UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST
APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL RESTRICTIONS

BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED WITHIN A.T. CORRIDOR

ORDER NUMBER: 08-03-00-26-02

In order to preserve public safety and reduce damage to sensitive resources, and pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts or omissions are prohibited within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Appalachian Trail Approach Trail within a one-mile corridor, measured ½ mile from the trail centerline and encompassing both sides of the trail, as depicted in Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.50(c)(1)

This Order shall be in effect beginning January 1, 2027, and will expire two (2) years after execution.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(c)(4), the following prohibitions apply within the described area(s):

1. **All persons camping overnight must possess and use a bear resistant canister for the storage of all food, food containers, garbage, and toiletries. (36 CFR 261.58(cc))**

Bear Resistant Canister: All bear resistant canisters must be commercially made; constructed of solid, non-pliable material manufactured for the specific purpose of resisting entry by bears.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from the provisions of the above order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

The listed prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Done at Gainesville, Georgia, this 6th day of November, 2026.

Judy Toppins, Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than $5000.00 for an individual and $10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both. Title 16 USC 551 and Title 18 USC 3559 and 3571.

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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EXHIBIT A

