

# US FOREST SERVICE

## SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

---

### ARIZONA

---

#### **MOUNT LEMMON, SANTA CATALINA RANGER DISTRICT, CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST - Arizona**

**Peregrine restrictions:** Some portions of Pusch Ridge Wilderness: January 1st thru April 30th Barnum Rock: February 1st thru August 31st. Rappel Rock, Raven Rock, the Fortress, Branching-Out Crag, and some routes on Panorama Wall: March 15th thru June 30th. Contact: Steve Romero, Wildlife Biologist, Santa Catalina Ranger District Tel: 520.749.8700.

---

#### **THUMB BUTTE, PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST - Arizona**

January 27, 2007 - Prescott National Forest. North and south climbing faces, the top of Thumb Butte, and the areas at the base of the faces are seasonally closed to climbing. Restriction extends from Feb 1st - July 15th. Trail 33 will remain open for hiking. This closure provides the quiet environment necessary for the successful nesting of peregrines on Thumb Butte. Contact: Noel Fletcher, Wildlife Biologist, Bradshaw Ranger District Tel: 928.443.8020.

---

#### **GRANITE MOUNTAIN, PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST - Arizona**

January 23, 2007 - Prescott National Forest. Consistent with seasonal closures of the last 12 years, it is prohibited to be upon Granite Mountain, or within 100 ft. back from the edge, from Feb 1 — July 15th. Trail 261 will remain open. This closure serves to protect nesting peregrine falcons. Contact: Noel Fletcher, Wildlife Biologist, Bradshaw Ranger District Tel: 928.443.8020.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## **COCHISE STRONGHOLD, DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT, CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST - Arizona**

As a result of monitoring conducted by the Southern Arizona Climbers Coalition, the Coronado NF is able to permit access into the Rockfellow Dome Park, Dragoon Mountains effective through 6/30/05 except as follows: being on any part of Cochise Dome or Unnamed Dome immediately southeast of Cochise Dome is prohibited through 6/30/05. Contact: Gary Helbing — Wildlife Biologist, Douglas Ranger District Tel: 520.364.3468.

---

## **CALIFORNIA**

---

### **AREA 13/CLARKS CANYON, INYO NATIONAL FOREST - California**

VOLUNTARY TEMPORARY CLOSURE - June 7, 2006 - Climbers are asked to refrain from climbing in the area called "Area 13" located in Clark Canyon, Eastern Sierra, CA until Aug 1, 2006, due to the discovery of nesting raptors on that cliff. The typical distance of a raptor closure is 100-150 meters to the left and to the right of the nest to reduce the potential of visual and audio disturbances during the crucial time of the raptors' fledging cycle. Due to the small cliff width of Area 13, the local climbing community in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest have asked that climbers refrain from climbing in this area until baseline data is gathered and a definitive determination of the species is made. Thank you for your support of the temporary and voluntary closure! Please direct any questions to the Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition at [info@climberscoalition.org](mailto:info@climberscoalition.org)

---

### **LOVER'S LEAP, EOLDORADO NATIONAL FOREST - California**

SEASONAL CLOSURE - To protect nesting peregrine falcons, a portion of Lover's Leap in the Eldorado National Forest is closed from April 21 through September 30. The closure includes being upon or within 30 feet of the face of the Lover's Leap Rock, or within 30 feet of the top edge of Lover's Leap Rock, from the Bookmark route on the east to the Hourglass route on the west. For updates throughout the season or to learn more visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/>.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## **WILLIAMSON ROCK, ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST – California**

Closed. In order to protect critical habitat of the mountain yellow-legged frog, the U.S. Forest Service temporarily limited access to approximately 1,000 acres in the area north of the Angeles Crest Highway (SR 2) in the vicinity of Cooper Canyon beginning Tuesday, December 27, 2005. This includes Williamson Rock. At the request of the Angeles National Forest, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) locked the gate at Cedar Springs (near milepost 62 on SR 2), east of the turn-off to Buckhorn Campground and west of the tunnels. For more information, visit: [williamsonrock.org](http://williamsonrock.org)

---

## **CHIMNEY ROCK, SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST - California**

SEASONAL CLOSURE UPDATE- August 1, 2006 - Chimney Rock, on the boundary between Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Park, has been re-opened to climbing following the successful fledging of a young peregrine falcon. Sequoia National Forest would like to thank the climbing community for their patience in observing the Chimney Rock closure this spring. The area will be closed again next spring until surveys determine if peregrines will nest there again. For more info contact: Marianne Emmendorfer, Hume Lake Ranger District 559.338.2251 x 313.

