



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER
GAULEY RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BLUESTONE NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER
104 Main Street
P.O. Box 246
Glen Jean, West Virginia 25846



IN REPLY REFER TO:

the shuttle service please contact Hills to Hills Tours and Shuttle at <https://www.hillstohills.com> or call 681-220-1146.

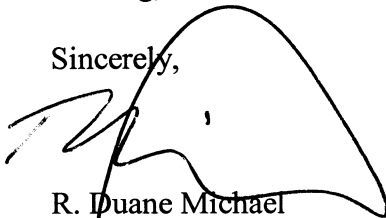
Camping at the Gauley Tailwaters Campground is free of charge and is on a first come, first served basis. There is a maximum of eight (8) people allowed in each campsite. There is a two (2) tent, two (2) vehicle maximum at each site. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am in the campground. Rangers provide patrols and will register each campsite as needed. Campers who bring their pets are required to keep their pets on a leash. Additionally, NPS maintenance staff are working to improve the public boat launch at the Tailwaters. This work should be completed prior to the boating season.

NPS river patrol operations will continue as in the past. The NPS provides daily river patrols during the scheduled releases with an emphasis on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and search and rescue (SAR). The NPS river ranger patrol boat carries an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) as well as a host of other medical supplies. River Rangers are available to provide both routine and emergency boater services as the needs arise. Additionally, River Rangers continue to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the WV Division of Natural Resources, Norfolk Southern Railroad, air and ground ambulance services, local fire departments, commercial rafting companies, landowners, and others to pre-plan and prepare for boater safety.

In the event of an emergency, Park Rangers and local emergency personnel may request a reduction of the scheduled water release from the Summersville Dam. Such a request was necessary on two different occasions during the 2010 season. To help prevent boaters from being surprised by the sudden, unscheduled drop in water, the NPS has implemented a sign and signal flag program to provide visual aids along the river. The press release will be posted on the American Whitewater and Gauley River NRA website.

As our Gauley season planning efforts progress, we will post information on our web page at www.nps.gov/gari. Additionally, we will continue to communicate with private boaters through partnering organizations such as American Whitewater. For this season as in the past, we appreciate all of the public boater cooperation that helps to make the Gauley boating season safe, exciting, and memorable for everyone.

Sincerely,



R. Duane Michael
Chief Ranger

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IN AMERICA** 



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 1, 2017

An Open Letter to Gauley River Boaters

Dear Boaters,

The rangers and staff of the Gauley River National Recreation Area (Gauley River NRA) welcome you to the 2017 boating season. National Park Service (NPS) employees continue to work up to the last minute on river accesses, roads and other public use locations for the upcoming season. We hope that this season will prove to be safe and spectacular for everyone.

The river accesses and the Tailwaters Campground will operate much like they have in the past with a few minor changes.

At Masons Branch, parking is limited and routinely fills to capacity nearly every boating day. American Whitewater continues to lease the Legg field above Mason's Branch. The field will be available throughout the Gauley Season for private boater parking when the parking below fills to capacity. The walking trail from the river to the field has been checked and is clear of fallen trees and obstructions for those walking or carrying boats uphill to their vehicle parked in the field. Like in the past, the rangers plan on opening Mason's Branch access road for unrestricted travel sometime in the afternoon, probably around 1:00 pm or whenever commercial bus traffic is through for the day. Boaters will notice a new, permanent restroom facility in the upper parking lot at Masons Branch that was installed over the summer.

Parking at Wood's Ferry will be managed like it has been in the past, with few restrictions. Boaters are asked to park close together in an organized fashion to take advantage of all the available space and to create parking opportunities for others. On some weekends, Wood's Ferry fills to capacity. Boaters should be aware that this may happen on particularly busy days and that parking is available but not unlimited. The upstream end of Wood's Ferry is used for dropping off and picking up boats and gear and not for parking during the day. Unattended vehicles parked at the upstream end will be towed.

The public river access at upper Swiss is the only lower Gauley public take-out within the Gauley River NRA. Parking is available to boaters in the field. The NPS owned land, both the field and boat launch, remains closed to camping. The park offers camping opportunities at the Tailwaters Campground and there are other private and public campgrounds in the area.

A NPS permitted commercial shuttle service will be available this Gauley season. The shuttle service is permitted to operate on both the Gauley and New Rivers. For further information on

