging or removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species. 261.9 (c, d).
- Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, removing or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property. 261.9 (g, h).
- Excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource. 261.9 (i).
- Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave. 261.9 (j).
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive into or within any cave. 261.10 (o).
- Camping within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or back of any rock shelter. 261.58(e); DB-02-11.



Sanitation

Remove all garbage from the site by packing it out or placing it in the trash cans that have been provided.

The following are **prohibited**:

- Depositing in any toilet, toilet vault, or plumbing fixture any substance which could damage or interfere with the operation or maintenance of the fixture. 261.11 (a).
- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris, or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition. 261.11 (b).
- Depositing any body waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose. 261.16 (p).
- Placing in or near a stream, lake, or other water any substance that pollutes a stream, lake, or other water. 261.11 (c).
- Failing to dispose of all garbage, including any paper, can, bottle, sewage, waste water or material, or rubbish either by removal from the site or area, or by depositing it into receptacles or at places provided for such purposes. 261.11 (d)
- Dumping of any refuse, debris, trash or litter brought as such from private property or from land occupied under permit, except, where a container, dump or similar facility has been provided and is identified as such, to receive trash generated from private lands or lands occupied under permit. 261.11 (e)

Food Storage Restrictions

Food storage restrictions may be in effect in some areas. Check bulletin boards for more information.

Under these restrictions, the following are **prohibited**:

1. Possessing, storing, or leaving any food, refuse or bear attractant unless it is:
 - a. properly stored in a bear-resistant container;
 - b. suspended at least ten feet clear of the ground at all points, suspended at least four feet horizontally from the supporting tree or pole, and suspended at least four feet from any other tree or pole adjacent to the supporting tree or pole;
 - c. stored in a closed, motor vehicle without a soft, convertible top; or
 - d. being eaten, being prepared for eating or being transported.
2. Discarding or abandoning any food, refuse, or bear attractant unless it is disposed of in a bear-resistant trash receptacle which has been provided by the Forest Service for that purpose.



Pets

The following are prohibited:

- At developed recreation sites, bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a seeing eye dog, unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control. 261.16(i)
- Allowing dogs or any other animals to remain unrestrained on National Forest lands after being directed by a Forest Service Officer to physically restrain the animal in question. 261.53(e), Supervisor's Order DB-03-10.



Vehicle Operation

National Forest System roads and trails are closed to motorized vehicle use when blocked by a gate, sign, earthen mound or physical barrier erected to restrict motorized vehicular travel. 261.54(a), Supervisor's Order DB-04-10.

The following are **prohibited**:

- Operating any motor vehicle on open Forest System Roads in violation of any Commonwealth of Kentucky traffic or motor vehicle laws. Supervisor's Order DB-09-10.
- Off highway vehicles (OHVs) and all terrain vehicles (ATVs). 261.13.
- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose. 261.16 (m).
- Operating a motorbike, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle for any purpose other than entering or leaving the site. 261.16 (o).
- Failing to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a Forest Officer. 261.10.
- Placing a vehicle or other object in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to the safety or convenience of any person. 261.10 (f).
- Placing any grill, chair, canopy, leveling jacks or blocks around or under a vehicle while parked at a parking area. 261.58 (d), Supervisor's Order DB-10-10.
- Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any road or trail. 261.12 (c).
- Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail, or gate. 261.12 (d).
- Parking or leaving a vehicle in violation of posted instructions. 261.58 (g), Supervisor's Order DB-10-10.



Fish and Wildlife

Laws and regulations established by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFRW) applies to national forests. Hunting and fishing seasons, regulations and bag limits are set by KDFWR. Licenses and regulation guides are available at most retail stores.

The following are **prohibited**:

- Distributing or placing bait, hunting over bait or otherwise participating in baiting of wildlife on National Forest lands. KRS 153.90 .
- Hunting within 150 yards of a residence, building, or developed recreation site. 261.58(v), Supervisor’s Order DB-09-10.



Permits

A special use permit is required for all commercial commercial activities and events, and some non-commercial events. Contact the ranger station for more information.

Without a special use authorization or permit, the following are prohibited:

- Selling or offering for sale any merchandise or conducting any kind of work activity or service. 261.10 (c).
- Organized commercial events involving the use of National Forest System roads and trails. 261.54(d), Supervisor’s Order DB-11-10
- Organized non-commercial events with 75 or more participants which use existing National Forest System roads and trails. 261.54(d), Supervisor’s Order DB-11-10.
- Commercial distribution of printed material. 261.10 (g).
- Operating or using a public address system in or near a campsite or developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water. 261.10 (j).
- Selling or exchanging any timber or other forest product. 261.6 (f).



Other Restrictions

The following are **prohibited**:

- Constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, significant surface disturbance, or other improvement on National Forest System lands. 261.10 (a).
- Constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, occupying or using a residence on National Forest System lands. 261.10 (b).
- Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States when such building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public. 261.9 (e).
- Landing of aircraft or dropping or picking up any material or person by means of an aircraft including a helicopter on waters of the National Forest. 261.58 (y), Supervisor’s Order DB-09-10.
- Being publicly nude. 261.58 (j).
- Entering any cave or mine, regardless of distance or depth, located on National Forest Lands in the Southern Region. Emergency Closure Order.



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