USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Trail Rules and Regulations

Daniel Boone National Forest | Forest Service | Kentucky

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 or official list of regulations. The full, official set (indicated in *italics* in this list) is published in Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property of the Code of Federal Regulations, available at Forest Service offices and online at www.ecfr.gov. 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 (indicated in **bold** on this list) that will close or restrict the use of certain areas if the need arises. The official copies are available at Forest Service offices and on the forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf. Other rules 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

No fees for most trails. In the Red River Gorge, there is a fee for backcountry camping. A fee is required for OHV use of Redbird Crest Trail and White Sulphur OHV trail.

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; DB-02-15.**

Food Storage Restrictions

Food and trash storage restrictions help reduce odors that attract bears. Under **DB-02-15,** the following are **prohibited:**

- Possessing, storing or leaving any food (including food for pets and livestock, except baled hay), refuse or bear attractant unattended unless it is:
  a. properly stored in a bear-resistant container;
  b. stored in a closed, motor vehicle with a solid top;
  c. stored in a closed, hard-body trailer; or
  d. suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points, suspended at least 4 feet horizontally from the supporting tree, and suspended at least 4 feet from any other tree adjacent to the supporting pole or tree;
- Discarding or abandoning any food, refuse, or bear attractant unless it is disposed of in a bear-resistant trash receptacle or other receptacle which has been provided by the Forest Service;
- Burning or burying foods, refuse, or bear attractant.

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Trail Use

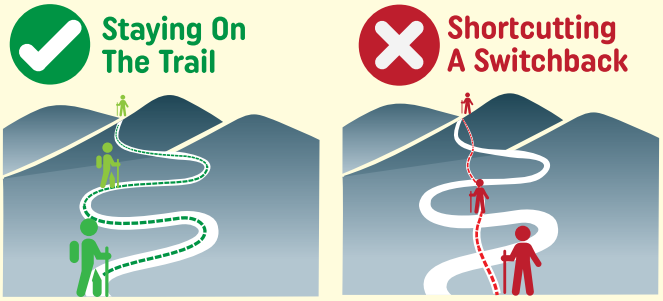
The following are **prohibited:**

- Shortcutting a switchback on trails. **DB-08-15.**
- Operating a bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle on a trail unless designated for this use. *36 CFR 261.16 (n).*
- Motorized use of the White Sulphur OHV Trail System on Cumberland District from sunset to sunrise, from May 1 to Nov. 30. **Order 11-04-15.**
- Non-motorized use of the White Sulphur OHV Trail System from May 1st to Nov. 30. **Order 11-04-15.**

At Cave Run Lake trails on Cumberland District as described in the Cave Run Lake Trail Guide, under **11-08-15**, the following are **prohibited:**

- Cross country travel by horses, pack animals, or other livestock.
- To lead, use or possess a saddle or pack animal within the twelve horse trail segments from Dec. 15 to May 15.
- Non-designated use of the twenty-one trails as shown in the Cave Run Lake Trail Guide.

Shortcutting a switchback kills vegetation and loosens the soil, creating a new trail straight up and down the hill. In time, it will get large and hollowed out from erosion. Do your part to keep our trails beautiful, control erosion and protect vegetation. **Stay on the designated trail.**



Pets, Horses and Livestock

The following are **prohibited:**

- 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. **DB-02-15.**
- Overnight tethering or corralling of horses or other livestock, within 100 feet of stream courses or 300 feet of other water bodies. **DB-02-15.**
- Riding, hitching, tethering, or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal in violation of posted instructions. **DB-07-15.**
- At developed campgrounds, 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. *36 CFR 261.16 (j).*
- Bringing in or possessing in a swimming area an animal, other than a service animal. *36 CFR 261.16 (k).*

Fires

Dead and down material may be used. Living trees, shrubs and plants may not be cut or damaged. Remove all flammable material from around the campfire to prevent its escape.

- Remove all flammable material from around the campfire to prevent its escape. *36 CFR 261.5 (f).*
- Fires may be prohibited during burn ban conditions. Obey any special restrictions that have been issued or posted. *36 CFR 261.52, 261.53.*

Under **DB-02-15**, the following are **prohibited:**

- 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.

Under *CFR 261.5*, the following are **prohibited:**

- Carelessly or negligently throwing or placing any ignited substance or other substance that may cause a fire.
- Causing timber, trees, slash, brush or grass to burn except as authorized by permit.
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it.
- Causing and failing to maintain control of a fire that damages the National Forest System.
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a campfire without removing all flammable material from around the campfire adequate to prevent its escape.

