

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA  
APPALACHIAN RANGER DISTRICT  
SHOPE CREEK AREA**

**FOREST ORDER #08-11-08-25-10**

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.50 (a) and (b) for the protection of public health and following Tropical Storm Helene, the following acts are prohibited in the Shope Creek Area on the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. This closure is effective until 10/01/2026 or until rescinded by an authorized Forest Service official, whichever occurs first.

1. Going into or being in the described closure area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Use by any type of traffic (motorized, pedestrian, bicycle, etc.) and/or being on a National Forest System Road listed below - 36 CFR § 261.54(b)(e)

Under 261.53(e), the following closure areas have been identified (descriptions below):

The described closure areas are within Buncombe County and include all NFS lands within the following boundaries:


All National Forest System (NFS) Lands within the Forest boundary surrounding the Shope Creek drainage. Includes all contiguous NFS lands south of the Blue Ridge Parkway, to Paynes Knob on the east and Rock Knob on the south. This closure area includes the following roads:

FSR 220 Shope Creek  
FSR 220A Verlin Shelton

Pursuant to 36 CFR, § 261.50 (e), the following persons or areas are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a special use permit or contract specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act of omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Owners or lessees of land in the area are exempt from road closures that access property.
4. Residents in the area are exempt from road closures that access residence.

Executed in Asheville North Carolina, on 9/11/25

  
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JAMES MELONAS  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH  
CAROLINA

Violations of the above prohibition are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. Title 16 USC 551 and Title 18 USC 3559 and 3571.