



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

## NEWS • RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Storm Damage and Spring Weather Raise Need for Caution in Forests**

**ASHEVILLE, N.C.** — As the weather warms up, the snow melts, and spring emerges, stormy weather is forgotten and many people start itching to get outside.

Whether it's cruising your favorite stretch of singletrack on a mountain bike; hiking along a mountain stream; camping in a special spot; or hunting for turkeys, the National Forests in North Carolina offer a wealth of opportunities.

While most people understand there is inherent risk in any outdoor activity, it is important to remember that storm damage in the forests from last September's hurricanes and volatile spring weather creates additional hazards.

Some things to consider for a safe and enjoyable visit to the National Forests in North Carolina:

- ✓ Don't recreate alone and tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- ✓ Take the proper gear for your activity and the weather. Spring weather in North Carolina can be unpredictable – bring appropriate clothing for the range of conditions.
- ✓ Get the latest road, trail, and facility conditions from the Ranger District managing the area you plan to visit.
- ✓ Pay attention to signs indicating the conditions of the roads or trails you travel.
- ✓ Do not travel on roads or trails signed as closed, blocked with a dirt mound, gated, or otherwise barricaded.
- ✓ Turn around and go back if a road or trail looks damaged or questionable.

- ✓ Avoid recreating in forested areas during periods of sustained winds.
- ✓ Watch for or snags (dead trees or limbs) that could fall.
- ✓ Avoid parking or camping near eroded streams or landslides where tree roots have been weakened.
- ✓ During wet weather, watch for landslides and flash flooding in streams and rivers.
- ✓ Report any concerns to the Ranger District Office for the area you visited.

The Pisgah National Forest Ranger Districts may be reached at:

Appalachian – 828-682-6146  
Grandfather – 828-652-2144  
Pisgah Ranger District – 828-877-3265

The Nantahala National Forest Ranger Districts may be reached at:

Cheoah – 828-479-6431  
Highlands – 828-526-3765  
Tusquittee – 828-837-5152  
Wayah – 828-524-6441

The Croatan National Forest may be reached at 252-638-5628. The Uwharrie National Forest may be reached at 910-576-6391.

For more information on recreation opportunities on the National Forests in North Carolina, please visit [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc) to see the latest edition of “Carolina Connections,” offering a variety of recreation information.

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