



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

National Forests in North Carolina
Supervisor's Office

160 ZILLICOA ST STE A
ASHEVILLE NC 28801-1082
828-257-4200

File Code: 1010
Date: June 24, 2011

Climbing Community

Dear Climbing Community,

Effective June 24, 2011, I am lifting the Forest Supervisor's closure to climbing on the following rock faces:

- Whiteside Mountain on the Nantahala Ranger District
- Looking Glass Rock and Victory Wall on the Pisgah Ranger District
- Shortoff, NC Wall and Big Lost Cove on the Grandfather Ranger District.

Closure of the cliffs where Peregrine Falcons are nesting to climbing activities is necessary to limit disturbance during critical reproductive seasons. Climbers should be aware that both the adults and newly fledged chicks remain in the vicinity of the nest site, and may fly or dive at nearby climbers. It is unlawful to take (kill, harass, or injure, including eggs) Peregrine Falcons and other birds of prey (Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 703-712).

Those sites which remain closed have late nesting Peregrine Falcons with young where disturbance may cause fledgling mortality. These sites remain closed until further notice:

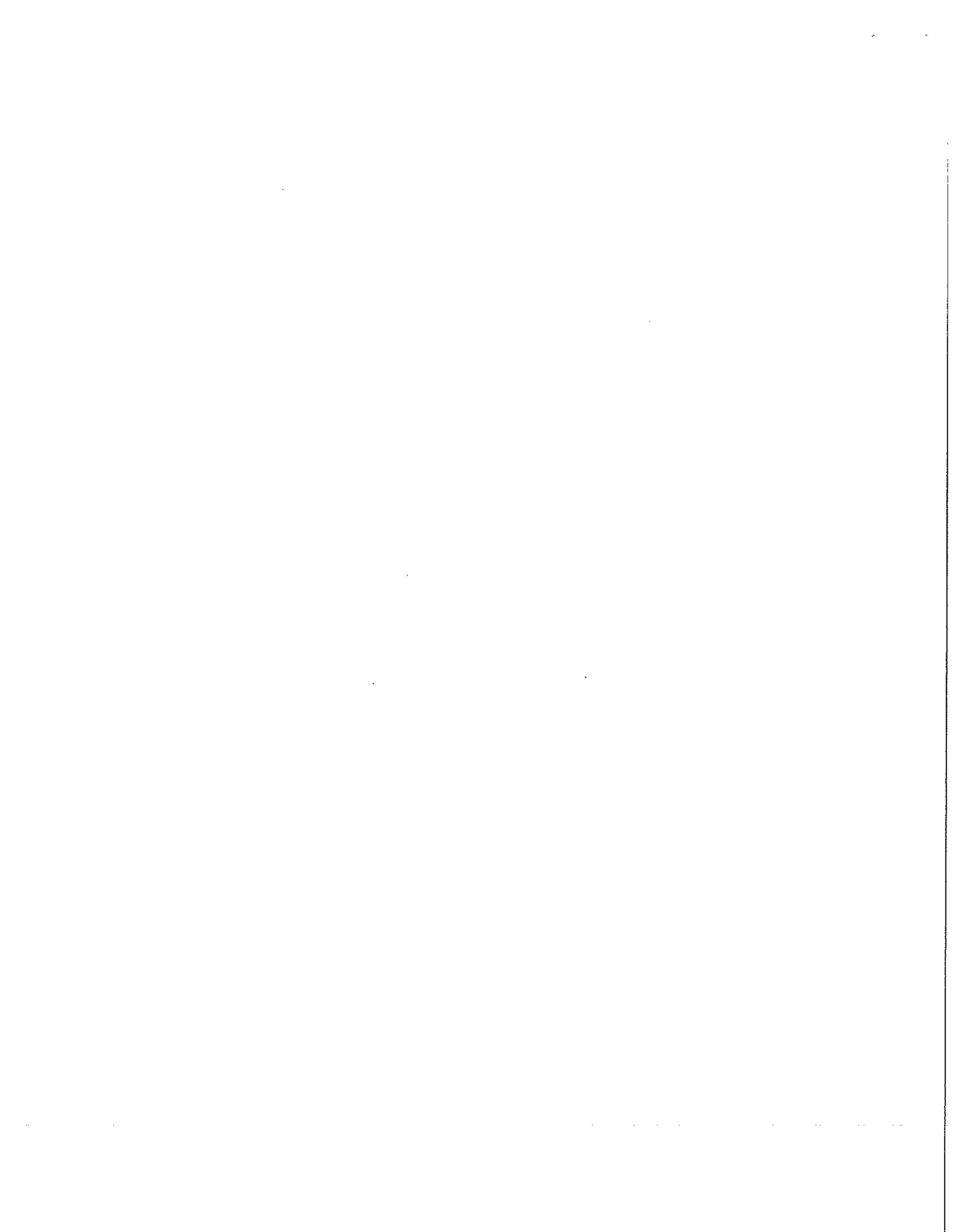
Site Name	Area Closed	Landowner
White Rock Cliff	All climbing routes are closed.	USFS, Appalachian Ranger District (828) 682-6146

