



Four National Forest wilderness areas lie wholly or partially in North Carolina:

- Linville Gorge (7,600 acres)
- Shining Rock (13,000 acres)
- Joyce Kilmer-Slickens (13,000 acres)
- Elberton Rock (3,600 acres)

Linville Gorge and Shining Rock lie entirely within the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. They were established in 1964.

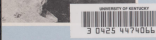
The Joyce Kilmer-Slickens Wilderness (in North Carolina and Cherokee N.P.) and Elberton Rock Wilderness (in North Carolina, Sumner, and Chatahoochee N.P.s) were both created by legislation enacted in 1975.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Permits are required to enter Linville Gorge Wilderness. They may be obtained — up to 30 days in advance — from:

District Ranger
U.S. Forest Service
East Coast Office
P.O. Box 319
Marion, NC 28752
Phone: 704/632-6281

Linville Gorge Wilderness
7,600 ACRES NORTH-CAROLINA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE-SOUTHERN REGION

LINVILLE GORGE WILDERNESS



Cliffs, precipices, and steep slopes are common on both sides of the gorge. Facing downstream, the gorge is formed by the great stretch of Linville Mountain on the right and Jonas Ridge on the left. Laurel Knob on Linville Mountain has an elevation of 4,040 feet at its highest point, more than 1,640 feet above the river. Along the edge of the Jonas Ridge is an assortment of rock formations including Sitting Bear, Hawkbill, Table Rock, and the Chimneys. The name Hawkbill well describes that peak, particularly the profile as seen from the east or west. From any direction, Table Rock suggests a giant fortress built by some ancient king. Immediately south from Table Rock are the Chimneys, a jumble of spires, fissures, massive irregular boulders, and overhanging cliffs. In places, the chimney formations drop down to the river in sheer six-hundred-foot descents, creating a spectacular profile. The ridge continues past Chimney Gap to Shortoff, a once rounded monolith, whose western face has been left precipitous and scarred by centuries of weathering.

Nature has provided visitors with a vantage point accessible by car from which to view the spectacular horizons of the eastern rim of the gorge. It is called Wiseman's View, and offers a superb panorama of the gorge. Many come here to picnic or to see the mysterious Brown Mountain lights at night.

The Linville Gorge Wilderness, with its wild torrent of river and steep mountain slopes averaging more than a thousand feet up from the river's bed, encloses one of America's most scenic, rugged gorges. This beautiful 7,600-acre tract of land is set aside to provide a primitive, natural environment — a retreat from civilization. It is located in Burke and McDowell Counties about 60 miles northeast of Asheville. Here, flanked by steep ridges on both sides, the Linville River has carved a deep, tortuous channel around the bases of cliffs, through narrow, boulder-strewn channels and deep pools, and down over rapids and cascading waterfalls. The river's swift waters descend more than 2,000 feet before breaking into the open flats of Catawba Valley. The area is named for explorer William Linville who, along with his son, was scalped by Indians in the gorge in 1766.

There is a great variety of plant life along the river banks and throughout the gorge, including numbers of rare species. Mountain laurel, sand myrtle, and four native rhododendron species bloom in a combination only nature could create. Red chokeberry, yellow root, ninahark, alder, and the evergreen drooping leucothoe (or dog hobble) grow from cracks in the rock shelf. Timber cutters avoided this inaccessible area, and trails now pass through virgin forest containing a variety of Appalachian hardwoods and pines.



The wilderness is ideal for primitive recreation. Hiking, backpacking, and rock climbing are the major activities in the gorge. The area is a rugged challenge to the most experienced hiker. Linville Gorge has become a mecca for the growing numbers of rock climbers in the South. Table Rock and the Chimneys are the most frequently climbed areas, offering routes for the beginner, intermediate, or advanced climber. Less-frequently climbed areas are Wiseman's View and Hawkbill Mountain. As a safety measure, people using Linville Gorge should inform the United States Forest Service Ranger's Office in Marion about their plans for visiting the Wilderness.

