



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger Districts
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glenwood and Pedlar Roads

The Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger Districts, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, have recently announced roads that will open and close for the fall season, according to Kara Chadwick, District Ranger.

A number of Forest Roads (FRs) will remain open through the fall and close approximately January 3, 2005, then open again approximately April 1, 2005. These include: Bear Tolley (FR 36E), Hog Camp (FR 48), Stoney Run Jeep Trail (FR 162), Cedar Creek (FR 320), Gorge Access (FR 315C), Cow Camp (FR 520), Coon Bridge (FR 1167), Lovelady (FR 1241), Pedlar Inn (FR 1575), Big Bend (FR 1171), Enchanted Creek to White Oaks Flats (FR 1881), Peavine (FR 318), Cedar Bridge (FR 36D), Panther Mountain (FR 1286), Inch Branch (FR 1823) and Dancing Creek (FR 317). Lady Slipper (FR 494) is temporarily closed due to resource damage and the road will be reopened when the road bed has a chance to dry out.

There are also several roads that will close January 3, 2005, and not reopen until August 1, 2005. These include Harkening Hill (FR 3068), which will close at the second gate; Middle Creek (FR 3101), which will close at the first gate; Welch Hollow (FR 3251); Hunting Creek (FR 45) just beyond Camping Gap; and Pulaski Tract (FR 634).

Several roads are only open during the fall. These roads will open approximately October 1, 2004 and will close January 3, 2005, then will not reopen until October 2005. This includes Tom's Branch (FR 512), Kennedy Fields gate off FR 42, Turkey Pen Road (FR 1287), Devils Branch (FR 310), Gas Line Road (FR 593), and the gate at Milepost #42 at Clarks Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway (FR 1602).

The South Pedlar ATV Trail System will remain open through the fall season until December 1, 2004. Following a winter closure, the area will open again to trail riders April 1, 2005. Users are reminded that there is a \$5.00 parking fee per vehicle for anyone using the Rattlesnake and Terrapin trailhead parking areas. Operation of unlicensed vehicles is not allowed along the forest roads accessing the trailheads.

A number of roads, including state roads, through the Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger Districts will require special care while driving because of log truck traffic from ongoing timber sales. Watch for log truck traffic on the Shady Mountain Road, (FR 315), Pedlar River Road (FR 39), Peavine Road (FR 318), and Harkening Hill Road (FR 3068). The Slaty Gap Road (FR 318B) will remain closed to the public due to an on-going timber sale in that area. Putt Access (FR 323) has recently been closed to the public due to resource damage and for public safety due to an on-going timber sale in the area. In addition, a timber sale in the vicinity of the Shady Mountain Disable Hunting Areas is presently underway. Users of this area will need to be extra cautious and on alert for logging traffic on these roads.

The camping area at Sherando Lake Recreation Area will close October 31, 2004 for the season and will open again April 1, 2005. The main gate at State Route 664 will remain open during the winter months, except in cases of dangerous road conditions. The 10 PM evening closure will continue during the camping season through the end of October. The gate at Cave Mountain Lake Recreation Area closes October 31, 2004 and will open again April 1, 2005 for the camping season. Camping at Cave Mountain Lake will close on approximately October 18, 2004 for this season because a contract for major renovation of the water system is set to begin. The North Creek Campground, located south of Arcadia in Botetourt County, will remain open through the winter months.

Some Forest Development Roads will remain open year around, except during unusually severe weather conditions. These road closures are subject to change depending on unusually severe weather and road conditions. The public is reminded to use extreme caution and care when traveling Forest roads in the winter and limit travel on open roads that are in poor condition. For more information, please contact the Glenwood and Pedlar Ranger District Office, Monday through Friday, 8 AM until 4:30 PM at (540) 291-2188.