If you have any questions regarding this area or would like to receive a copy of the closure notice, please contact Sheryl Bryan, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist, 828-257-4271, sbryan@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your continued cooperation in the restoration of this magnificent bird of prey.

Sincerely,

for MARISUE HILLIARD
Forest Supervisor





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NATIONAL FORESTS in NORTH CAROLINA
NANTAHALA and PISGAH NATIONAL FORESTS

**Climbing Site Closure
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**

Amendment to Order Number 01-02-2004

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the areas listed below and further described on the attached list and maps within the National Forests in North Carolina:

1. It is prohibited to go into or be upon the areas within the orange painted or posted boundaries from January 15 to August 15 of each year. This closure is in effect for the protection of peregrine falcon nesting sites (36 CFR 261.53 (a)). This closure order is effective January 16, 2009 through January 15, 2014.

Areas to Which This Order Applies:

Nantahala National Forest

- **Whiteside Mountain**, Jackson County, Nantahala Ranger District

Pisgah National Forest

- **Big Lost Cove Cliffs**, Avery County, Grandfather Ranger District
- **Linville Gorge** (North Carolina Wall & Shortoff Mountain), Burke County, Grandfather Ranger District
- **Looking Glass Rock**, Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District
- **Victory Wall**, ^{Haywood}Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District
- **Whiterock Cliff**, Madison County, Appalachian Ranger District

Pursuant to 35 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

A site not used by falcons or a site where nesting terminates before August 15th, may be opened to public use, as determined by the District Ranger.

Executed in Asheville, North Carolina this 25th day of February, 2011.


MARISUE HILLIARD
Forest Supervisor
National Forests in North Carolina

Violation of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine or not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.

2011 North Carolina Peregrine Falcon Climbing Site Closures

Site Name	Area Closed	Landowner
Whitesides Mountain	All climbing routes between and including Southwest Arete and Mainline are closed.	USFS, Nantahala Ranger District (828) 524-6441
NC Wall (Linville Gorge)	All climbing routes between and including Tightrope and Bumblebee Buttress are closed	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Shortoff Mountain (Linville Gorge)	All climbing routes between and including C.O. to and including Paradigm Shift are closed.	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Big Lost Cove Cliffs	All climbing routes are closed.	USFS, Grandfather Ranger District (828) 652-2144
Looking Glass Rock (North Face)	All routes to the right* of Glass Menagerie and to the left of and including Twisted Laurel on the North Face of Looking Glass Rock are closed.	USFS, Pisgah Ranger District (828) 877-3350
Victory Wall**	All climbing routes are closed.	USFS, Pisgah Ranger District (828) 877-3380
Whiterock Cliff and Eagle Cliff	All climbing routes are closed	USFS, Appalachian Ranger District (828) 682-6146