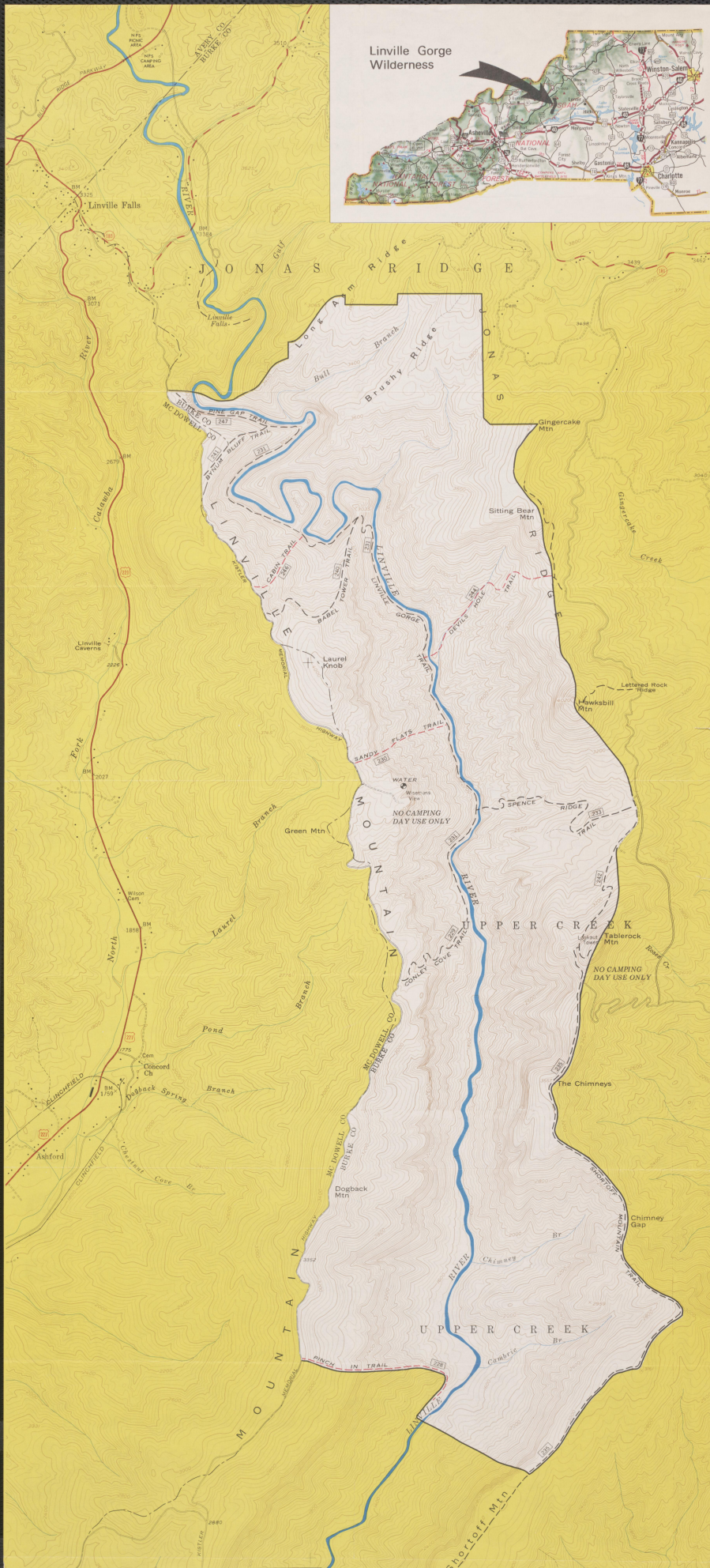
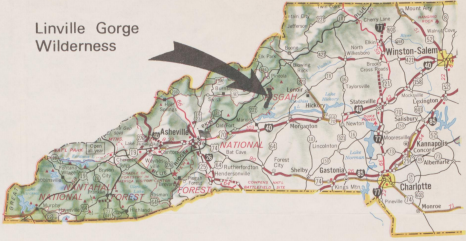
The National Forests in North Carolina offer two Wilderness Areas for your enjoyment: Linville Gorge and Shining Rock. Through the protection afforded by the Forest Service, and through the cooperation of visitors, these two Wilderness Areas will continue to provide delightful experiences to lovers of the outdoors for centuries to come.

Linville River is an excellent fishing stream. Trout fishermen match their skills against brown and rainbow trout while others prefer to try for bass in the lower portion of the gorge.

Hunting is also permitted under State regulations. Game species in the Wilderness include bear, deer, squirrel, raccoon, and ruffed grouse. Bear hunting is now — and will probably continue to be — the major hunting activity because of the rough terrain.

MAP DEPT.

Pack it in AUG 1 1978
Pack it out!!



LINVILLE GORGE WILDERNESS

Scale 1" = 20 miles

--- TRAIL
 --- PRIMITIVE TRAIL

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FT.