

**Published: Asheville Citizen Times**

**USDA Forest Service National  
Forests in North Carolina**

**Draft Land and Resource  
Management Plan Comment  
Period Extension**

The Notice of Availability for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests proposed Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2020. This initiated the 90-day public comment period. Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina, Allen Nicholas, has decided to extend the comment period an additional 45 days to allow for further opportunities for public engagement and comment. The comment period extension will be published in the Federal Register on May 8, 2020. Publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register (February 14, 2020) is the official means of calculating the comment period with the 45-day extension.

The draft Forest Plan will guide management activities on over 1 million acres of national forest lands in western North Carolina for the next 10 to 15 years. The draft Forest Plan is the result of a collaborative effort between National Forest managers, partner agencies, conservation organizations, and interested members of the public. The draft Forest Plan and its associated DEIS are available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsc/nprevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsc/nprevision). The preferred method to provide comments during the comment period is by submitting comments electronically to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/public/commentinput?project=43545>. Hard copy comments may be mailed to National Forests in NC, ATTN: Plan Revision Team, 160 Zillicoa St, Ste A, Asheville, NC 28801. The decision to approve the draft land management plan will be subject to the objection process (36 CFR 219 subpart b). Only individuals and entities who have submitted substantive comments related to the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs plan revision process and documents during a public comment period will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(a)). Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in the objection process. If you have additional questions, please contact the plan revision team at 828-257-4200.

May 8, 2020  
0004176261