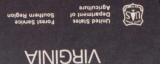


# JEFFERSON National Forest

Clinch Ranger District

VIRGINIA



## THE FOREST

The Clinch Ranger District, located in the Appalachian Plateau region of southwest Virginia, is one of six districts of the Jefferson National Forest. This is a mountainous area with elevations of 4,200 feet, interbed with streams and underlying mineral deposits. The 30,000 acres of public land are managed under the multiple use concept to provide benefits from all natural resources.

**History**  
The mountainous terrain of southwest Virginia forced early inhabitants, both Indians and white men, to live off the riches of the forests, streams, and soil. The Clinch Valley lay between lands of the Cherokee and Shawnee Nations. Settlements were small and uplands were used for hunting. Between 1775 and 1800 white men pushed into the area and their settlements grew as the migration west on the Wilderness Road proceeded.

During the 1800's much land in the area was bought by industries for timber and mineral resources. In 1891, Norfolk and Western Railroad completed a line from Bluefield to Norton, bringing access to a wealth of resources previously locked in the hills. The seemingly inexhaustible supply of large, flawless trees led lumber companies to haul out the best timber and leave the rest to rot or burn. Whole mountains were denuded, abandoned to the ravages of rain, wind, and fire. Disastrous flooding and erosion were widespread.

During Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, national attention was focused on the need for conservation of natural resources and on the flooding and erosion problems of the Appalachians. In 1911 Congress authorized Forest Service purchase of lands for national forests. This acquisition began on the Clinch in 1938, and the Jefferson National Forest was dedicated in a ceremony on High Knob.

The primary purpose for buying land on the Clinch was to protect the headwaters of the Tennessee River. Reclamation of these lands was expected to reduce flooding, furnish a continuous and even flow of water, prevent erosion and siltation. Civilian Conservation Corpsmen provided manpower for early projects like road construction, tree planting, fire control, and restoration of eroded areas.

Today these National Forest lands are managed for many uses including timber, water, minerals, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.



## Water

Waters flowing from National Forest lands are the purest in the area. Many of the streams contain trout, and all provide water to neighboring communities. Norton, Pound, and Big Stone Gap all have municipal reservoirs fed by National Forest watersheds.

## Minerals

Coal, oil, and gas exploration and recovery are becoming increasingly important to our energy dependent nation. Gas wells have been drilled on National Forest lands, with several showing potential for production. Coal is being recovered from deep mines. The owners of these minerals have a legal right to its recovery while the Forest Service has responsibility for protection of the surface resources.

## Wildlife

Wildlife and fish on all of the Jefferson National Forest are managed under a cooperative agreement between the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Forest Service. National Forest lands provide significant wildlife habitat in the area. Timber harvesting and wildlife improvements enhance habitat and provide diversity necessary for a variety of species. The Commission is responsible for fish stocking, assets in habitat management, and enforces game and fish laws. Wildlife populations have increased substantially under this cooperative management.



## Timber

Many of the District lands were cutover and bare when purchased in the '30s and '40s, today these lands support beautiful, high quality timber. Wise management of this timber resource assures a continuous supply of wood products, while protecting the soil and water resources and enhancing wildlife habitats. Approximately 7 million board feet of timber are harvested each year on the District.



## Campfires

No permits are required for campfires; however, you are responsible for your fire and any damage it might cause. From March 1 to May 15 during the spring fire season fires may only be built in the evening between 4 pm and midnight.

**Forests are vital to our Nation. Practice deliberate fire prevention - always!**

1. Extinguish your match; break it in two before discarding.
2. Crush out your smoke; use the ashtray in your vehicle.
3. Stop to smoke: Find a safe place. Stamp out your smoke on mineral soil or rock - never in dry grasses, leaves or needles.
4. Never leave a campfire unattended - put it out before you leave.
5. Be especially careful with fire when the wind is blowing.
6. Never try to "smoke out" game. Look for game elsewhere, give that squirrel (and the forest) another chance.
7. Down your campfire: Turn the sticks and drown them a second time. Make sure the fire is out - DEAD OUT!

## HIKING

Be sure to carry out what you carry in. Buried trash will only be scattered by animals in the forest. Bury your body waste in a shallow hole 4-6" deep, 100 feet from the nearest water, where soil organisms will decompose your contribution to the earth.

1. Leave nothing but tracks.
2. Extinguish all campfires.
3. Use an ax or cutting tool only on dead-and-down trees.
4. Never go alone.
5. Have a good map and compass.
6. Check weather forecast.
7. Check with the Virginia Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries for licenses, open seasons, and regulations regarding hunting and fishing.
8. Carry drinking water, or treat water from streams, rivers, or lakes by boiling for at least 5 minutes.
9. Carry a first aid kit.
10. Read regulations posted at parking areas.

## CAMPING REGULATIONS

The purpose of the rules in effect in National Forest recreation areas is to insure your protection and maximum pleasure. By observing these regulations, you and your camping neighbors will be able to enjoy the peace and serenity of the forest environment.

### GENERAL CAMPGROUND RULES

1. In developed campground areas, put vehicles, tents, and trailers only in places provided.
2. Occupy your campsite the first night you arrive; then don't leave it unoccupied for more than 24 hours at a time.
3. Camping is not permitted in day-use areas such as picnicking sites, swimming areas, etc.
4. No reservations are taken and the length of stay is limited to 14 days consecutive.
5. Only campers are permitted inside campgrounds during established night hours (usually posted).
6. Fires may only be built in stoves, grills, fireplaces, and fire rings.
7. Help preserve all facilities and vegetation. Protect recreation areas for future generations.

### "GOOD NEIGHBOR" CAMPING

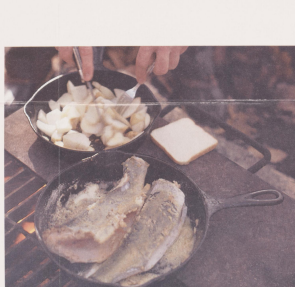
1. Use containers provided for garbage and unburnable trash.
2. Use grill or stove to burn paper and cardboard trash.
3. Clean up your campsite before you depart.
4. Keep pets on leash - and quiet!
5. Refrain from making noises that might disturb your neighbor's sleep during night hours (10 pm-6 am).
6. Put nothing in toilets that might damage or clog them.
7. Boisterousness anytime is prohibited; this includes loud playing of radios, TV, amplifiers, musical instruments, etc.
8. Motorbikes and motorcycles are to be used only to enter or leave the area. Noisy vehicles (without mufflers) and "burning" of engines are prohibited.
9. Observe speed limits. Drive carefully. Park only in areas provided.
10. Keep all vehicles on roads and spurs.
11. Shooting and fireworks are prohibited.

### "GOOD NEIGHBOR" WATER SPORTS

1. Keep glass away from beach.
2. Keep pets away from beach and swimming area.



North Fork of Pound Lake



## Recreation Opportunities

### Camping

Primitive camping is permitted throughout the forested area of the District except on roads, in developed sites, and in areas with posted restrictions. Laurel Fork and Hopkins Branch on Pound Lake are two primitive camps accessible only by foot or boat. Campers are encouraged to practice no-trace camping techniques, leaving the woods in a natural condition with no evidence of the presence of people.

Developed campgrounds can be found at High Knob, Cave Springs, Bark Camp, and Cane Patch. Typical facilities are tent pads, cooking grills, picnic tables, and toilets. No electrical hook-ups or water are provided for trailers. (See recreation graph for specifics.) High Knob and Cave Springs have small lakes for swimming. Bark Camp has a lake for boating and fishing. Cane Patch is on Pound Lake and within walking distance of Phillips Creek Swimming Area. Fees are charged for the use of these areas.

### Picnicking

Picnicking is permitted throughout the District. Picnic facilities, including tables, grills, water, and toilets, are provided at all the camping and boating areas and at Hanging Rock, Bee Bottom, and Phillips Creek. Picnic areas are open from dawn to dusk. "First-come, first-served" group sites where reservations and a fee are required.

### Boating

There are three boating lakes on the District: Bark Camp and Lake Kookoo were built by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries; North Fork of Pound Lake was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. All three are warm water lakes with bass, bluegill, and associated species. Electric motors only are permitted at Bark Camp and Lake Kookoo. North Fork of Pound Lake has a no-wake regulation.

### Hunting and Fishing

There are hunting seasons throughout most of the District for deer, turkey, grouse, quail, and other small mammals. Trout fishing is available in numerous streams and warm water fishing in larger streams as well as Bark Camp Lake, Lake Kookoo and Pound Lake. Hunting and fishing are regulated by Virginia game laws. All state regulations, fees, and seasons apply to National Forest lands. Resident licensees and National Forest stamps can be purchased at county clerk's offices and many sporting goods stores. Detailed information on regulations and licenses can be obtained from the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23232.

### Hiking and Riding

There are over 30 miles of trail on the District for hiking and riding. Each of the campgrounds and lakes has trails for the enjoyment of campers and fishermen. Many hikers seek out the trail from Hanging Rock to the Falls of Little Stony, which run through a gorge lined with rhododendron and hemlocks. Roaring Branch Trail also runs alongside a beautiful cascading stream. Riding is popular on the extended Pine Mountain trail.



## North Fork of Pound Lake

The North Fork of Pound Lake was completed in 1966 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the flood control program for the Ohio River Basin. The purpose of the project was to provide flood control and recreation opportunities, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and provide water for the town of Pound. The Corps of Engineers operated the lake, recreation areas and adjacent public land until 1983, at which time these areas were transferred to the USFS - Forest Service.

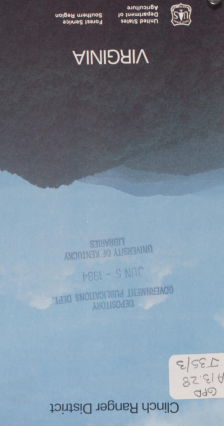
The Corps of Engineers is still responsible for 90 acres at the dam, tailwater area, and overlook. The Corps controls the water level in the lake and is responsible for all flood control operations.

The Forest Service is responsible for management of the recreation areas and the 5,087 acres of public land adjacent to the lake. Recreation areas on the lake include one developed campground at Cane Patch and two primitive camping areas, Laurel Fork and Hopkins Branch, accessible only by boat or foot trail. There are picnic facilities at Bee Bottom and boat access at Wise and Pound Launches. Boat rentals are available at the Pound Marina, Phillips Creek, the only swimming area on the lake, is operated by Wise County under a lease arrangement.

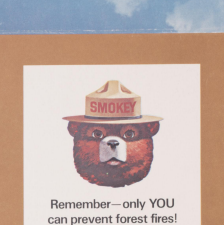
### High Knob

The first documented use of High Knob is Patrick Hagan's construction of the Hagan Hotel in 1865. This 14-room structure was a type of resort at which Hagan entertained his friends. Since then the 4,223 foot peak has been used frequently for spotting wildfires, and has been looked in 1938 housed in the old hotel. A Civilian Conservation Corps Spike Camp was built and operated briefly on the mountain. The existing High Knob tower was built by Job Corps in 1978. While aerial detection has curtailed its usefulness as a fire tower, the building does house an exhibit tracing the history of the area and affords excellent views of the valleys and hills beyond. (Contact the District Ranger for tower schedules.)

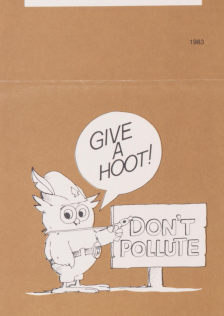
The facilities, programs and services of the Forest Service and the National Forests are for the use and enjoyment of all people. This cooperative spirit is an essential element of our national system. No person, organization, or individual condition in breach of the public use of the USFS Forest Service, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



JEFFERSON National Forest



The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives - as directed by Congress - to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.



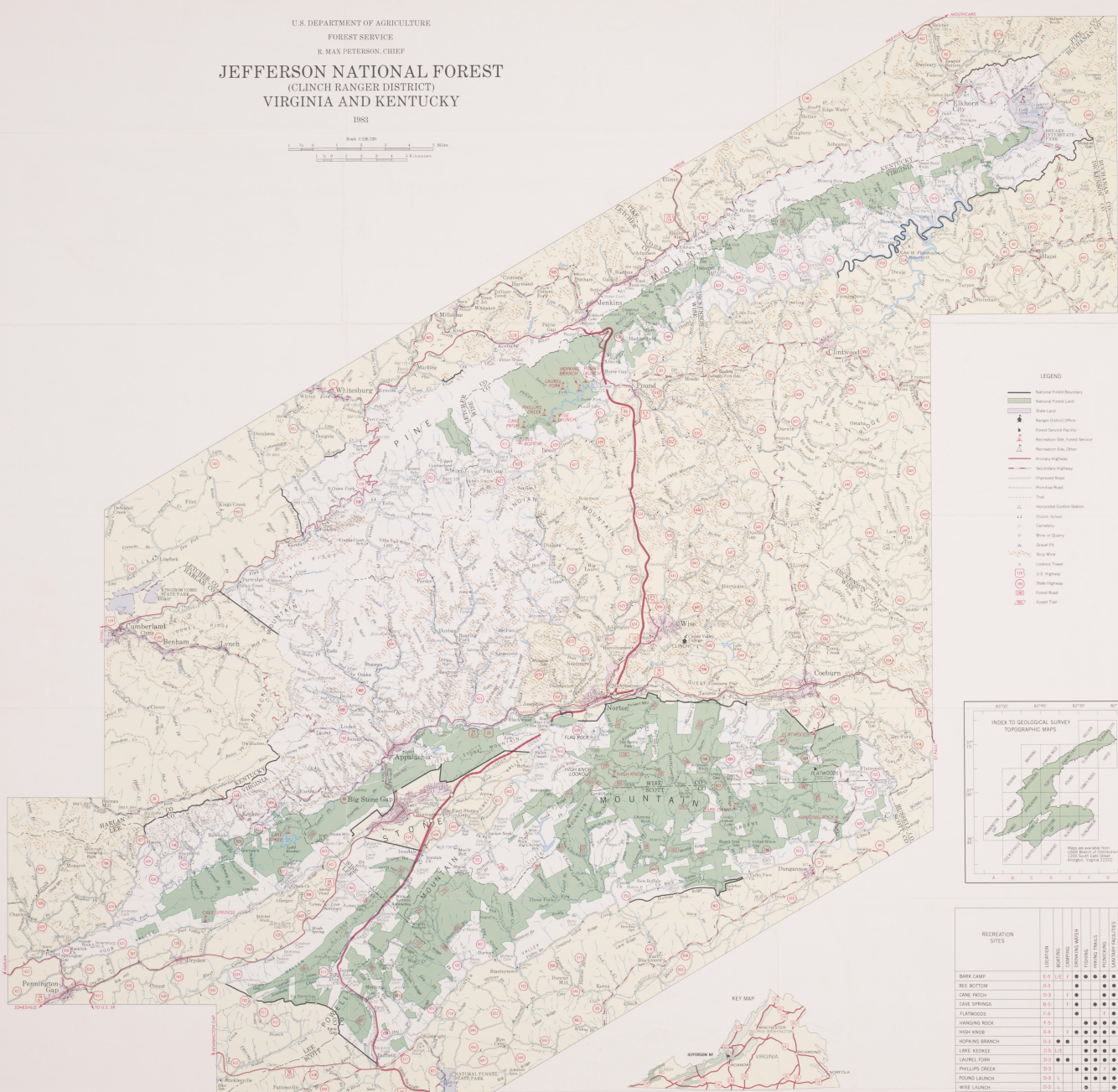
For further information contact:  
Clinch District Ranger  
Route 1 Box 320 H  
Wise, Virginia 24293  
(On Va 846, across from Clinch Valley College)

Forest Supervisor  
Jefferson National Forest  
210 Franklin Road, SW  
Cater Service 2900  
Roanoke, Virginia 24001

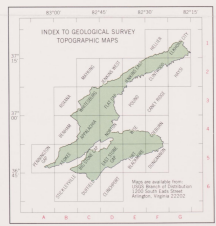
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FOREST SERVICE  
 R. MAX PETERSON, CHIEF  
**JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST**  
 (CLINCH RANGER DISTRICT)  
 VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY

1983



- LEGEND**
- National Forest Boundary
  - National Forest Land
  - State Land
  - ★ Ranger District Office
  - Forest Service Building
  - Recreation Site, Forest Service
  - Recreation Site, Other
  - Primary Highway
  - Secondary Highway
  - Unimproved Road
  - Private Road
  - Trail
  - Historical Control Station
  - Church School
  - Cemetery
  - Mine or Quarry
  - Gravel Pit
  - Saw Mill
  - U.S. Highway
  - State Highway
  - State Road
  - Airstrip



**RECREATION SITES**

SITE	LOCATION	BATHING	BOATING	DRINKING WATER	FISHING	HUNTING	TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD FACILITIES	TRAILHEAD SERVICES	TRAILHEAD SHELTER
BARK CAMP	E 5, E 6	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
BEE BOTTOM	D 3, D 4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CANE RUN	D 3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CAVE SPRINGS	E 5	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
FLATWOOD	F 4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HANGING ROCK	E 5	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HIGH KNIFE	E 4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HOPKINS BRANCH	D 3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LAKE KEENE	E 5	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LAUREL FISH	D 3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PHILLIPS CREEK	D 3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
FOUND LAUNCH	D 3, L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
WISE LAUNCH	D 3, L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LAUNCH RAMP		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● FISHES REQUIRED  
 ● ELECTRICAL MOTORS ONLY

FOREST SERVICE MAP  
 Compiled at the Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia from 1954 through 1979 (25)  
 Geological Survey topographic quadrangles. Revised by the Southern Region  
 in 1963. Checked by the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Service Center,  
 Salt Lake City, Utah in 1981. Land status current as of June 1983.

Projection: projection  
 1983 North American datum