



National Forests in North Carolina

2013 Briefing Paper

Accomplishments of Fiscal Year 2012

Forest-wide Accomplishments

Supported local businesses and communities

- Approximately 7.5 million visitors spent an estimated \$333 million around the four national forests.
- Hired 76 contractors, nearly all in-state, adding close to \$5 million to the economy.

Protected drinking water and fish habitat

- About 1 resident in 5 drinks water that comes from a national forest.
- Improved and protected water and soil quality across 530 acres in the four national forests.
- Enhanced habitat for trout and other aquatic species.

Conserved land for future generations

- Completed large land exchange near Highlands, N.C.
- Purchased three high-quality tracts: Phase 1 of Mulberry Creek (Grandfather Ranger District); Bartram Trail inholding (Nantahala Ranger District); and Chunky Gal inholding (Tusquitee Ranger District).

Managed the land through collaborative planning

- Prepared for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan revision and continued meetings with collaborative working group.
- Held meetings across the Nantahala and Pisgah districts to develop a trail strategy.

Nantahala National Forest

Enhanced fish and wildlife habitat

- The Upper Santeetlah Project improved habitat for endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel, restored fish passage and improved access to Swan Cabin recreation site.
- The Cheoah and Tusquitee districts protected nearly 500 acres of hemlock trees, providing vital shade for trout and other game fish. More than 800 acres were treated across the mountain districts against hemlock woolly adelgid.

Supported local businesses and communities

- Repaired popular Dry Falls trail, enhancing the visitor experience and benefiting a local contractor.
- Supported recreation industry through the first-ever recreational releases on the Nantahala River and permits for the World Cup Freestyle event, which attracted thousands of visitors.
- Reconstructed 13 miles of the Wayhutta Off-Highway Vehicle Trail, improving the user's experience.



The repaired Dry Falls Trail will better serve the hundreds of people who visit the site every summer day, benefiting the local businesses, economy and community for decades to come.

Pisgah National Forest

Improved forest health and protected residents

- The Grandfather Restoration Project used prescribed fire and other treatments to restore native plants, while protecting communities from catastrophic wildfire.

Helped communities by improving recreational opportunities and services

- Worked with City of Brevard to open Bracken Mountain Trail, a hike-bike trail that connects the city with Pisgah Ranger District.
- Completed 450-feet of boardwalk in Pink Beds Loop Trail at Cradle of Forestry Historic Site with the help of Schenck Job Corps students and volunteers.
- Using local contractors and materials, constructed and opened new, “green” Appalachian Ranger District office in Mars Hill, N.C., as well as new accessible amphitheater at Black Mountain Campground.
- Opened new parking lot that improves access to popular Catawba Falls.

Connected people to America’s Great Outdoors

- More than 220 children participated in three Kids Fish Day events.
- Some 35 veterans participated in a Veteran’s Fish Day event conducted with the Western North Carolina Muskie Club.

Uwharrie National Forest

Completed management plan that enhances conservation

- Finalized the Uwharrie National Forest management plan with no appeals. The plan: 1) restores the forest to a more natural ecological condition; 2) better manages cultural resources; and 3) provides outstanding and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, with excellent trails and facilities.

Croatan National Forest

Improved forest health and protected residents

- Enhanced 3,000 acres of longleaf pine forests through prescribed burns, benefiting the endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker. Longleaf restoration is a major goal of the Forest Service and partners across the South.
- Protected neighboring communities and public infrastructure by reducing woody debris across 19,300 acres.



Prescribed burning promotes the growth of longleaf pine trees that provide habitat for native species, including egrets, and protects neighbors of the forest.

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