



## A Shared Vision For Our Forests: The Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership's Recommendations For A Better Forest Plan

For five years, the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership (NFPF) has worked toward a shared vision of Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. NFPF is a collaborative group with interests as diverse as our region, including conservationists, wildlife and hunting advocates, recreation organizations, local government representatives, and forest products businesses. Together we've gathered in the spirit of cooperation and compromise to hash out win-win recommendations for a forest plan that allows all of our interests to co-exist and thrive.

### Elements of a Win-Win Forest Plan

**To meet the needs of hunting and wildlife enthusiasts**, we support the creation of more young forest habitat and open woodlands through the use of timber harvests and controlled burns.

**To meet the needs of recreationists and visitors to our region**, we call for better-maintained infrastructure, like trailheads, roads, restrooms, picnic areas, campgrounds, and trails – and we are prepared to help do the work.

**To meet the needs of local forest products businesses**, like timber harvesters, sawmills and manufacturers, we support an increase in ecologically-sound timber practices that support both our local economies and healthy forest habitats.

**To meet the region's water needs and interests**, our recommendations protect clean water for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

**To meet the needs of conservation-minded citizens**, we outlined better protection for special places in the forest like wilderness areas, old-growth forest, and pristine rivers. This means protecting regional treasures like Cedar Rock Mountain, Ash Cove, the Craggy Mountains, Terrapin Mountain, and the Nolichucky River.

**To meet the needs of the forest itself and its many inhabitants**, an emphasis on ecosystem restoration and the protection of the forest's habitats and native species is a thread that runs through all our interests and across the entire forest.

**When we work together**, we believe that all of these efforts will strengthen Western North Carolina's economy and preserve our traditions for decades to come.

### Will you support a win-win forest plan that reflects the values of Western North Carolina?

#### Sign On to Add Your Support for Our Shared Vision!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Me Up for Updates and Action Opportunities

Yes, I'm willing to volunteer to make the Forest Partnership's vision for the Nantahala- Pisgah National Forest Management Plan a reality by helping out with:

trail maintenance

attend a public meeting

other

*(To learn more about our recommendation, read reverse)*



## How Will the NPFPP Recommendations Work?

The basic idea behind the NPFPP is that we move all values forward at the same time: water, wildlife, timber, recreation, wilderness and more. We don't leave anyone behind. It's critical that everyone be willing to support everyone else's values with the expectation that the support will be reciprocal. We believe rowing in the same direction will allow all of us to accomplish more.

Here's How We'll Do It:

- **Focus on high-priority work.** We identified the highest priority areas for ecological restoration, wildlife habitat creation and sustainable timber management, restoring and maintaining old growth and disturbance-sensitive communities, and wild places. We will work together to increase active management focused on restoration activities that also protect high value conservation lands.
- **Restore access to the forests with a sustainable road network.** We recommend that the Forest Service make progress toward reducing its maintenance backlog and restoring forest access to the public, and making the forest road system environmentally and financially sustainable.
- **Support our region's economy** through a diverse variety of uses of our forests, including as a source of clean drinking water, sustainable harvest of wood products and medicinal herbs, and outdoor recreation and tourism related to hiking, cycling, scenic driving, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, climbing, paddling and more.
- **Create a Recreation User Council.** This group will communicate with the Forest Service to help prioritize needs, reduce conflicts, and coordinate resources among recreation groups that use the forests.
- **Use "stretch goals," or tiered objectives.** Since the Forest Service's budget and capacity are limited, the Partnership has two levels of recommendations – one for the Forest Service's current capacity and a second set in case more funding is made available in the future. We have a series of base goals for each interest, and we agree that we will only move from one tier to the next once we've met all the basic needs for each category.
- **Explore "win-win" alternatives instead of plans with clear winners and losers** to stimulate positive public involvement, minimize conflicts, and lead to a broadly beneficial Forest Plan for the region. We ask that Forest Service do this in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the new plan using NEPA.

Want to learn more? Sign up for forest management plan updates here!

<http://npforestpartnership.org/>