---

## **COLORADO**

---

### **BOULDER RANGER DISTRICT, ARAPAHOE AND ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS - Colorado**

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** 36 CFR Part 261.50 (a) and (b); Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940; two Forest Plan standards re: protecting species during breeding season, and protecting known raptor nests.

**Species:** Golden Eagle

**Location:** (unit or general location): FS, Rocky Mountain Region, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, Boulder Ranger District, Boulder Canyon in Boulder County, Colorado

# US FOREST SERVICE

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** 300 acres

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** The presence of a Golden eagle territory with nests, both recently active and alternate

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Yes. About 2/3 of the area was closed beginning in 1994. In 2001 an additional area was added, which included several crags popular for winter climbing. For the last three seasons, some of this more recently closed area has been left open due to popularity of the crags for winter climbing, while still protecting the alternate nest site with a spatial and forested buffer.

**How long is the closure and why?** Feb 1 – July 31. Dates are consistent with other local closures on city and county open space. Colorado Division of Wildlife recommends beginning closures earlier; however in addition to consistency, this site is at higher elevation, which along with the history of the territory suggests that February 1 is early enough for this territory.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? Once the birds settle in to a nest for the current season, we usually reopen about 2/3 of the closed area around mid March. Sometimes this may take until mid April if the eagles take longer to settle on a nest site. Monitoring is done by FS employees and Colorado Division of Wildlife volunteers.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** Yes. Until 1999, the closure was enacted on April 1, with inconsistent signage. In 1999 the Boulder Ranger District started closing the areas on February 1, which is consistent with closure dates for local city and county open space closures and provides a period for the eagles to select a nest without human disturbance. About 2/3 of the closed area has been reopened by March 21 for 4 of the last 5 years.

**Special conditions/management obligations?** Golden eagles were assessed in the FS Rocky Mountain Region for sensitive species status during a review in 2003. The recommendation from that review was “Not Region 2 Sensitive Species, but should be considered for other emphasis species lists.” Rationale for this recommendation includes that due to low density and sensitivity at nest sites to disturbance, all FS Rocky Mountain Region units with Golden Eagle nesting should adopt special management guidance for the protection of these reproductive sites.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** Nest success rate has been low for this territory – 5 young fledged in 13 seasons from 1992 through 2004. One young fledged each year 2004-2006. Climbing increased exponentially in Boulder Canyon in the 1990’s. Improved signing, communication, education, monitoring, and enforcement have helped in recent years to increase compliance and thus decrease human disturbance in the closed areas. We hope the recent pattern of successful fledging will continue beyond the three consecutive years. Other factors in addition to the improvements discussed above, such as food availability, death of one of the eagle pair and replacement by a new individual, and other factors, can contribute to fledging success or lack of it in any given year. Also see below.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?**

# US FOREST SERVICE

Early season closure of available nest sites, including alternate nests, to allow the golden eagles to select a site relatively free of human disturbance, then monitoring and reopening of areas not used for that season. Understanding of and compliance with closures has increased in recent years because of: Increased presence of FS employees at the site for education and enforcement, Consistent, well-maintained signage with maps, Getting the word out to climbers about the closures through the FS District web site, the Access Fund web site, web sites of other local climbing organizations, posting at climbing shops, and distributing press releases, Improved communication

---

## **CLEAR CREEK RANGER DISTRICT, ARAPAHOE AND ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS - Colorado**

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** There is one area on the Clear Creek Ranger District which has a climbing closure: the Chicago Lakes Basin in Mount Evans Wilderness which affects the Black Wall, a high alpine granite cliff with climbs starting at 5.10. Approximately 640 acres are “voluntarily” closed to all human presence from May 1 to July 1 due to lambing and kidding (bighorn sheep and mountain goats) that occurs in the basin. There is no Special Closure (CFR) at this point. We just voluntarily ask climbers/hikers to stay out of the area during this critical birthing period. This closure affects 14er hikers as well. I usually try to get this closure posted on the access fund website, mountain project and 14ers.org.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** The entire Chicago Lakes Basin above upper Chicago Lake has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife as important habitat for sheep and goats, especially for birthing. The base of the Black Wall has also been identified as critical habitat. Since there are several social trails within the basin, it would be too difficult to close specific trails. Just having human presence anywhere in this isolated valley has been determined to affect new mothers and their young. Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted? Not at this point.

