

Federal Lockout--Tourists Still Come

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We saw our first weekend of the Federal shutdown, but tourists were still visiting sights—closed sites—along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The parking lot at Price Lake was full with visitors all around the shores—and even some boats out in the water. Near-by at Price Park, visitors parked along grassy areas just outside the fence and hiked in to use the picnic areas and other facilities, although whether bathrooms were available anywhere along the Parkway was not clear. Leaves were nearing their peak of color along the highest parts of Grandfather Mountain, which was open and doing brisk business on the first weekend of October. Parkway Police are still on the job and were seen dealing with their regular issues along the stretch through the High Country. Just how the shutdown may impact the fall tourist season monetarily remains to be seen.