

To the Editor:

Black Rock Forest's core forest crew and staff volunteers have been working (solo and at generous social distances) as trail and parking lot monitors to protect the safety of our significantly increased visitorship during this challenging health crisis. We are, however, a small nonprofit organization and would like to ask those of you who visit BRF trails (on your own, with families and/or your canine friends) to help our staff be able to keep our trails open.

If at all possible, please do not visit from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. during nice weather until further notice. This will ease the parking crunch and over-crowding (thus social distancing concerns) in our public parking lots and entrances.

Staggering your visits will also reduce the temptation to park illegally on our narrow roadsides and/or block our access gates, either of which can interfere with emergency vehicle access to the Forest in case of fire, injury, or other incident. This places unnecessary burden on our local police, who have much more important work to do than ticketing and towing to protect emergency access.

We have noticed how gracious so many of our local visitors are when you hike-stepping aside to give lots of space between yourselves and other hikers, graciously smiling if you have been asked to return at a less busy time, and abiding super well by our dog leash policy -- so we send an enormous thank you for all that you are already doing to make this work!

Enjoy your Forest visits and the much needed respite and fresh air. We are grateful, just as you are, to have these special outdoor spaces during this crisis.

Please take care and stay well!

Bill Schuster,
Executive Director
Black Rock Forest