**How long is the closure and why?** May 1-July 1 annually. This is the critical lambing and kidding period. The period actually extends to July 15th, but we thought it would be very difficult to have visitors voluntarily stay out much past July 1st, which is when trails are finally free of snow, and the Black Wall is relatively dried out.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? We chose to do a voluntary closure at this point while we monitor the area for human impacts to sheep and goats. Our wildlife biologist has been monitoring since 2003. If we see adverse impacts, or too many people choosing to still go in to the area during this time period, we will move to a legal closure order. We are directed by our Forest Plan to protect sheep and goats during lambing and kidding periods, so I don't think the voluntary closure will be lifted.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted? Special conditions/management obligations?** Forest Plan consistency

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** So far it seems like climbers are voluntarily complying. I haven't received any complaints or calls about the closure so far.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?** I think this is a good compromise. We do not have the funding or staff to enforce a legal closure. I think by having it voluntary, some people can appreciate how their presence may affect the animals, and choose to wait a few weeks before climbing. Also, the Black Wall is often seeping and wet early summer, and conditions are usually not good until early July. By shortening the voluntary period by two weeks to July 1 instead of the 15th, is also a good compromise for climbers.

---

## **TANNER DOME, SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST - Colorado**

Tanner Dome: April 1 through July 31 raptor closure. Area will be monitored and closure status may change prior to July 31. For more information, contact Ron Torretta, Wildlife Biologist at 719/269-8537.

---

## **THE DOMES, ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST - Colorado**

The Domes — Sarvis Creek Dome. Restriction extends from April 1st — July 31st. Contact: John Anagella, Ranger, Yampa Ranger District Tel: 970.638.4516.

---

## **KENTUCKY**

---

### **RED RIVER GORGE, DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST - Kentucky**

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** Listed threatened plant species. **CFR:** 36CFR261.50, 36CFR261.53

**Species:** White-haired Goldenrod

**Location:** (unit or general location) Only grows in Red River Gorge in Kentucky

# US FOREST SERVICE

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** There are approximately 20 woven wire fences installed to protect WhG. Although all fences are at base of cliffs, not all are at climb areas.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** There is a recovery plan through the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The recovery plan lists options for helping to increase numbers of WhG.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Fences have occasional been adjusted.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** Yes. Numbers of WhG are increasing.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?** Educate visitors on what WhG looks like & why it is threatened combined with some fencing at popular areas to minimize trampling.

---

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

---

### WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST – New Hampshire

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** Voluntary though our Forest management Plan does have a standard which prohibits route cleaning in areas where TES species occur. 36CFR 261.9c (damaging) or 36CFR 261.53a (TES closures) if closures are actually enacted.

**Species:** Peregrine Falcon, Fragrant Fern

**Location:** Peregrine closures occur across the White Mountain region including a number of popular climbing destinations such as Rumney, Cathedral Ledge, Painted Walls, Franconia Notch, Evan's Notch, etc. (not all of these are on NF lands)

Fragrant fern issues currently only at Rumney. Other TES species exist at climbing areas but no closures (voluntary or formal) have occurred as little research/monitoring has been conducted to determine impacts.

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** The total area affected by the closures varies by location and season.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** Concerning peregrine falcons, the USFS has had great luck working with the climbing community to determine what is necessary for the birds while having the least impact on climbing opportunities. At one site the birds may be more habituated to people and a smaller closure area is acceptable. At another backcountry site the birds may need a larger area to support successful nesting. With the fern, education efforts have been fairly successful at keeping climbers from cleaning new routes in the areas that have existing populations. There is not a closure and routes directly adjacent to the ferns are climbed on a regular basis. Signage at the parking lot kiosk is one of the main methods of message delivery. The most recent guidebooks have also included sketches and descriptions of the fern however a current guidebook is no longer widely available.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** The peregrine closures change on a regular basis as birds choose new nesting sites or have success/failure at nesting attempts. The seasonal status is monitored closely and adjusted if found necessary.

**How long is the closure and why?** Falcon closures usually last April 15-August 1 but are adjusted as necessary. Closures are instituted when individuals begin occupying a nest site and lifted after chicks fledge or nesting attempts fail.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? See above. Peregrine monitoring is fairly intensive. Fragrant fern monitoring is less so.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** Yes, regularly.

