



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Forests in North Carolina

U.S. Forest Service News Release

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Bee Rock Creek Fire Update -- April 20, 2025

MARION, N.C., April 20, 2025 – Bee Rock Creek Fire Update – Grandfather Ranger District – McDowell County

Firefighters continue suppression operations on the 1,314-acre Bee Rock Creek Fire burning in steep terrain and storm debris in McDowell County near the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery. The fire is 27% contained and has 195 personnel from the USDA Forest Service, North Carolina Forest Service, National Park Service, McDowell County and Woodlawn Fire Department.

Yesterday, firefighters began strategic firing operations to reduce unburned fuel between the fire's north edge and the Blue Ridge Parkway and between dozer lines extending from the east and west sides of the fire up to the Parkway. Firefighters use carefully planned strategic firing operations while weather conditions will keep fire behavior low. This brings the fire to specific control features where there is the best chance of safely and successfully containing the fire. This work is expected to be completed today. Smoke from this planned event may affect McDowell, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

Firefighters will also be mopping up around the edges of the fire, using drones with infrared cameras to search for sources of heat and extinguishing them to secure containment.

The National Forests in North Carolina has **closed** the area of the Bee Rock Creek Fire between Armstrong Creek Road and the Blue Ridge Parkway for public and firefighter safety.

Some sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway are also closed. Check the [National Park Service website](#) for details before visiting.

McDowell County Emergency Management has issued an evacuation order for all residences on Wild Acres Road off of NC 226 A. Click to view [McDowell County's live evacuation map](#).

A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place over the fire area each day from 10 a.m. to midnight. See the map at https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr3/?page=detail_5_7644. Aircraft, including drones, are prohibited from flying to provide a safe environment for firefighting. If you fly, we can't. If a drone is spotted near the fire, all aircraft are grounded until the drone is clear of the area.

Please be aware of smoke and crews in the area. Drive slowly and use caution on roads where smoke may be settling. Check air quality at <https://airquality.climate.ncsu.edu/> or <https://fire.airnow.gov>.

For more information:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfsnc

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ncncf-2025-bee-rock-creek-fire-ncncf>