* As seen from the base of Looking Glass Rock

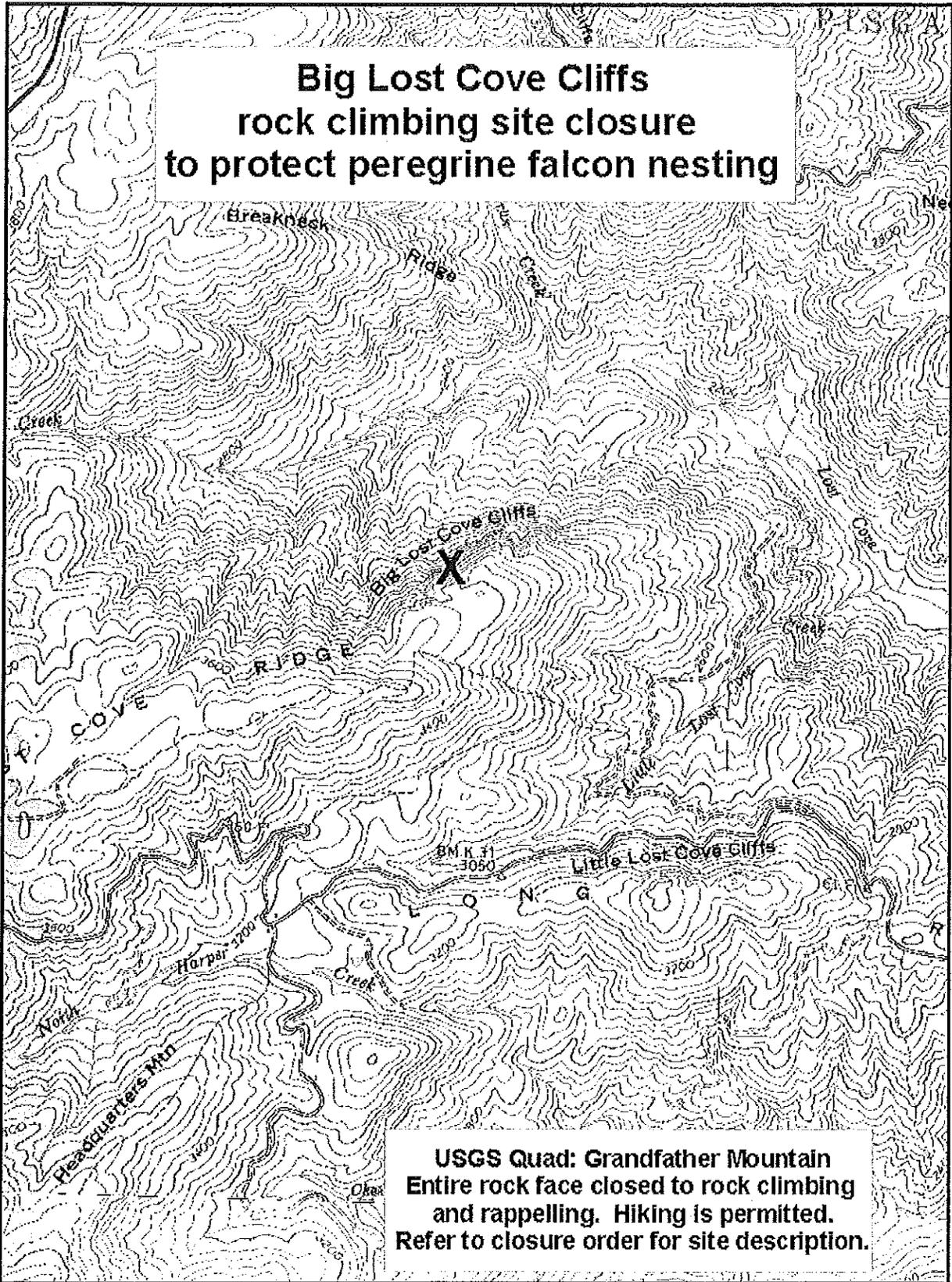
Climbing route names are taken from: Kelley, Thomas. 1995. *The Climber's Guide to North Carolina* 3rd Edition. Earthbound Sports Inc., Chapel Hill, NC 332pp. and from Lambert and Shull. 2002. *Selected Climbs in North Carolina*. 1st Edition. The Mountaineers Books. Seattle, WA. 326pp.

All sites are closed from January 15 - August 15; except that in the event that falcons are not using the site or nesting terminates at an earlier date than August 15th, the site may be opened to public use, as determined by the appropriate landowners. The specified closed (or open) routes will change if the falcons nest on a part of the cliff outside the existing closed area, or if they do not nest in an existing closed area, as determined by monitoring throughout the breeding season.

Eagle Cliff, Appalachian Ranger District, is closed for protection of rare plants.

