

Question # 1: What is one way you personally benefit from Nantahala and/or Pisgah National Forest?

The forest provides hiking opportunity and access for the Appalachian Trail to enjoy solitude

The opportunity to get out into the woods to hike and enjoy the wood and everything in them

Hunting big game within 10 minutes from my house with my family without having to join a private lease. Camping with the family and letting my children know this is there land they own

It's my home, heritage safe from development so I can enjoy my way of life especially bear hunting with hounds

Hunting, camping, fishing, horseback riding

(Though) limited early successional (only .6%) (fields/balds), wildlife viewing & game harvest opportunities

I benefit from the natural beauty and job opportunities

Hunting, fishing

Many uses-hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, waterfall looking

Hunting, fishing

Cleaner water & air, greater wildlife diversity than would otherwise be available. Also, beauty of landscape, recreational opportunities, dark skies, spiritual solitude, hiking

Protecting our finest Natural Heritage in the Southern Apps: rare species, rare communities (Roan Mtn.)

My greatest benefit is being in the quiet, beauty & solitude of the forest while hiking-enjoying hearing the birds and seeing the wildflowers & hearing the streams

I like hiking, trail maintenance (peaceful, good exercise, beauty, nature)

Rock hunting (Ray Mica Mine)

Deer hunting, fishing, camping with a valid license and game land use permit, and timber harvesting

The forest allows me to harvest deer & squirrels and bear for food and fun, recreation. Doe Branch, Big Pine, Marshall, River Road, Pole Cat, Hot Springs, NC

I benefit from exercise by fishing/hiking/exercise

Hunting

Area for nature study. I get out to hike and study nature. This is a life goal for me and also provides relaxation and renewal.

A clean and safe environment to take my family camping

Hunting

Hiking

I have spent the past 25 years collecting gems and minerals in the forest-WNC have a wealth of gem and mineral resources. As a hobby mineral collector this is a great area for me

No benefit to me, as the forest is costing me money, in tax dollars and law suits by special interest groups (environmental). Losing money because we are not managing our resource

NF land provides a place for me and my son to hunt and fish. We enjoy all types of hunting, and we enjoy exploring new places to hunt and fish

I benefit from the national forests: clean water, beautiful undeveloped mt. views, solitude, clean air, great place to hike & ride my bike. I roam all over the PNF & NNF

Would like to see: provide more habitat diversity for wildlife, need more early successional habitat

Not much currently! National Forest lands (to me) no longer provide the things that I grew up doing and enjoying etc. hunting, fishing in my earlier years 1970-1980's. I would like to see it restored to its former glory

Rec area (hiking, kayaking)

Hiking trails through different forest types, with undeveloped view sheds

Recreation opportunities

I benefit by having a place to hunt and fish and to observe wildlife

Aesthetics

Hunting, fishing

Hunting, fishing, hiking

Trout fishing land close to my home to hunt deer, turkey and grouse. Camping. A place I have spent a lot of my childhood and time

Hunting, fishing

Being able to hunt and fish in the creeks

I benefit from it! For hunting/fishing! For my family to go to hunt and fish!

Beautiful places to hike with amazing biological diversity and ecological integrity

Hiking, fishing, painting landscapes, fresh air, trail maintenance, meditate, flowers, camping

Hunting

The National Forest lets me explore the forest and enjoy nature! Hiking!

Improve health (mental and physical)

Hunting & fishing & timber harvest opportunity

I don't because of the lack of wildlife habitat (early successional) and that is what wildlife thrive in all wildlife

Daily hikes with my dog, solitude

Hunting-deer & turkey

Hunting, fishing

Hiking, I love the beautiful views, exercise, solitude

Horseback riding

It benefits me by hunting & fishing

Hunting, fishing, recreation. Need more early success habitat

Some of the best whitewater rivers & creeks in the nation for kayaking & other forms of paddling

Fishing, hunting for fun and for food. Getting to go hunting & fishing with my dad is things I remember that can't be replaced. It's something I know and love

Recreation!!! Hiking/camping, habitat for plants, trees, wildlife, scenic beauty, protection of watersheds, help in cleaning air, diversity, trees to hug

Peace of mind, beauty of mountains

Hunting/fishing

Hunting/fishing

Hunting/fishing

It gives me the opportunity to experience and engage with natural environments (vs. urban)

I benefit from the FS by enjoying the forest by hiking, hunting, fishing and relaxing

Hunting because more & more private land is being lost

Exercise from hiking on difficult trails and engaging in organized trail maintenance

Hunting and fishing

Hiking, fishing, camping

Being able to have a place to hike, camp and be in the woods. I enjoy peace and the diversity of the forests

The natural beauty of the forests

I hunt, fish, hike and like to use the land to get away!

