

# Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership

**A lasting voice for innovative management and investment in the public forests of  
North Carolina's mountains.**

The Honorable .....

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms./Mr. ....:

On behalf of the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, we the undersigned wish to inform you of our support for the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (HR845). The Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership is a broad spectrum of user interests and organizations that include recreation, forest products, cultural heritage, economic development, conservation, and more – all of which have a stake in the future and present conditions of western North Carolina's public lands.

The backlog of maintenance on the National Forest trails has resulted in less than 25% of Forest Service trails being maintained to standard, which results in a loss of access, increased public safety concerns and degraded water quality. This legislation would give the Forest Service additional tools to work with volunteer groups, removing roadblocks to training and coordinating efforts to help return the trail system to the national asset that it can be. Prioritizing areas for trail maintenance will give focus and drive to the volunteer work. Allowing special permit holders to offset their fees with work to improve the trails and trail heads will increase the ability for those with a special tie to the land to be recognized for their contributions.

This bill will bring added benefits to the users of trails in the National Forests, both residents of North Carolina and visitors from across the nation and world. We urge you to support HR845.

Sincerely yours,

Leadership Team, Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership

David Wood  
Jill Gottesman  
Deirdre Lightsey  
Gary Peters

Julie White  
Callie Moore  
Kevin Colburn  
Josh Kelly  
Paige Tester

Philip Elliott  
G. Richard Mode  
Melissa Patton  
Angie Chandler

David Wood  
Jim R. Aft  
John R. Spivey  
Ray M. Peters  
Philip Elliott  
Richard Wade  
Melissa Patton

Justie White  
Candace  
K. A. C. J.  
Joshua A. Kelly

Arci Chandler

Members of the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership:

Access Fund  
American Whitewater  
Root Cause  
Back Country Horsemen of America & NC  
Carolina Mountain Club  
Columbia Forest Products  
High Country Hikers  
Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition  
International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Mountain True  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
NC Horse Council  
Audubon North Carolina  
Ecological Services & Markets

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards  
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association  
Special Permit Holders  
Sustainable Foothills  
The Wilderness Society  
Wild South  
Highland Cashiers Land Trust  
NC Wildlife Federation  
Sierra Club  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy  
Southern Appalachian Mineral Society  
American Rivers  
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maggie Clancy, Coordinator  
Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership

120 Bull Creek Rd, Asheville NC 28805  
mclancy101