



File Code: 2300

Date: April 23, 2008

Dear Forest Visitor:

We have entered another spring on the beautiful Shawnee National Forest. It is time to put winter and its ice storms behind us and to start looking for opportunities to get out in the nice spring weather. I would encourage each of you to either contact one of our offices or access our website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee and investigate recreation opportunities on the Forest.

To aid those of you who are interested in horseback riding in the Lusk Creek, Big Grand Pierre Creek, Eagle Creek and Upper Bay Creek watersheds, our 2008 Trails Designation Project Interim Trails Maps are now available.

I would also like to remind you of the following information concerning Forest Supervisor's Orders in effect in the four watersheds listed above:

- The January 12, 2007 Order prohibits entering the Lusk Creek Wilderness while in possession of a horse or other saddle or pack animal when the area has received more than one inch of rainfall within a 24-hour time period. This prohibition applies during the months of April, May, September, October and November. The area will be closed for a minimum of 24 hours. To find out up to date information regarding closures please call 618-658-1312. This order also prohibits entering or using the Lusk Creek, Garden of the Gods and Bay Creek Wilderness while in possession of a horse or other saddle or pack animal from December 1 through March 31.
- The November 11, 2007 Forest Supervisor's Order prohibits riding or leading a horse or other saddle or pack animal off designated or interim trails or routes as shown on the Interim Trails Maps mentioned above.
- The April 18th, 2007, Forest's Supervisor's Order prohibits within the Bay Creek, Garden of the Gods and Lusk Creek Wildernesses:
 - Entering or being in these Wildernesses as a member of a group or party in excess of ten people.
 - Riding, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal off designated or interim trails or routes. These activities are allowed only for rest stops within about 25 feet of a designated or interim trail or route.
 - Hitching, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal in the area



of Lusk Creek Wilderness designated as “ride-through-only. The trail on the each side of Lusk Creek, opposite Saltpeter Cave, is ride-through-only from its southern junction with the main Lusk Creek trail to a junction near the stock-confinement area just past Natural Bridge. Riders are allowed to pause briefly on the ride-through-only trail so they may view the cave and bluffs. Riders are not permitted to stop and tie horses in this area, and stock must remain on the trail.

- Camping with a horse or other saddle or pack animal in Bay Creek, Garden of the Gods and Lusk Creek Wildernesses.

If you have any questions or would like information relative to recreational opportunities, please let us know.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hurston A. Nicholas
HURSTON A. NICHOLAS
Forest Supervisor