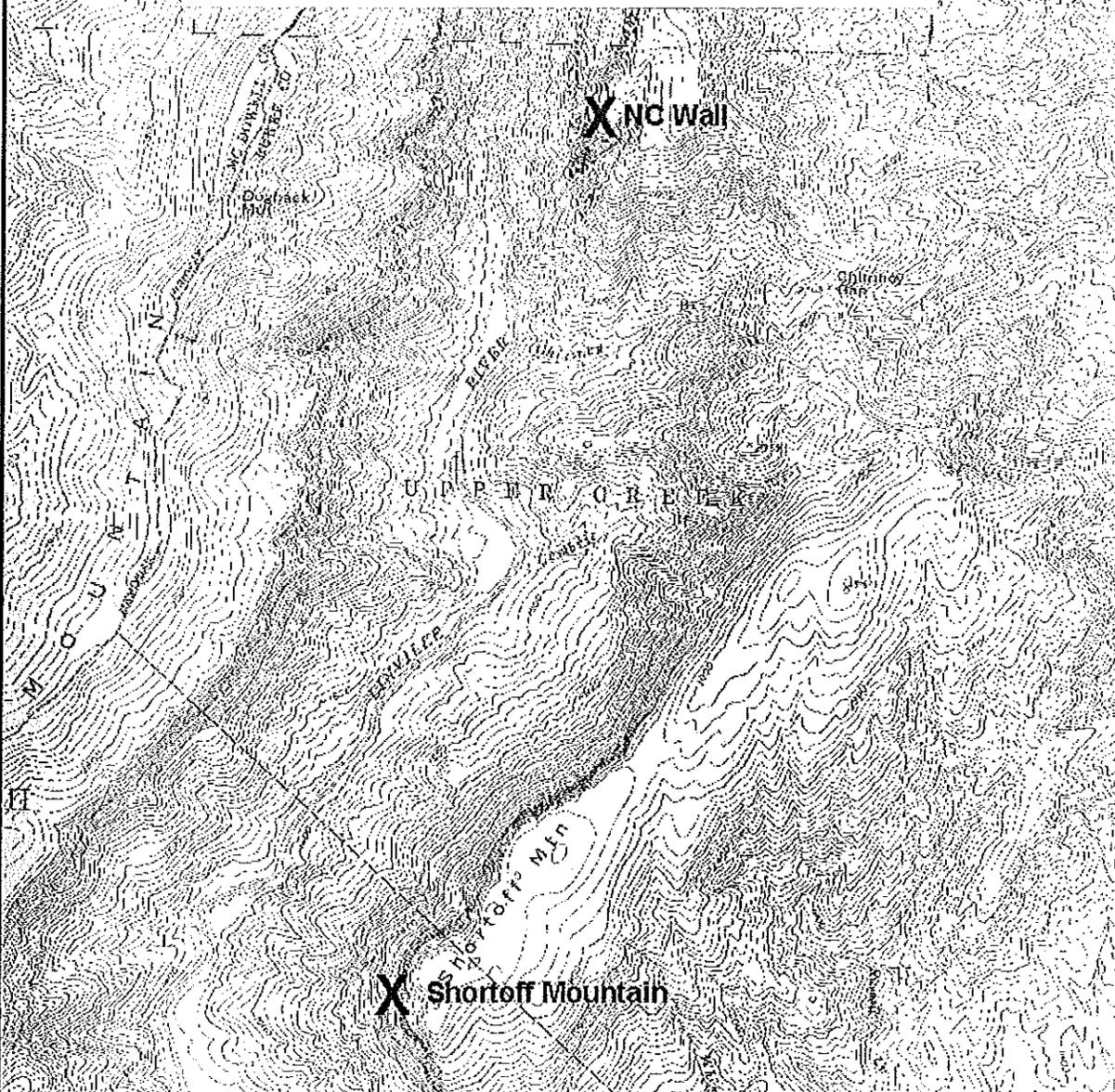
This summary of climbing-site closures represents the best available knowledge regarding closure orders issued by the U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina State Parks as compiled by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission works in collaboration with the above landowners to recommend closure areas that protect peregrine falcon nest sites and minimize restrictions on climbers. Changes in the specific closures, and publication of the notices are the responsibility of the respective landowners.