**Special conditions/management obligations?** Plant related issues (including fragrant fern) are one of a few driving issues behind the creation of a climbing management plan for Rumney. Route development has occurred at a very rapid pace in the last 10 years and additional species of concern are being discovered. Calcium rich soils at the base of the crags are suspected to be habitat for some of these species.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** Mixed success. Peregrine success has been excellent. Plant issues have been less so. There has been little research, inventory and monitoring done on the majority of cliffs in the White Mtns so it is difficult to determine what some of climbing's effects may have been in the past. While the fragrant fern may be easily recognizable to most climbers a rare sedge or lichen may not be.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?**

I believe climber education and involvement is critical. The peregrine falcon recovery has been a success due in part to the climbing community who have respected closures, monitored presence/activity at additional areas and participated in banding/research. A similar tactic would be beneficial for plant-related issues though it is more difficult to rally climbers around a lichen than it is a bird. Education should take place in guidebooks, websites, on-site signage, agency/volunteer presence and the outfitter/guide permitting process.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## NEW MEXICO

---

### **SANDIAS MOUNTAIN, SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT, CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST - New Mexico**

Restrictions affect The Shield and The Ramp, UNM Sprire Routes (The Needles), The Prow, Fletcher Trail and Movie Trail from March 1 — August 15. Contact: Beverly de Gruyter, Sandia Ranger District, Zone Biologist, Cibola National Forest Tel: 508.281.3304.

---

## NORTH CAROLINA

---

### **LINVILLE GORGE, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST – North Carolina**

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** 36 CFR 261.53 (Peregrine falcon closure) and 36 CFR 261.50 (T&E plant closure).

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** 36 CFR 261.53 (Peregrine falcon closure) and 36 CFR 261.50 (T&E plant closure). The Hudsonia Endangered plant closure areas are listed as entry into or upon the areas, approximately 2 acres each within the Linville Gorge Wilderness and do little to prohibit climbing as long as the climbers and other recreation users do not enter these areas. The Peregrine falcon closure currently covers two cliff sites used by the climbing community, East face of Table Rock and the southern end of Shortoff mountain.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** The Hudsonia plant closure is permanent and year round. The Peregrine falcon closure is for those climbing routes that are within the disturbance area as defined by the NC Non-game biologist for Peregrine falcons.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Yes, as the Peregrine's have moved twice within the past 10 years so the closure with Linville Gorge Wilderness was adjusted. A second pair was found within the wilderness gorge last year and successfully raised young, Thanks to the NC Outward Bound School who helped monitor the closure adherence. This climbing group was informed by the NC Non-game biologist on the falcon's life cycle and cliff use so they were aware of the fledgling danger of climber's using the closed routes.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**How long is the closure and why?** The Peregrine closure is from January 15 through August 15 each year. However, the past three years or so, the closure has been lifted in July as the young have fully fledged.

Under what conditions could the closure be lifted? Is there a species monitoring program? This species is monitored each nesting season and we are still experiencing; limited or no nesting success and 2004-2006 a fledgling was found at the base of the cliff dead. There are a total of 11 pairs in NC and approximately 2/3rd's of the nests are successful.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** The NC Non-game works with climbing organizations to adjust the route closures to protect the Peregrine nest site as well as open as many climbing routes as possible. The FS lifts the closures once the NC Non-game biologist informs them of fledgling success, no fledglings or nests, and last nesting pairs requiring continued closure. Often it takes up to a week between when the FS begins the closure lifting and when the FS lifts the closures or adjusts the closures on FS lands.

---

## GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST – North Carolina

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** 36 CFR 261.53 (Peregrine falcon closure) and 36 CFR 261.50 (T&E plant closure).

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** 36 CFR 261.53 (Peregrine falcon closure) and 36 CFR 261.50 (T&E plant closure). The Hudsonia Endangered plant closure areas are listed as entry into or upon the areas, approximately 2 acres each within the Linville Gorge Wilderness and do little to prohibit climbing as long as the climbers and other recreation users do not enter these areas. The Peregrine falcon closure currently covers two cliff sites used by the climbing community, East face of Table Rock and the southern end of Shortoff mountain.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** The Hudsonia plant closure is permanent and year round. The Peregrine falcon closure is for those climbing routes that are within the disturbance area as defined by the NC Non-game biologist for Peregrine falcons.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Yes, as the Peregrine's have moved twice within the past 10 years so the closure with Linville Gorge Wilderness was adjusted. A second pair was found within the wilderness gorge last year and successfully raised young, Thanks to the NC Outward Bound School who helped monitor the closure adherence. This climbing group was informed by the NC Non-game biologist on the falcon's life cycle and cliff use so they were aware of the fledgling danger of climber's using the closed routes.

**How long is the closure and why?** The Peregrine closure is from January 15 through August 15 each year. However, the past three years or so, the closure has been lifted in July as the young have fully fledged.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? This species is monitored each nesting season and we are still experiencing; limited or no nesting success and 2004-2006 a fledgling was found at the base of the cliff dead. There are a total of 11 pairs in NC and approximately 2/3rd's of the nests are successful.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** The NC Non-game works with climbing organizations to adjust the route closures to protect the Peregrine nest site as well as open as many climbing routes as possible. The FS lifts the closures once the NC Non-game biologist informs them of fledgling success, no fledglings or nests, and last nesting pairs requiring continued closure. Often it takes up to a week between when the FS begins the closure lifting and when the FS lifts the closures or adjusts the closures on FS lands.