Sanitation

Be prepared to pack out your trash. Under *36 CFR 261.11,* 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.
- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris, or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition.
- Placing in or near a stream, lake, or other water any substance which does or may pollute a stream, lake, or other water.
- 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.
- Dumping of any refuse, debris, trash or litter brought as such from private property.
- Cleaning or washing any personal property, fish, animal, or food, or bathing or washing at a hydrant or water faucet not provided for that purpose. *36 CFR 261.16(c).*
- Depositing any body waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose. *36 CFR 261.16(p)*

Dispersed Camping

When camping outside developed campgrounds, the following are **prohibited:**

- Camping within 100 feet of the base of any cliff, or back of any rock shelter. *36 CFR 261.58 (e);* **DB-02-15.**
- 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. **DB-02-15.**
- Failing to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the site. *36 CFR 261.16 (f).*
- Camping in violation of posted signs. *36 CFR 261.58 (e).*

On Cumberland District, the following are **prohibited:**

- Camping within 300 feet of any developed road, or Tunnel Ridge Road and its associated parking lots, in the Red River Gorge; Camping at designated sites is exempt. **Order 12-02-15.**
- Camping within 300 feet of any developed trail within the Red River Gorge; Camping at designated sites is exempt. **Order 12-02-15**
- Camping within 600 feet of Grays Arch in the Red River Gorge. **Order 12-02-15**
- Camping in the East Fork Indian Creek Stream Restoration Closure Area along Forest System Road 9B in the Red River Gorge. **Order 12-01-15.**
- Camping within 300 feet of National Forest System Road 918 in the Pioneer Weapons Wildlife Management Area. **Order 11-05-15.**
- Overnight camping within 300 feet of the edge of the White Sulphur OHV Trail System on from May 1 to Nov. 30. **Order 11-04-15.**
- Use of the White Sulphur OHV Trail System trailhead parking area after 10:00 p.m. **Order 11-04-15.**

On London District, the following are **prohibited:**

- Camping within 300 feet of the water's edge of Laurel River Lake except at sites designated for camping. **Order DB-04-15.**
- Camping within 300 feet of any road or trail leading to the water's edge of Laurel River Lake. **DB-04-15.**
- Camping within 300 feet of the following areas: High water line of the portion of Upper Lake Cumberland from the Mouth of Laurel Boat Ramp upstream on the Laurel River; or Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail to the administrative boundary between National Forest System and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands. **DB-04-15.**

Noise and Conduct

Under *36 CFR 261.4,* the following are **prohibited:**

- Engaging in fighting.
- Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying communication to any other person who is lawfully present when such communication has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person to whom, individually, the remark is addressed.
- Making statements or other actions directed toward inciting or producing imminent lawless action and likely to incite or produce such action.
- Causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise.

Under *36 CFR 261.10,* the following are **prohibited:**

- 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.
- Operating or using a public address system, whether fixed, portable or vehicle mounted, in or near a campsite or developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water without a special-use authorization.

National Forest Wilderness

Under *36 CFR 261.18*, the following are **prohibited** in a Wilderness:

- Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat or motorized equipment except as authorized by Federal Law or regulation.
- Possessing or using a hang glider or bicycle.
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up of any material, supplies, or person by means of aircraft, including a helicopter.

Under **DB-05-15,** the following are prohibitedin Beaver Creek Wilderness on Stearns District and Clifty Wilderness on Cumberland District:

- Entering or being in a designated Wilderness as part of a group of more than ten people.
- Possessing or using a wagon, cart, bicycle or other vehicle.

Under Stearns District **Order 16-04-15,** the following is **prohibited** in Beaver Creek Wilderness:

- Possessing horses or other livestock except on trails designated for such use or as specifically permitted through a special use permit.

Fireworks and Firearms

The following are **prohibited:**

- Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device. **DB-01-14.**
- Displaying a firearm within a developed recreation site except for cleaning and or transporting to and from vehicle. **DB-01-15.**
- Hunting, trapping within 150 yards of a residence, building, or developed recreation site or across a developed roadway. **DB-02-15.**
- Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition. *36 CFR 261.5.*
- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows: *36 CFR 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.

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.

At developed recreation areas, under *36 CFR 261.16,* the following are **prohibited:**

- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose.
- Operating a motorbike, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle for any purpose other than entering or leaving the site.