Outdoor recreation: exercise, fresh air, solitude, backcountry

Picnicking at Carolina Hemlocks (camping) Black Mtn. Campground

I enjoy to hunt with my dogs and fish

Rock hounding in the National Forest. Specifically the Ray Mine in Yancey County and Walker Creek closure of the mine. before 2006 also, hiking, fishing, camping & backpacking

Protected open space, therefore, opportunities for solitude. Areas to teach my son about ecology, wildlife, recreation, survival. Hundreds/thousands of acres to explore

In Madison County I am never too far from some part of the National Forest. I simply like to be out in the woods-hiking, seeing what out there, listening to the sounds of the critters

I benefit from Pisgah National Forest every day. I hike in the PNF each day with my dogs and my husband. I also ride my horse on these publicly owned lands. I look out my windows and see these mountains and also enjoy the clean streams & rivers. Our watershed is protected for my town in this way

I like to hike on the Appalachian Trail. It affords a nearby opportunity to get to remote areas with excellent scenic qualities with awesome mountain, valley views & balds

I am 26 years old. Up to 3 years ago I had never been hunting of any kind. My family had never been any type of sportsman. I have many friends that hunt and fish. I had no one to teach me the things that my friends' parents had taught them. I want my child to be able to tell his friends the stories I have heard. The stories are priceless

For me hunting is my way of life. I hunt almost all kinds of game from squirrel to deer, bear and coon and everything in between. I also love trout fishing in all mountain streams. Hunting and fishing is a family tradition for me. Always done it and always will. I hunt and fish mostly in Shelton Laurel and Spring Creek areas. But I also hunt all over

I benefit from the wilderness experience-enjoying solitude, beauty, wildlife, plant diversity, natural communities in good natural condition. Both Pisgah & Nantahala-especially Big Ivy, North Toe, Roan Mtn. A lifetime experience continuing (64 yrs.)

NF provides a great environment to live in-clean water, clean air. Also, my work is tourism is dependent on the scenic beauty of the area-Also, I hike and walk the forest daily. I am opposed to any additional deforestation as it will hurt my business

I like to hunt, fish and hike w/kids also seeing/finding the waterfalls

Hunting, fishing, picnicking, sightseeing

Fishing, hiking, camping

Hiking, enjoying Gods, trout fishing-wildlife

I hunt, fish & hike on these properties, I feel like more controlled burns & logging

Rock climbing & whitewater

To be able to see wildlife, to hunt wildlife

I recreate in the NF (hunt, fish, hike, camp), I live close to the NF

Make more accessible for everyone

Cool to backpack, would like to see increased management for wildlife

The benefits I have –very little-

Kayaking, hiking, hunting

Hike, kayak, bike and raise my children within town

Question #2: How does western NC as a whole benefit from the Nantahala & Pisgah National Forests?

Wood, dig roots and wild ramps to eat

It benefits through tourism such as rafting-hiking, camping

I would like to see more positive management toward wildlife habitat and access. Timber sales to benefit county and local government aka schools etc.

The wild ramps, camping, food supply, wood, roots to dig

State providing input and instructs people to help the state in planning preservation of plants & trees-control burning, Joyce Kilmer is beautiful area need to keep last virgin forest intact

Tourism

Recreation adds to the community & experiential education processes of our citizens, brings in \$ to the economy

What I would like to see-more management toward positive development of wildlife and access

Should be resource management to provide monies to offset public expenses-such as sale of dead falls & timber for \$ for schools. Preserve wildlife areas for our children. Control burns for food areas

Renewable resources=forests, economic impact, tourism, rare species of bats (Southern Brown Bat-Haywood & Cherokee counties)

Food

Rock hunting-people from NC and the rest of the US comes to National Forest to rock hunt. Most states don't have the public forest that NC has-give people access for various activities

Jobs, sales!, money for economy

Work opportunities

Economy (all forms) from recreation

Landscape-the views

Tourism

Recreation

Recreation

I like to rabbit hunt on Max Patch

Forested areas available to people who do not have access to private forested areas

Ecosystem services

Clean water

Timber, wildlife

Hunting & fishing (recreation), local economy (timber sales, etc.), wildlife habitat

