

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Forest Plan Revision

Inventory of Areas That May Be Suitable For Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

The following areas have been identified as lands that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act. The inventory is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive and to identify lands that may be suitable, so that they can be further evaluated through the public involvement process. Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management.

Individual area maps as well as an online interactive map of the inventory areas can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=fseprd476345>

Areas included in the inventory have been identified as lands that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act. The process for identifying lands for the inventory is described in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70. This is the third version of the inventory for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs. The inventory is intended to be reasonably broad and inclusive and to identify lands that may be suitable, so that they can be further evaluated through the public involvement process.

These maps represent areas identified through the inventory process and do not convey or require a particular kind of management. Many area boundaries will be refined through the evaluation and analysis steps in order to accommodate practical management of recommended wilderness areas.

The description of how these maps were developed is included in the "Process Paper: Identifying and Evaluating Lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System". The road maintenance level (ML) definitions below provide the context for how the Forest Service categorizes roads. Maintenance level 1 and closed maintenance level 2 roads were included in the inventory and ML 3- 5 roads were excluded from inventory areas. Open roads shown on these maps are those roads identified as open to the public according to the 2014 Motor Vehicle Use Maps. Closed roads are also displayed but were not excluded from areas in the version 3 inventory.

Table 1. List of Areas included in the Inventory.

Name	Ranger District	County	Acreage
Ash Cove	Tusquitee	Cherokee	5,885
Bald Mountain	Appalachian	Madison	11,616
Barkers Creek (Ext. D)	Nantahala	Macon	1,556
Bearwallow	Appalachian	Yancey	4,131
Black Mountains	Appalachian	Yancey	12,473
Bluff Mountain	Appalachian	Madison	3,335
Boteler Peak	Tusquitee	Clay	10,524
Cantrell Top	Tusquitee	Cherokee	3,664
Cedar Rock Mountain	Pisgah	Transylvania	8,681
Cheoah Bald	Cheoah	Swain, Graham	9,400
Cherry Cove (Ext. E)	Tusquitee	Clay	1,159
Chunky Gal (Ext. B)	Tusquitee	Clay, Macon	7,785
Craggy	Appalachian	Buncombe	10,653

Name	Ranger District	County	Acreage
Daniel Ridge	Pisgah	Transylvania	11,695
Deep Creek/Avery Creek Ext. 2	Cheoah	Graham	2,313
Dobson Knob Ext. B	Grandfather	McDowell, Burke	11,763
Ellicott Rock West Ext.	Nantahala	Macon	824
Fishhawk Mountain	Nantahala	Macon	5,669
Harper Creek	Grandfather	Caldwell, Avery	7,432
Harper Creek Ext (Sugar Knob)	Grandfather	Burke	6,175
Highlands of Roan #2	Appalachian	Avery, Mitchell	5,217
Jarrett Creek	Grandfather	McDowell	8,972
Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Ext. 4	Cheoah	Graham	326
Laurel Mountain	Pisgah	Henderson, Transylvania	10,946
Linville Gorge Addition	Grandfather	Burke	2,844
Linville Pinnacle Ext.	Grandfather	Burke	620
Lost Cove	Grandfather	Avery	5,934
Mackey Mountain	Grandfather	McDowell	14,985
Middle Prong Ext.	Pisgah	Haywood	6,676
Nolichucky Gorge	Appalachian	Yancey	2,465
Overflow Creek	Nantahala	Macon	3,901
Panthertown Valley (1)	Nantahala	Jackson	4,395
Piercy Mountain	Tusquitee	Macon	9,109
Pigeon River	Appalachian	Haywood	6,105
Santeetlah Headwaters	Cheoah	Graham	4,448
Shining Rock Exts.	Pisgah	Haywood	4,968
Siler Bald	Nantahala	Macon	6,280
Slide Hollow	Appalachian	Avery	199
Snowbird	Cheoah	Graham	9,051
Southern Nantahala Ext.	Nantahala	Macon	4,298
South Mills River	Pisgah	Transylvania, Henderson	17,105
Steels Creek	Grandfather	Burke	5,841
Tellico Bald	Nantahala	Macon	12,525
Terrapin Mountain	Nantahala	Jackson, Macon	5,441
Tusquitee Bald	Tusquitee	Macon, Cherokee, Clay	29,156
Unicoi Mtns / Upper Bald River	Tusquitee	Cherokee	8,952
Upper Wilson Creek	Grandfather	Avery, Caldwell	6,372
Wesser Bald	Nantahala	Swain, Macon	6,642
Woods Mountain	Grandfather	McDowell	12,701
Yellow Creek Mountains	Cheoah	Graham	4,444
Yellowhammer Branch Ext. 3	Cheoah	Graham	1,207
Inventory Total			362,411

Road Maintenance Level (ML) Definitions:

ML 1: These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps.

Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for nonmotorized uses.

ML 2: Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 "No Traffic Signs," may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses

ML 3: Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Warning signs and traffic control devices are provided to alert motorists of situations that may violate expectations. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed with single lanes and turnouts.

ML 4: Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated.

ML 5: Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated.