Information

Bee Rock Creek
NCNCS-250045
4/20/25 Day

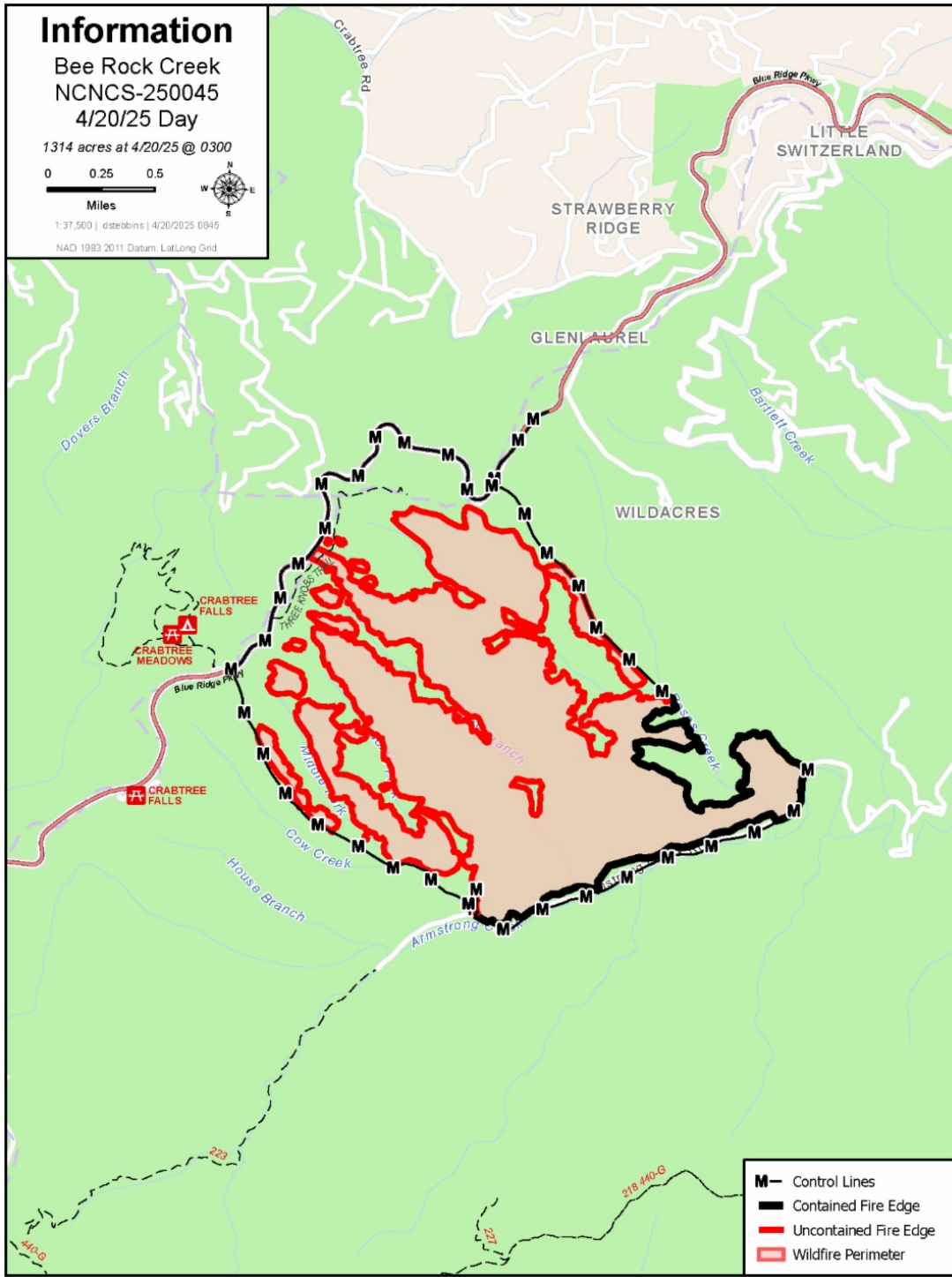
1314 acres at 4/20/25 @ 0300

0 0.25 0.5



Miles

1:37,500 | dstebbins | 4/20/2025 0945
NAD 1983 2011 Datum: LatLong Grid



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA,
PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST
GRANDFATHER RANGER DISTRICT
FOREST ORDER# 08-11-05-25-03**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR §§ 261.50 (a) and (b), the area of National Forest System lands in the "Bee Rock Creek Fire Area" located on the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah 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 Bee Rock Creek fire. This closure is effective until May 2nd, 2025, or until rescinded by an authorized Forest Service official, whichever occurs first.

The area that is closed includes National Forest System lands between Armstrong Creek Road and the Blue Ridge Parkway, as depicted on the attached map. Only National Forest System lands are impacted by this closure.

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 (c), 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.

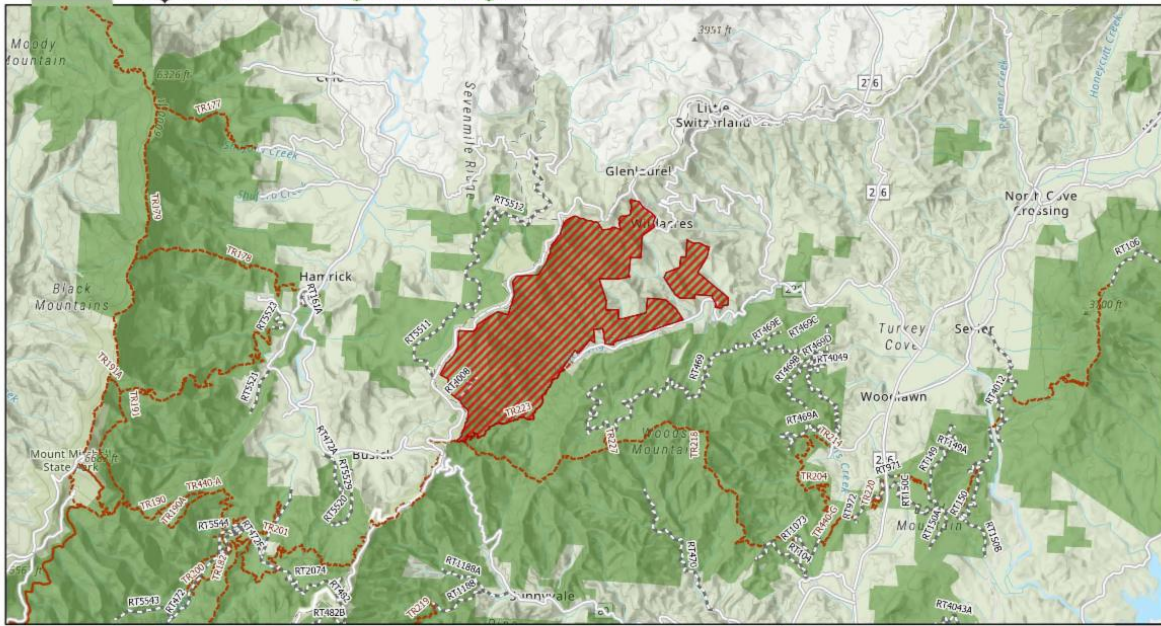
Executed in Asheville North Carolina, on April 18, 2025.

**JAMES
JONES**

Digitally signed by
JAMES JONES
Date: 2025.04.18
17:30:10 -04'00'

Barry Jones
ACTING 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.



Content Advisory

This map is intended to depict the National Forest System Lands as they generally appear on the ground and may not be used to determine title, ownership, legal boundaries, legal jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over roads or trails, or access restrictions that may be in place on either public or private land. Obtain permission before entering private lands, and check with appropriate government offices for restrictions that may apply to public lands. Lands, roads and trails within the boundaries of the National Forest may be subject to restrictions on motor vehicle use. Obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map, or inquire at the local Forest Service Office for motor vehicle access information. Natural hazards may or may not be depicted on the map, and land users should exercise due caution. This map may not be suitable for navigational use.

Legend

- Closure Area
- Forest Service Land
- Non Forest Service Roads
- Roads
- NF5NC Roads
- NF5NC Trails



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