**Big Lost Cove Cliffs
rock climbing site closure
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



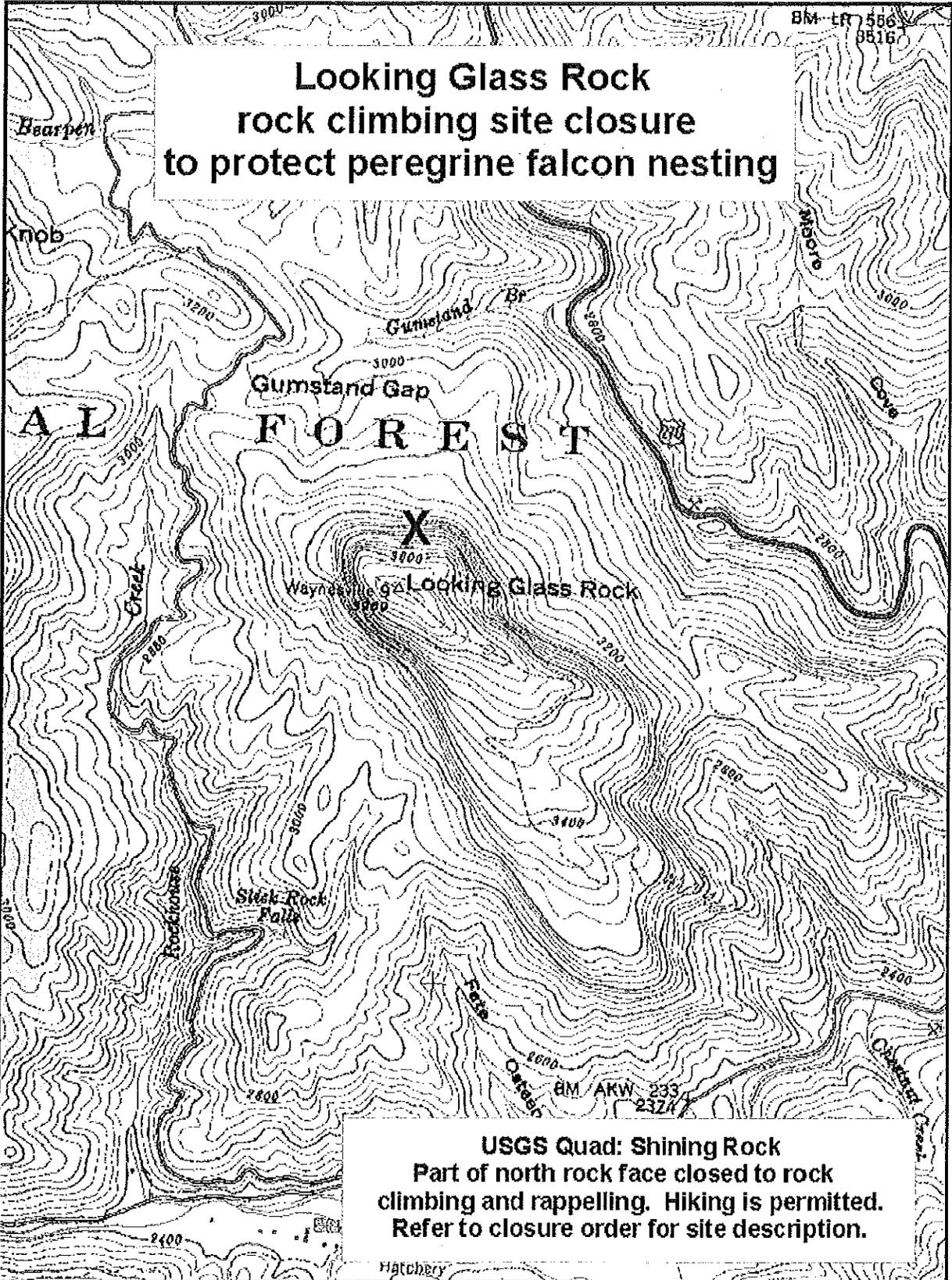
**USGS Quad: Grandfather Mountain
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.
Refer to closure order for site description.**

