

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

FOREST ORDER #08-11-08-26-04

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 This closure is effective until 10/01/2027 or until rescinded by an authorized Forest Service official, whichever occurs first.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. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a)

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

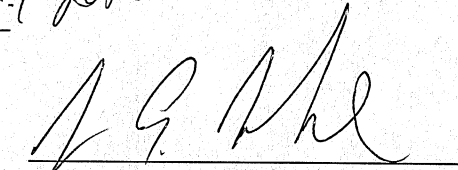
The described closure areas are within Buncombe County and include all NFS lands within the following boundaries:

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 except for the parking lot and FSR 220 Shope Creek and 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 23 April 2026



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.