



File Code: 2720
Date: April 8, 2020

Dear Permit Holder:

The National Forests in North Carolina's focus is on the safety and well-being of our customers, partners, neighbors, communities we serve, and to our employees. In light of our nation's rapidly evolving public health emergency, it is imperative that our current and prospective special use permit holders follow and adhere to the most current orders, directives, and guidelines issued by Federal, State, and local governments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OSHA, and other public health organizations to combat the spread of COVID-19. I recognize this is a very fluid situation and I want to ensure we, the Forest Service and our public service providers, take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of this disease.

I am not issuing a suspension of all outfitting and guiding operations at this time; however, the terms of your special use authorization require compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and standards, including public health and safety laws. On March 27, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 121 – *Stay at home order and strategic directions for North Carolina in response to increasing covid-19 cases*. This Executive Order became effective March 30, 2020 at 5:00 pm and shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days or until repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order.

Failure to follow Governor Cooper's Executive Orders or any other Federal, State, Forest Closure Orders or local laws/ ordinance could result in the suspension, revocation, or termination of your current permit, jeopardize any future permit, and risk other violations of Federal, state, and local laws. We are taking the risks presented by COVID-19 seriously and I want to extend a thank you to those permit holders that have already voluntarily ceased operations on the National Forests in North Carolina in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

It is impossible for me to predict or advise your business on how or when this emergency might subside, but I urge you to please keep informed on the latest COVID-19 news updates and information from the Federal government and the state and local communities where you operate. We understand the hardships that this virus is placing on your businesses and we stand ready to help return you to a safe and orderly operation when this is all over. In the meantime, stay safe and keep informed. We're all in this together.

For questions about this letter or to get the most up-to-date information on local Forest Service mission delivery and closures during this incident, please contact your local Ranger District office and visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc>. For questions regarding your



permit or use of National Forest System lands, please contact the permit administrator who normally administers your authorization. The contact information for each forest's administrator is listed below:

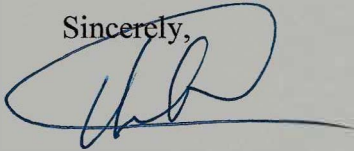
Pisgah National Forest: Linda Aiken – linda.aiken@usda.gov
Cody Owen – james.owen@usda.gov

Nantahala National Forest: Bo Wood – joseph.wood@usda.gov
Bob Vance – robert.e.vance@usda.gov

Uwharrie National Forest: Brock Stovall – Kenneth.stovall@usda.gov

Croatan National Forest: Cody Owen – james.owen@usda.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HAN', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

HURSTON A. NICHOLAS
Forest Supervisor