

# National Forests in North Carolina

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

### Stepping Up the Trail



*New steps at Whiteside Mountain Trailhead*

The Nantahala National Forest replaced 250' of steps at the Whiteside Mountain trailhead, which takes visitors to the top of Whiteside Mountain where 700' cliff walls offer amazing views. The Forest used about \$22,000 of recreation fee revenue to match a State trail grant for the project. In addition to the construction of steps, the Forest repaired the roadbed to keep water off the trail, which required 20 tons of gravel and heavy equipment rental.

### Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.



### Finding Catawba Falls

The popular Catawba Falls came into Pisgah National Forest management in 2009. Since then the Forest has built a parking lot and restroom has been making significant improvements on the access trail. In 2016, the Forest installed a portal sign using about \$1,500 of recreation fee funds to identify the trailhead area. This "all local" project showcased a sign that was hand-routed in the work center machine shop with a base built from local rocks.



*New portal sign at Catawba Falls*

### View of a Forest



*Visitors overlooking the Nantahala National Forest from the Wayah Bald observation platform*

## Other Accomplishments

- Supported 27 campgrounds, group camps, lodges and cabins; 26 day use areas including swim beaches, OHV trailheads, whitewater rafting put-ins and take-outs, and shooting ranges; and one major visitor center.
- Operated and maintained sites including: mowing; collecting trash; cleaning; treating and testing water and wastewater; providing on-site utilities; replacing damaged and worn tables, grills, fire rings, and other site furnishings; rehabilitating camp and picnic sites; upgrading signage; and removing hazard trees.
- Leveraged partnerships by matching contributions for a number of projects.

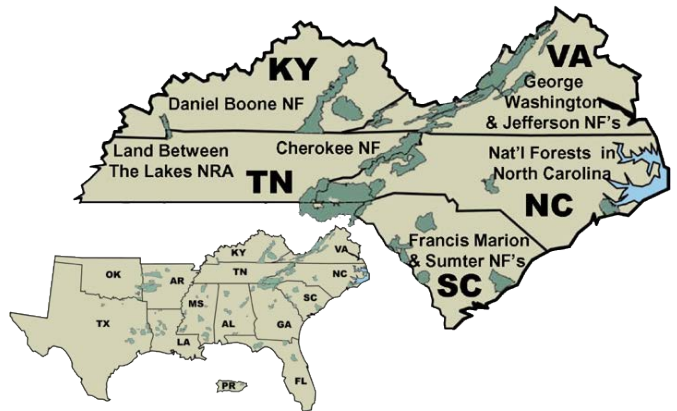


*Cradle of Forestry offers glimpses into the early 1900s.*



*View of the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area as seen from Table Rock*

## Southern Region



## Contacts

### National Forests in North Carolina

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## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$1,464,442	\$7,512,715
Special Uses	\$23,519	\$136,100
Interagency Passes	\$724,894	\$1,347,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,212,855</b>	<b>\$8,996,581</b>

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$968,556	\$4,335,947
Visitor Services	\$252,717	\$1,353,224
Law Enforcement	\$25,591	\$238,712
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$31,076
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$1,350
Collections/Overhead	\$218,267	\$822,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,465,130</b>	<b>\$6,782,932</b>

\*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and upcoming startup costs.