---

## LOOKING GLASS, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST – North Carolina

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** National Forest Closure Order

**Species:** Peregrine Falcon

**Location:** Looking Glass Rock, Pisgah National Forest

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** ½ vertical rock face, less than 1 acre bouldering area below eyrie

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** Proximity to a known peregrine eyrie, visual relationship between climbing routes and eyrie location.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** There have been minor adjustments utilizing route names on the vertical surface.

**How long is the closure and why?** From January 15 to August 15, but the closure is usually lifted before 8/15 once it has been determined that young have successfully fledged. Jan. 15 encompasses the earliest known nesting at the site.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? The closure order will be reevaluated by USFS and state (NCWRC) biologists upon its expiration in 2009. Yes, both the NCWRC & USFS biologists and volunteers monitor the site for reproductive success.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** As mentioned above, the ending date is flexible. Posted signs are removed once the biologists believe the birds have completed fledging.

**Special conditions/management obligations?** Annual letter to the local climbing clubs notifying them of closures, dates and route information.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** The birds have been successfully reproducing, but fledging success has not been optimal. Some mortality of fledglings and adult birds has been experienced, and it is possible that disturbance from climbers may be a contributing factor.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?**

# US FOREST SERVICE

The current closure is based temporally on the reproductive biology of the birds and open climbing routes are believed to be obscured from the eyrie. However, auditory disturbance from early spring climbing activities may be causing the fledglings to attempt to leave the eyrie prematurely. A closure of the entire climbing face and increasing the size of the restricted bouldering area may be the only options to optimize reproductive success for the birds.

---

## WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN, NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST – North Carolina

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** National Forest Closure Order

**Species:** Peregrine Falcon

**Location:** Whiteside Mountain, Nantahala National Forest

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** Approximately the ½ vertical rock face

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** Proximity to a known peregrine eyrie.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Uncertain

**How long is the closure and why?** From January 15 to August 15, but the closure is usually lifted before 8/15 once it has been determined that young have successfully fledged. Jan. 15 encompasses the earliest known nesting at the site.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? The closure order will be reevaluated by USFS and state (NCWRC) biologists upon its expiration in 2009. Yes, the NCWRC biologists and volunteers monitor the site for reproductive success.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** As mentioned above, the ending date is flexible. Posted signs are removed once the biologists believe the birds have completed fledging.

**Special conditions/management obligations?** An annual letter to the local climbing clubs notifying them of closures, dates and route information. Coordination with regional climbing clubs representative for proposed changes to closure implementation.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** The birds have been successfully reproducing, but fledging success has not been optimal.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?**

The current implementation of the forest closure order appears to be the only viable option that still allows some recreational climbing during the reproductive period of the peregrines.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## **EAGLE CLIFF, APPALACHIAN RANGER DISTRICT, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST - North Carolina**

January 18, 2007 - All climbing routes at Eagle Cliff are closed for the protection of rare plants. For more information contact the USFS Appalachian Ranger District at (828) 682-6146.

---

## **WHITEROCK CLIFF, APPALACHIAN RANGER DISTRICT, PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST - North Carolina**

January 18, 2007 - ALL CLIMBING ROUTES at Whiterock Cliff are seasonally closed for Peregrine Falcon nesting from January 15 - August 15 2007. In the event that falcons are not using the site or nesting terminates at an earlier date than August 15, the site may be reopened to public use as determined by the landowner. In 2006, the nesting pair successfully fledged one chick late in the nesting season. For more information contact the USFS Appalachian Ranger District at (828) 682-6146.

---

## **OREGON**

---

### **WILLIAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST - Oregon**

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** 36 CFR 261.53 (a); Special Forest Order 169

**Species:** Peregrine falcon

**Location:** (unit or general location): Menagerie Wilderness

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** Approx. 1400 acres

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** A combination of primary nesting zone and key road access points

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** No

**How long is the closure and why?** Jan 15 to July 31

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? When site monitoring by agency biologist(s) determines no nesting success, or that chicks have fledged

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** No

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** The area closure has generally been complied with by the local rock climbing community.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?**  
Seasonal Area Closure

---

## **RABBIT EARS, WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST - Oregon**

Rabbit Ears (Menagerie), Wolf Creek, Shady Creek Spires. Closure date Jan. 1 until 2 weeks after fledging, may be extended to July 31. Contact Willamette NF.

