Dear Partner:

The Forest Service is taking the risks presented by COVID-19 seriously, and is following USDA and CDC public health guidance as we continue to offer services to the public. We are monitoring the situation closely, in coordination with local and state health organizations, and will make any necessary changes should the need arise. Our work continues and offices remain open and operational. At the same time, the health and well-being of our employees and the people we serve are our top priority.

We have taken some proactive and precautionary steps that are essential to ensure the safety and long-term viability of the workforce and our mission delivery. This includes following public health recommendations concerning “social distancing” and reducing Coronavirus exposure to both employees and the public. We intend to limit public visitor congregation on the national forest, such as at visitor centers, agency offices, and other locations that risk the health and well-being of our employees and the people we serve. We are asking all visitors to self-assess using USDA provided questions (attached) before entering any facility. Employee travel and meetings are also limited.

You have our commitment that we will do our best to reach out to you as soon as we can if our operational status changes in ways that may impact you directly. We value your partnership and support as we all navigate this evolving situation together. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any specific concerns you may have or identify ways we may offer support to you.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support of the United States Forest Service.

Darlene Tolman  
Grants Management Specialist  
Forest Service  
Southern Research Station  
p: 828-259-0528  
f: 828-257-4876  
darlene.tolman@usda.gov  
200 W.T. Weaver Blvd.  
Asheville, NC 28804-3454  
www.fs.fed.us  
Caring for the land and serving people

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.
SRS Management Council,

Per USDA guidance, please implement visitor screening procedures at all Station facilities upon opening on Monday, March 16. All visitors must be screened using the attached Visitor Health and Travel Questionnaire.

If a visitor answers “Yes” to any 1 of the 3 screening questions, they must be denied entry to the building. If a visitor answers “No” to all 3 questions, they may enter the building per your unit’s normal procedures.

Best Regards,
Mark

Mark McDonough, PE
Station Engineer
Forest Service
Southern Research Station
p: 828-257-4851
c: 828-215-6178
f: 828-257-4840
mark.j.mcdonough@usda.gov
200 W.T. Weaver Blvd.
Asheville, NC 28804-3454
www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people
Visitor Health and Travel Questionnaire

1) Have you, someone living in your household, someone with you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or had any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

2) In the last 14 days, have you or someone living in your household, or someone with you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country, for example, China, Korea, Japan, the European Union, Iran?

3) Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms, including a fever greater than 100.4, shortness of breath, body aches and coughing)?

- If the visitor answers “Yes” to any of these questions, the visitor will be denied entry to the USDA facility. The Security Officer will contact the USDA point of contact to notify them of the visitor’s status.

- If the visitor answers “No” to all questions, the visitor will be allowed to enter the facility under normal procedures.