

Michaux State Forest Policy for Generator Use

Purpose:

- To minimize conflicts between leased campsite neighbors and other forest users from generator use on leased camps
- To ensure consistent standards on wattage, noise levels, and amenity value expectations across campsite leases.
- To provide a consistent standard for DCNR Rangers for resolving noise complaints at motorized campsites within the Michaux

Guidelines:

1. Generator use should be limited to emergency or short-term (hours, not days) use only.
2. Only portable generator models shall be used.
3. Generators used should be **3,500 watts or less.** which is enough power to run most household items in a structure not to be used as a long-term residence.
4. Generators must have an engine smaller than **150cc with noise production levels of 65 decibels or less.** (Makel et. al, 1992*) to limit noise impacts on surrounding camps and forest users.
5. Except during emergency use (power outage or medical emergency), generators shall not be used between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. *(Cabins that do not have access to electricity from a power company are exempted from these time restrictions.)*
6. ANY permanently-installed generator that produces over 3,500 watts that DID NOT receive prior written approval from the Michaux State Forest before installation will require removal.
7. If a generator is currently installed that exceeds the restrictions that DID acquire previous written approval from the district, it will be allowed to remain. However, when the unit needs to be replaced, it will require written approval from the Michaux State Forest, and replacement unit will be required to meet this guideline standard for wattage, engine size, and noise production levels.

*USFS study *Portable Generator Noise Assessment* from April of 1992. William Makel (Project Leader), Robin Harrison (Program Leader), and Steve Raybould (Forestry Technician)