---

## **ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST - Oregon**

Rabbit Ears contact Rogue River NF 541.560.3400; Mushroom Towers (Rattlesnake) contact Medford BLM 541.440.4930. Closure date: Jan 1 until 2 weeks after fledging, may be extended to July 31.

---

## **UMPQUA NATIONAL FOREST - Oregon**

**CFR/statutory authority/policy:** Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2600; Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management

**Species:** Peregrine falcon

**Location:** Acker Rock

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** Access to 313 acres (primary nest protection zone) is seasonally restricted.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** Protection from disturbance, both auditory and visual. Area was delineated using topography relative to the location of the nest ledge.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** The size and shape of the primary zone has been adjusted as we learn more from monitoring.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**How long is the closure and why?** The seasonal restriction is from January 1 – July 31 and covers the period of time from courtship through fledging of young.

**Under what conditions could the closure be lifted?** Is there a species monitoring program? The closure can be lifted early in the restriction period if monitoring indicates birds are not nesting; otherwise, it may be lifted two weeks after the young fledge. The closure has been lifted by mid-July at this site, which is about two weeks early. This site is monitored annually.

**Has the temporal closure ever been adjusted?** No; it is a standard closure and the length of the closure is appropriate for this site. Special conditions/management obligations? This site is monitored annually.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** We've worked with the climbing community to establish a good relationship, and believe this effort has been successful.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management approach for this particular climbing management issue?** Work with climbers to establish trust; include them in the monitoring effort. Keep climbers informed of monitoring results and status of the site throughout the seasonal restriction period.

---

## WASHINGTON

---

### **MIDNIGHT AND NOONTIME ROCKS, LEAVENWORTH RANGER DISTRICT, WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST - Washington**

SEASONAL CLOSURE - Midnight and Noontime Rocks, in Tumwater Canyon, are closed to entry from April 1 to July 31, 2006 to protect nesting raptors. The closure area includes these rocks and the area immediately above and between them. Once nesting is confirmed, restrictions will be lifted on the rocks not being used. If you have any information regarding the raptor nest, questions, or comments, please contact the Leavenworth FS Ranger Station at (509) 548-6977.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

---

### CALIFORNIA

---

#### **NATURAL BRIDGE, SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST, HAYFORK DISTRICT - California**

**VOLUNTARY CLOSURE** - Natural Bridge, outside of Hayfork in Trinity County, has been bolted but is highly important spiritually and culturally to the local Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation there and the FS has deemed it eligible for the National Register of Historic places. It is also home to the Townsend's big eared bat. For the last few years there has been almost 100% compliance regarding the voluntary closure. Historically the Bridge is a massacre site where over 150 Nor-Rel-Muk men, women and children were slaughtered during the Gold Rush and is a grave site as well. Please respect this voluntary closure.

---

### KENTUCKY

---

#### **RED RIVER GORGE, DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST - Kentucky**

**Acts:** Antiquities, National Historic Preservation, Archaeological & Historical Preservation, American Indian Religious Freedom, Archaeological Resources Protection, Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation

**Executive Orders:** 11593, 13007, 13175, 13287

**CFR:** 36CFR261.50, 36CFR261.53, 36CFR296, 36CFR800, 43CFR10

**Property/resource type:** Rock art, cultural artifacts, sacred sites, historical resources

**Location:** (unit or general location) Rockshelters in Red River Gorge in KY

# US FOREST SERVICE

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** Approximately 30 areas are closed with fencing. Fenced off areas vary from small (<100 sq ft) to large (up to 4,000 sq ft). Although all fences are at base of cliffs, not all are at climb areas. Approximately 30 climbing routes (out of 700+) have been closed.

**How/why was this determined to be the scope of the closure?** Based on documented impacts to cultural resources from heavy recreational use.

**Has the terrestrial closure ever been adjusted?** Yes, fences have had slight adjustments.

**What impact mitigation measures have been employed?** Study currently underway to test effectiveness of various geotextiles to protect subsurface cultural artifacts. Educational/interpretive signs have been installed.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** For the most part, the woven wire fences have been effective. Only about 10% are damaged by the public each year. Most people respect the fences and stay out of sensitive areas.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?** Education of visitors. Most visitors do not understand the significance of the cultural resources in the Red River Gorge. Most artifacts are not visible (subsurface) and people do not realize their actions may be detrimental to resources. The use of woven wire fences has been surprisingly effective.

---

## FIXED ANCHORS

---

### COLORADO

---

#### CLEAR CREEK RANGER DISTRICT, ARAPAHOE AND ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS - Colorado

**Is there a climbing group that advises on climbing issues?** I am the recreation planner and a climber, so I make recommendations to our Ranger and other staff based on my experiences. There has been a few local climbers who have contacted me and are interested and passionate about the bouldering in Mount Evans-Aerial boulders and Chicago Lakes.

