

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA
CROATAN RANGER DISTRICT
CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA
FOREST ORDER# 08-11-03-25-01**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR §§ 261.50 (a) and (b), the area of National Forest System lands in the “Black Swamp Fire Area” located on the Croatan Ranger District of the Croatan National Forest is closed to entry. The area is closed to entering and/or being upon or present in. This order is intended to mitigate risks to public health and safety, to provide for disaster and safety operations, and to protect the resources while responding to and recovering from the Black Swamp Fire. This closure is effective until May 31, 2025, or until rescinded by an authorized Forest Service official, whichever occurs first.

The area that is closed includes National Forest System lands within the Croatan National Forest as depicted on the attached map. Only National Forest System lands are impacted by this closure. The closed area includes the lands east of Black Swamp Road, south of Catfish Lake Road, west of Great Lake and Great Lake Road, and north of Seaborn Road and Long Lake.

The closure area consists of 50 feet each direction from the centerline of roadway on each road listed below:

- Great Lake Road from the Great Lake Boating Access Area to the intersection of Seaborn Road
- Seaborn Road
- Holsten Hunter Road from the intersection of Seaborn Road to the intersection of Black Swamp Road
- Black Swamp Road

The closure area consists of the following trails and access areas:

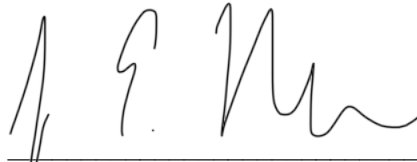
- Black Swamp OHV Trail
- Great Lake Boating Access Area
- Sheep Ridge Wilderness Area

The above prohibited acts are set forth in 36 CFR section 261.53 (e) Special Closures for Public Health or Safety. It is prohibited to go into or be upon any of the areas described in this order.

Pursuant to 36 CFR, § 261.50 (e), the following persons or areas are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a special use permit or contract specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act of omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Executed in Asheville North Carolina, on April 29, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Melonas', written over a horizontal line.

James Melonas
FOREST SUPERVISOR
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH
CAROLINA

Violations of the above prohibition are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. Title 16 USC 551 and Title 18 USC 3559 and 3571.