

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/1/2022 5:00:00 AM

First name: Dan

Last name: Eichenbaum

Organization: Cherokee County Commissioners

Title: Chairman

Comments: Ken Arney
Reviewing Officer
160 Zillicoa St., Suite A
Asheville, NC 28801
RE: Nantahala and Pisgah
NFs Plan Revision Objection
Dear Mr. Arney:
Please accept the attached resolution as an objection to the revised Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. The resolution of objection was approved unanimously by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners at an official meeting on February 7, 2022. As Chairman to the Board of Commissioners, I will serve as the lead objector and primary contact for the Board of Commissioners. I can be reached at drdan.commissioner@gmail.com, or via phone at 828-361-2649. The mailing address for paper correspondence is 75 Peachtree Street, Murphy, NC 28906.
Respectfully,
Dan Eichenbaum
Chairman, Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Resolution Opposing the Revised Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service has revised the Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. WHEREAS, within the currently revised plan, the U.S. Forest Service recommends 49,098 acres of land be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. WHEREAS, Cherokee County currently has no designated wilderness areas. WHEREAS, within the currently revised plan, 2,655 acres (Unicoi Mountains and Bald River Area) of land within the boundaries of Cherokee County, are recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. WHEREAS, inclusion of lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System means a complete ban on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), mountain bikes, horses, motorized vehicles, and all types of recreation, except hiking and back country camping. WHEREAS, inclusion of lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System means more regulation and restrictions on access, recreation, timber management, and hunting. WHEREAS, in 2014 the U.S. Forest Service abruptly closed Hanging Dog Campground, the only publicly-owned campground in Cherokee County. WHEREAS, in 2016 and 2017, after much dialogue and political intervention, the U.S. Forest Service reluctantly agreed to partner with Cherokee County, in an effort to keep the county's only publicly-owned campground open for its residents and visitors. WHEREAS, in 2018, despite Cherokee County's commitment of funds, labor, and in-kind support to keep the campground open for its residents and visitors, the U.S. Forest Service permanently closed Hanging Dog Campground, citing financial unsustainability. WHEREAS, on August 1, 2016 and again on June 1, 2020, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners submitted resolutions to the U.S. Forest Service opposing the inclusion of any lands within the boundaries of Cherokee County, N.C. in the National Wilderness Preservation System. WHEREAS, if the U.S. Forest Service Land Management Plan is adopted, as currently proposed, it will further prohibit and restrict important recreational activities in Cherokee County, which are currently enjoyed by residents and visitors. WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service, seems unconcerned as to the need for, and the importance of, recreational activities in Cherokee County. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners remains adamantly opposed to the loss of any additional recreational opportunities in Cherokee County, and remains adamantly opposed to the designation of any wilderness areas within the boundaries of Cherokee County. Unanimously adopted the 7th day of February, 2022. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman
Maria Haas, Clerk to Board