

DISPERSED RECREATION POLICY

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

The goal of the dispersed recreation policy is to protect the resources of the National Forest and provide a quality recreation experience for users now and in the future.

Vehicle Use:

- The use or possession of motor vehicles off of National Forest System roads is prohibited. (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 261.56)).
- Vehicles may not be parked in a manner blocking or restricting the use of any roadway OR in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to any person. Visitors may pull off the road only enough to safely park. (36 CFR 261.12(d), 36 CFR 261.10(f)).
- Vehicles may not be operated or parked in any manner or at any location that causes damage to public property. (36 CFR 261.9(a), 36 CFR 261.12(c)).
- ATVs, snowmobiles, and unregistered motorcycles (non-street legal) are prohibited from using National Forest roads and are restricted to the designated trail systems (36 CFR 261.56, 36 CFR 261.54(a)).

Occupancy and Use:

- Do not camp or park in front of closed gates or in roadways to allow entry for emergency vehicles and administrative access (36 CFR 261.12(d), 36 CFR 261.10(f)).
- All campsites are on a first come basis and will not be reserved.
- Permissible length of stay is 14-days. Occupancy is limited to 14 days in any 30 day period (inclusive of National Forest shoreline on Allegheny Reservoir) (36 CFR 261.58(a)).
- Construction of customary, temporary structures in conjunction with camping will be allowed. Examples include tents and tarps. All structures must be removed from the National Forest by the user at the end of their stay at the site (36 CFR 261.10(e)).

Firearms – Firearms may be used in a manner consistent with Federal, State, and local laws, and good safety practices. All firearms users must provide for an adequate backstop behind their target area. Trees, signs, and other public property shall not be used as targets or backstops. All trash including brass and spent targets must be removed from National Forest lands (36 CFR 261.9(a), 36 CFR 261.10(d), 36 CFR 261.11(d)).

Unreasonable noise – All Forest users are prohibited from causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise (36 CFR 261.4(d)).

Surface Resources:

- Do not cut or otherwise damage live trees. DO NOT PUT NAILS IN TREES, PICNIC TABLES OR OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. The use of live trees for target backstops or to “plant” camp axes into is prohibited (36 CFR 261.9(a), 36CFR 261.6(a)).
- Cutting incidental amounts of dead wood for campsite firewood within the National Forest is allowed and does not require a permit. Removing wood from the National Forest requires a firewood permit which is available at local ranger district offices (36 CFR 261.6(a), 36 CFR 261.6(h)).
- Excavations are limited to those required to make safe campfire rings and sanitary pit toilets. Any excavation will be re-leveled prior to vacating your campsite.
- Digging for/removal of archaeological resources (artifacts) is prohibited (36CFR 261.9(g),(h)).

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Sanitation:

- **Pack It In, Pack It Out.** Camps must be kept free of litter and garbage at all times. All garbage, including paper, cans, bottles or rubbish must be placed in appropriate containers when on site and removed from National Forest lands when the site is vacated. Burying or otherwise disposing of garbage at the campsite is strictly prohibited. Do not dispose of cans, bottles, and other non-burnable material in campfire rings (36 CFR 261.11(b), 36 CFR 261.11(d)).
- A pit toilet or "cathole" is required for each camp. Pit toilets shall be located at least 200 feet from any lake, pond, or stream unless camping is limited to "self-contained" trailers. Pit toilets must be refilled to ground level with a minimum of six (6) inches of soil.
- "Self-contained" trailers must use designated dump stations for sewage and gray water.
- Leave the camp as clean or cleaner than you found it.

Fire:

- Do not leave campfires unattended (36 CFR 261.5(d)).
- Thoroughly extinguish campfires before leaving your campsite (36 CFR 261.5(d)).

Special Regulation Areas:

Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the Allegheny National Forest; however the following areas are restricted:

Clarion River and Millstone Creek (along River Road and FR 132)

- Camping is restricted to designated sites only.

Hickory Creek Wilderness/ Allegheny Islands Wilderness

- Motorized equipment and mechanical transports are strictly prohibited in Wilderness areas (36 CFR 261.16(a), 36 CFR 261.16(b)).

Allegheny Reservoir

- Camping is prohibited on the shores and within 1500 ft. inland of the timberline around the Reservoir EXCEPT at National Forest designated campgrounds (36 CFR 261.58(e)).
- Camping is prohibited within 1500 ft. of the centerline of Longhouse Scenic Byway (includes Longhouse Scenic Drive and portions of State Routes, 59, 346, and 321).

Tionesta Reservoir

- Camping is prohibited on National Forest lands adjacent to Tionesta Reservoir except at designated sites.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on National Forest lands adjacent to Tionesta Reservoir (36 CFR 261.58(bb)).

Tionesta Research Natural Area, Heart's Content Scenic Area, Jake's Rocks, and Rimrock

- Camping is prohibited.

Kinzua Creek from Red Bridge to Mead Run

- Camping is prohibited on either side of the main channel.

Buzzard Swamp Propagation Area, Corydon-Riverview Cemetery

- All entry is prohibited.

Additional Information

Bradford Ranger District:
814.362.4613

Marienville Ranger District:
814.927.6628

www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny