



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
www.nps.gov/blri

199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

August 23, 2007

For Immediate Release

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Parkway Implements Ban on Open Fires

(Asheville)—Because of the continuing high fire danger, Blue Ridge Parkway Deputy Superintendent Martha Bogle today issued a temporary ban on open fires except those in the provided fire grates located in Parkway campgrounds. The areas effected by the closure are the old CCC Camp in Rock Castle Gorge, Basin Cove in Doughton Park, John River in Price Park and areas of the Appalachian Trail on the Parkway lands and all picnic areas.

The ban includes campfires, charcoal and all other fuels that are not completely enclosed. According to the Public Notice, issued at noon, careful use of self-contained gas or liquid fuel stoves is still permitted, as are cigarettes and other legal smoking products.

Deputy Superintendent Bogle noted that wildland fires are active in both North Carolina and Virginia and said the ban would be lifted as soon as weather and other conditions that affect fire danger permit.

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The text of the Public Notice follows.

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Public Notice August 23, 2007

Effective at 12:00 noon on August 23, 2007 a ban on open fires is in effect in the following areas for backcountry camping on the Blue Ridge Parkway:

Johns River Road at Price Park
Basin Cove at Doughton Park
CCC Camp at Rock Castle Gorge
Appalachian Trail on Parkway lands,
All picnic areas.

Open fires in the provided fire grates in campgrounds are permitted.

This prohibition is a temporary measure to limit ignition sources during the current high fire danger conditions. The ban will remain in effect until a determination is reached by fire suppression staff that a significant change has occurred and open fires no longer present a high risk for dangerous fires.

This ban applies to all lands under the administrative control of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The restriction is on ignition sources to include: campfires, cooking fires, burning of refuse and brush, the use of charcoal fires and other fuels not completely enclosed in a container.

The careful use of self contained "camping" stoves that utilize compressed gas or liquid fuels is permitted. The careful use of legal smoking products is allowed.

This prohibition and the repeal of the ban will be conducted with consultation with cooperating fire suppression agencies.

The authority for this prohibition is 36 Code of Federal, Section 1.5 (a) (2).

Martha Bogle
Deputy Superintendent

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