

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE
NATIONAL FORESTS in NORTH CAROLINA,
Appalachian, Grandfather, Nantahala, and Pisgah Ranger Districts

**Closure of Select Rock Faces to Climbing, Rappelling, Hang Gliding, and
Adjacent Areas to the Use of Drones to Protect Peregrine Falcon Nesting**

Amendment to Order Number 01-02-2004

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (a) and (b) the following acts are prohibited on the areas listed below and further described on the attached list and maps within the National Forests in North Carolina:

*It is prohibited to be upon the rock faces (or portions of rock faces as described in the attached table) within the posted boundaries from January 15 to August 15 of each year. Specifically, prohibited activities include rock climbing, rappelling, hang gliding, and other recreational activities on the rock faces themselves, and flying drones in the vicinity of these rock faces and within the posted areas. Overnight camping within the posted areas is not allowed. **Through hiking on designated trails is permitted within the posted boundaries.** This closure is in effect for the protection of Peregrine Falcon nesting sites (36 CFR 261.53 (a)), and is effective January 19, 2018 through August 15, 2020.*

Areas to Which This Order Applies:

Whiterock Cliff, Madison County, Appalachian Ranger District

Big Lost Cove Cliffs, Avery County, Grandfather Ranger District

Linville Gorge (NC Wall & Shortoff Mountain), Burke County, Grandfather Ranger District

Whiteside Mountain, Jackson County, Nantahala Ranger District

Pickens Nose (East Face), Macon County, Nantahala Ranger District

Looking Glass Rock (North Face) Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District

North Cedar Rock (Northern Aggression area), Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District

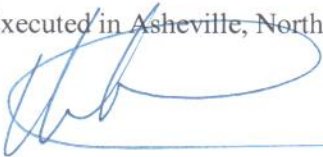
Buzzard's Roost, Haywood County, Appalachian Ranger District

Pursuant to 35 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission, and
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

A site not used by falcons or a site where nesting terminates before August 15th, may be opened to public use, as determined by the Forest Supervisor.

Executed in Asheville, North Carolina this 28th day of January, 2019.



HURSTON A. NICHOLAS
Forest Supervisor
National Forests in North Carolina

Violation of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine or not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.