**Can climbers place fixed anchors through a permit process?** You don't need a permit to place fixed gear on our District. However, I would like to be contacted prior to placing fixed anchors or bolts on the Forest.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Special conditions/management obligations?** Much of our climbing occurs within Mount Evans wilderness. So far, most of the fixed anchors I've seen in the wilderness has been kept to a minimum, and only placed where necessary, which is great. There have not been any issues with fixed anchors...yet...There's been some development in the Evergreen area on NF lands, but it is not excessive, and hasn't been a problem.

**Has your management response been successful? How so? In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?** Rock climbing in my opinion is a valid historical use of Wilderness. I am not opposed to minimal and necessary anchor replacement, and critical bolts which are placed discreetly and are well-thought out. I do not want to see bolt ladders, brightly colored slings, bolted cracks, etc. I like to see a strong wilderness ethic when climbing in Wilderness. Patti Turecek, Recreation Planner, Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Clear Creek Ranger District, 303-567-3017.

---

## IDAHO

---

### SAWTOOTH WILDERNESS, SWATOOTH NATIONAL FOREST – Idaho

**CRF/statutory authority:** 261.10 (a) Placing or maintaining permanent anchors for climbing.

**Location:** Sawtooth Wilderness, Idaho

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** 217,088 acres (within the legal boundaries of the Sawtooth Wilderness)

**Why were fixed anchors restricted?** This is a long story. The original decision for the Sawtooth Wilderness EA in 1997 was that “no additional anchors would be allowed but that the replacement and maintenance of existing anchors would be allowed by special use permit, working with the climbing community to set standards. This decision was appealed to the Regional Forester by both Wilderness Watch and the Access Fund. The Deputy Regional Forester affirmed the Forest Supervisor on all appeal issues but directed the Forest Supervisor to complete an analysis of the management need for fixed anchors to protect the wilderness resource and administer climbing activities in the Sawtooth Wilderness. He also directed that prior to the completion of the analysis no new fixed anchors would be allowed and that a closure order would be issued. A legal analysis was done and policy implications were evaluated resulting in a reversal of the Regional Forester's decision, based on the conclusion that the use of fixed anchors is prohibited within wilderness areas. It's at this point that my memory gets a little fuzzy. I believe this analysis was then applied to all Forest Service Wildernesses, soon to be challenged. The decision was overturned for all wildernesses ~ except ~ the Sawtooth Wilderness, pending formal rulemaking by the Secretary of Agriculture. The rule was ready to be published in the Federal Register for public

# US FOREST SERVICE

comment when there was an administration change and the rest is history. There remains a complete ban on the placement or maintenance of permanent anchors in the Sawtooth Wilderness.

**Is there a climbing group that advises on climbing issues?** Not at the current time

**Can climbers place fixed anchors through a permit process?** Not under current regulations

**Has your management response been successful? How so?**

No. We have no means to monitor or enforce this regulation. I believe we could make more progress by maintaining close relationships built on trust with the climbing community and some self-regulation.

In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?

Work with local climbers or a local climbing group to develop a climbing management plan, allowing climbers to place or replace fixed anchors within carefully crafted parameters, under a permit process. However, I also understand that it takes resources that we may not have to make this happen.

---

## KENTUCKY

---

### RED RIVER GORGE, DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST - Kentucky

**CRF/statutory authority:** Revised Forest Plan

**Location:** No new fixed anchors in 13,000-acre Clifty Wilderness in Red River Gorge, KY.

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** Clifty Wilderness in Red River Gorge (13,000 acres)

**Why were fixed anchors restricted?** Explosion of fixed anchors were installed in early 1990's without USFS awareness or approval. Ban on new bolts initiated in mid 1990's to allow USFS to "catch up" with this issue. Revised Forest Plan 2004 has standard that states no new fixed anchors in Clifty Wilderness. Existing fixed anchors allowed. Outside wilderness, fixed anchors allowed through USFS authorization process.

**Is there a climbing group that advises on climbing issues?** Yes

**Can climbers place fixed anchors through a permit process?** Yes

**Special conditions/management obligations?** Existing fixed anchors in Clifty Wilderness at time of Forest Plan Revision were allowed.

# US FOREST SERVICE

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** A few new fixed anchor routes have been installed in Clifty Wilderness since 2004, but overall the ban has been successful. The local climbing organization has helped to get the word out about the ban in wilderness and permit approval process outside wilderness.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?** A limits of acceptable change (LAC) process for the Red River Gorge is establishing standards for a variety of recreational activities including climbing and fixed anchors.