**Linville Gorge
rock climbing site closures
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



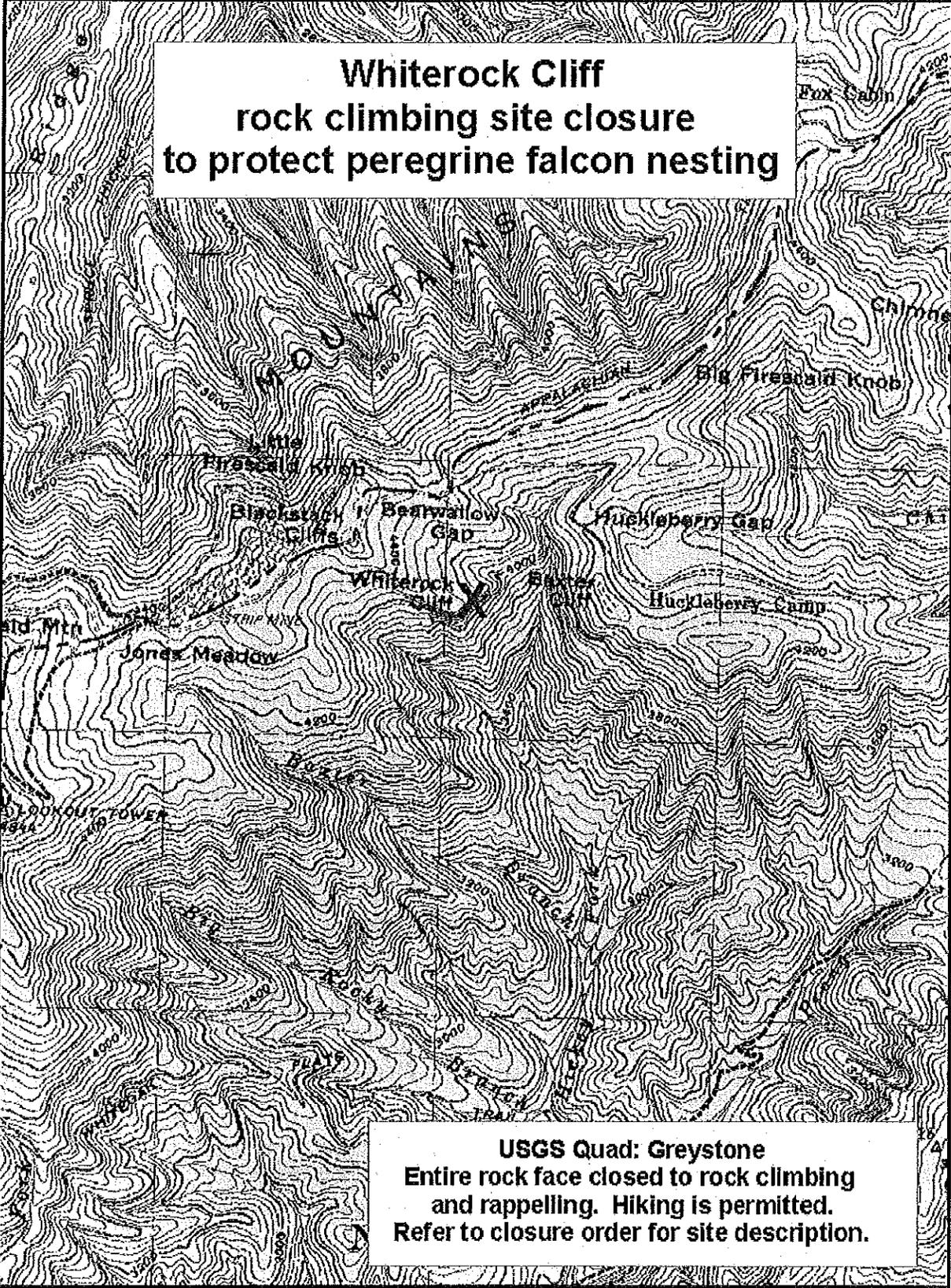
USGS Quad: Ashford
Part of two rock faces closed to rock climbing and rappelling. Hiking is permitted. Refer to closure order for site description.

**Looking Glass Rock
rock climbing site closure
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**



USGS Quad: Shining Rock
Part of north rock face closed to rock climbing and rappelling. Hiking is permitted. Refer to closure order for site description.

Hatchery

A detailed topographic map of the Greystone area, showing contour lines, peaks, and valleys. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key features include Whiterock Cliff, Bearwallow Gap, Huckleberry Gap, and Huckleberry Camp. The map also shows various peaks such as Little Firestack Knob, Blackstack Cliffs, and Big Firestack Knob. A grid is overlaid on the map, and various geographical labels are present throughout the terrain.

**Whiterock Cliff
rock climbing site closure
to protect peregrine falcon nesting**

USGS Quad: Greystone
Entire rock face closed to rock climbing
and rappelling. Hiking is permitted.
Refer to closure order for site description.

