

Wilderness.net's Raven Cliffs Wilderness Fact Sheet



Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Raven Cliffs Wilderness in 1986 and it now has a total of 9,240 acres. All of the wilderness is in Georgia and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

Numerous streams and waterfalls, high peaks, and rocky outcroppings combine to create a rugged mountain Wilderness divided between the Chestatee and Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Areas. Elevations range from about 1,800 feet on Boggs Creek to 3,846 feet on Levelland Mountain. A dense forest of hardwoods and scattered pines has recovered from substantial logging operations early in this century. Deer, squirrels, ruffed grouse, black bears, turkeys, and raccoons can be found. Across U.S. 129 lies Blood Mountain Wilderness. This Wilderness receives relatively heavy visitor traffic. The Appalachian Trail follows the crest of the Blue Ridge through this area for 6.6 miles; there's a shelter at Whitley Gap. Another trail, the Raven Cliffs Falls Trail, leads upstream 2.5 miles to a popular waterfall.

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Raven Cliffs Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The Raven Cliffs Wilderness is part of the 110 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and

extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Raven Cliffs Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

- Do not climbing or rappelling on cliffs or rock formations. Possession of rock climbing or rappelling equipment is also prohibited.
- Dogs must be leashed in areas where the Wilderness is within a Wildlife Management Area.
- Food and refuse must be stored in bear-resistant containers.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste.

STOCK USERS

- Hitching, tethering, and hobbling pack or saddle stock within 50 feet of any water source is

prohibited.

-- Pack or saddle stock may not be hitched or hobbled in a manner that causes damage to live trees, vegetation, or soil.

Contacts

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9975 HIGHWAY 441S
LAKEMONT, GA 30552

Phone: 706-754-6221

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

| Law | Date | Acreage Change (in acres) |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Public Law 99-555 | October 27, 1986 | 8,562 |
| Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986 - Public law 99-555 (1/21/1986) To designate certain National Forest lands in the State of Georgia to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes | | |

 [download 99-555](#)