---

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

---

### WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST – New Hampshire

**CFR/statutory authority:** Wilderness Act of 1964

**Location:**(unit or general location): All federally designated Wilderness on the White Mountain National Forest

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** All climbing areas located in WMNF Wilderness are closed to new fixed anchor installation though in reality not too many areas are currently affected. The percentage of the Northeast's established/potential routes affected by this regulation is very small. New routes may be established in these areas if they do not rely on fixed protection. Existing fixed anchors can be maintained and replaced as necessary. Motorized drills are prohibited in all WMNF Wilderness. Fixed anchors are allowed throughout the remainder of the WMNF.

**Why were fixed anchors restricted?** To preserve the wilderness character found in these areas. The WMNF has agreed to provide a range of recreation opportunities from undeveloped to highly developed. By restricting fixed anchors in Wilderness we have conserved some areas where visitors can enjoy the environment without seeing any lasting evidence of human presence. Climbing may still occur at these areas but it will utilize removable protection (see #3). To limit lasting alterations/impacts on the Wilderness resource, To honor and preserve the traditional aspect of climbing in the WMNF.

**Is there a climbing group that advises on climbing issues?** There is no local climbing group that provides consistent input on these issues. Mountain Rescue Service was the de facto support group but has consciously chosen to distance themselves from cliff management in order to focus on rescue. The Rumney Climbers Association has helped with some aspects of the management of Rumney Rocks (nonWilderness) though issues with bolting have not been addressed. The WMNF recently completed a revision of

# US FOREST SERVICE

their Forest Plan and public input was sought throughout the process. This was the first time that climbing was addressed to any substantial degree and the overall response from the climbing community and Access Fund has been supportive.

**Can climbers place fixed anchors through a permit process?** Climbers can place fixed anchors on the WMNF without a permit unless: They're in Wilderness where new bolts are not allowed, The area is under a special closure because of biological or heritage resources (none currently exist that affect established climbing areas)

**Special conditions/management obligations?** The Forest Plan does provide guidance that "Removable traditional protection should be used. Fixed protection may be considered when the use of removable protection is impossible, impractical, or causes increased or ongoing unacceptable resource impact." There are additional guidelines concerning the type of bolts, color of webbing, use of existing holes for bolt replacement, cleaning tools/techniques and color of hangers.

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** Overall, yes. The issues that are currently being faced deal less with bolting than they do with other factors (TES species, erosion, cutting trees, etc). The limited amount of exposed rock in Wilderness has kept bolting from being a major issue in these areas.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?**

The self-policing nature of the local climbing community has worked well historically here in the Northeast. As use patterns have changed I don't know if this is still the case. The development of areas such as Rumney has moved along at such a rapid pace that part of the climbing community has begun looking at the area as the sacrificial lamb. "We don't want another Rumney" is a popular sentiment when discussing bolting issues at the majority of crags. A distinct user group has been established at Rumney that largely expects and approves of the conditions found at that area. Due to the existence of TES species, the heavily used nature of the area and the resulting impacts, the self-policing technique no longer seems like the best option for Rumney. The process of creating a climbing management plan is currently in its early stages and input is being gathered from the climbing community. In terms of fixed anchor installation, the WMNF hopes to determine the management tactic that best protects the resource while letting visitors enjoy a world-class recreational opportunity with as much freedom of the hills as possible.

# US FOREST SERVICE

---

## OREGON

---

### **WILLIAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST - Oregon**

**CRF/statutory authority:** Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984

**Location:** (unit or general location) Menagerie Wilderness

**Climbing Restriction? If so, specifically indicate management action:** Prohibition of fixed anchors in wilderness area

**What is the total land area/distance closed?** 4949 acres

**Why were fixed anchors restricted?** Wilderness area

**Is there a climbing group that advises on climbing issues?** Local group of climbers

**Can climbers place fixed anchors through a permit process?** No

**Has your management response been successful? How so?** Moderately successful. The population of fixed bolts is likely growing. However, a recently created climbing guide for the area (identifying locations of fixed bolts) should slow the placement of these anchors. The advent of rechargeable power drills has accelerated the placement of fixed bolts.

**In your experience, what do you believe to be the best management practice for this particular climbing management issue?**

The climbing industry and community needs to educate its young constituents (those cutting their teeth in climbing gyms and on school climbing walls) about these resource issues. Attitudes need to be changed, much like what happened in the recreational fishing community 20-30 years ago. Our agency does not have the allocated wilderness funding to successfully police all rock climbing areas, so enforcement and penalties are not a very effective deterrent.

---