On forest roads, 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. **DB-02-15.**
- Parking or leaving a vehicle in violation of posted instructions. **DB-02-15.**
- Using a Forest Service System Road for commercial hauling without a permit or authorization. **DB-01-15.**
- Possessing or operating a motor vehicle on roads, trails and areas not designated for that purpose on Motorized Vehicle Use Maps. *36 CFR 261.13.*
- Failing to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a Forest Officer. *36 CFR 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. *36 CFR 261.10.*
- Violating the load, weight, height, length, or width limitations prescribed by State law except by special-use authorization. *36 CFR 261.12*
- Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any such road, trail, or segment thereof. *36 CFR 261.12.*
- Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail, or gate. *36 CFR 261.12.*

Under *36 CFR 261.15*, it is **prohibited** to operate any vehicle off National Forest System, State or County roads:

- Without a valid license as required by State law.
- Without an operable braking system.
- From one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise unless equipped with working head and tail lights.
- In violation of any applicable noise emission standard established by any Federal or State agency.
- While under the influence of alcohol or other drug;
- Creating excessive or unusual smoke;
- Carelessly, recklessly, or without regard for the safety of any person, or in a manner that endangers, or is likely to endanger, any person or property.
- In a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetative resources.
- In violation of State law established for vehicles used off roads.

Resource Protection

The following are **prohibited:**

- Entry into areas closed for the protection of endangered, threatened, rare, unique, or vanishing species of plants, animals, birds, or fish. **DB-09-15.**
- Use of metal detectors, electronic apparatuses, or any other devices for the purpose of locating any metal object. **DB-10-15.**
- •Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive into or within any cave. *36 CFR 261.10.*

Under *36 CFR 261.9,* the following are **prohibited:**

- Damaging or removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.
- Damaging or removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.
- Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, removing or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.
- Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave or removing any cave resource for commercial purposes.

Forest Products

Under *36 CFR 261.6,* following are **prohibited:**

- Cutting or otherwise damaging any timber, tree, or other forest product.
- Selling or exchanging any timber or other forest product obtained under free use.
- Removing any timber, tree or other forest product, except as authorized by a special-use authorization, timber sale contract, or Federal law or regulation.

Permits

A special use permit is required for all 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:**

- Use of NFS roads or trails for organized commercial events, or organized noncommercial events (with 75 or more participants) unless passing through the area. **DB-02-15.**
- Commercial distribution of printed material. *36 CFR 261.10.*
- Operating or using a public address system in or near a campsite or developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water. 3*6 CFR 261.10.*
- Selling or offering for sale any merchandise or conducting any kind of work activity or service. *36 CFR 261.10.*

Fish and Wildlife

Laws and regulations established by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) 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, trapping within 150 yards of a residence, building, or developed recreation site or across a developed roadway. **DB-02-15.**
- Fishing in areas designated for Fishing Derbies and/or Festivals are being held during the dates posted or advertised as closed unless fishing as a registered participant. **DB-02-15.**

Interfering with a Forest officer, volunteer, or human resource program enrollee.

Under *36 CFR 261.3,* the following are **prohibited:**

- Threatening, resisting, intimidating, or interfering with any forest officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties in the protection, improvement, or administration of the National Forest System.
- Giving any false, fictitious or fraudulent report or other information to any Forest Officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties knowing that such report or other information contains false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry.
- Threatening, intimidating, or intentionally interfering with any Forest officer, volunteer, or human resource program enrollee while engaged in, or on account of, the performance of duties for the protection, improvement, or administration of the National Forest System or other duties assigned by the Forest Service.

Closed Areas

The following are **prohibited:**

- Going into or upon the Tater Knob Fire Tower site on Cumberland District. **Order 11-02-15.**
- Entering areas closed for the protection of endangered, threatened, rare, unique, or vanishing species of plants, animals, birds, or fish. **DB-09-15.**
- Entering any cave or mine, regardless of distance or depth, located on National Forest Lands in the Southern Region. **Emergency Closure Order No. R8-01-2014.**
- All entry, discharging a firearm, hunting, fishing and trapping into the Shallow Flats Wildlife Viewing Area, Cumberland District. O**rder 11-06-15.**
- Going into or upon Wildcat Branch on London District. **Order 14-05-15.**
- Entering into Railroad Tunnels 7, 8, and 9 located along the old Cincinnati-Southern Railroad on Stearns District. **Order 16-03-15.**

Other Restrictions

The following are **prohibited:**

- Landing of aircraft or dropping or picking up any material or person by means of an aircraft on waters of the DBNF. **DB-03-15.**
- Being publicly nude. **DB-02-15.**
- Possessing, storing or transporting cannabis plant or plants or any substance derived from the manufacturing of cannabis plant or plants. **DB-02-15.**
- Possession of a controlled substance unless obtained by the possessor directly, or pursuant to a valid prescription or order, from a practitioner acting in the course of professional practice or otherwise allowed by Federal or State law. **DB-02-15.**
- 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. *36 CFR 261.10.*
- Constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, occupying or using a residence on National Forest System lands. *36 CFR 261.10.*
- Abandoning any personal property. *36 CFR 261.10.*
- 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. *36 CFR 261.9.*