Camping, hunting, cut wood

NF's protect WNC's healthy streams & clean drinking water, recreation opportunities & related economic impact (tourism, etc.), undefined ecosystems services ("immeasurable")

Food, enjoyment, recreation, hunting & fishing license money

Somewhere where you can go take your family and get away from everyday life & escape, church's, getting wood

Clean water and healthy wildlife

Healthy affordable local/free-ranging wild game especially if habitat improved, economic impact if timber harvested (& hunting tourism), wild permaculture classroom

Jobs, logging, FS, recreation

Rivers and mountain scenery, flowers & plants, our wonderful bears and other wildlife

Clean water for cities, economics-to all facets, creation of healthy lifestyles

Clean water

We benefit by being able to easily access these lands for all needs. Rather it be hunting, fishing, hiking or just enjoying the views

NF land is important because of the economic benefits. Hunter and fishermen dollars are a great benefit to WNC

Tourism/economic gain, jobs in forest management (logging, wildlife), wildlife habitat

Can't be developed and wildlife is safe from human contact

Clean water

Biodiversity

Clean & fishable water

Fly fishing

Logging for timber as an economical tool to offset the cost of schools and county government and early successional habitat to provide a home for wildlife, which is another money making tool

Greatly effects state and local economies through recreation and tourism, greatly effects regional ecology of habitats and wildlife/fisheries, provide opportunities for people to recreate and enjoy the outdoors

Provides an opportunity for protection of natural habitat for plants and animals

Field days via FS specialists

WNC benefits from being one of the only large, contiguous forested areas in the East that ? many specific benefits over private and scattered areas

Clean, natural resources

World famous economic magnet-recreation

Provides a means of economic development for local communities based on recreation

The NF if managed properly will give generations to come a guarantee that there will be undisturbed land for them to enjoy

All people have the chance to enjoy the forest, tourism, hunters, fishermen drawn to the area, local benefit by revenue-tourist, logging, county schools benefit from logging revenue

Hiking, botanizing, canoeing, beautiful scenery, like to see: more outings with Gary Kauffman

Healthy economy: outdoor recreation, service industry, forest products

Timber

Locals benefit from hunters' money, logging money stays local

Tourism is becoming WNC prime source of, outdoor recreation fights nature deficit disorder in children, the outdoor trails initiative under the Obama administration has studied low recreation ? benefit communities

Protected lands provide habitat for diverse plants & wildlife communities

Educational tool for youth & adults

Tourism

Large area for outdoor recreation, \$ brought in by tourism

Wildlife, clean water, jobs

Hunting and fishing

TOURISM boost in local ECONOMY-due to tourism

Increased quality of life b/c of recreational opportunities, diversity of habitat for plants & animals for many generations to come, restoration of natural communities which can provide local jobs & economic benefits

Tourism/local economy, scenic interests, recreational interest, Blue Ridge Parkway, hiking, fishing/hunting, bring in tourists, large empty spaces, undeveloped areas, camping, kayaking/canoeing, rock climbing

Jobs, income, local business benefit from tourist

Recreational opportunities and jobs

A natural grocery store (hunting, fishing)

Tourism

Undeveloped land for climate adaptation, especially resilient species habitat

Clean air & clean water

Income, work, only if done better

Recreation, jobs, some timber

Income, outdoor recreation, Appalachian cultural interest

Hunting for those without private land access

Tourism/to enjoy our NF lands even though they could be improved

Could benefit from more timber management i.e. timber is a renewable resource that can provide revenue to our school system

Income from timber harvest and in return increased wildlife abundance in return selling more hunting licenses

Wildlife & hunting, timber & business opportunity, recreation & tourism

The NF gives wildlife officers a chance to manage and monitor native wildlife
NF benefits experience, education along with recreational community

Positive impact on economy, better quality of life, un-fragmented habitat providing for greater diversity of wildlife & plant life, positive impact on air & water quality

Wildlife habitat: refugia, impart?? of corridors

Preservation of wilderness: solitude, biological corridors, functioning ecosystems

WNC benefits from it! Wildlife, Hunting! Fishing! Hiking! Take family too! Camping! Rock hounding!
Playing in clean water! For fruit, jobs

Economy, quick access, rec & jobs

Recreation/visitors, employment, education

Hunting, fishing being able to get my people to use the land to live

Carbon sequestration. How I would like it to benefit: Increased opportunity to view wildlife, increased opportunity to pursue game species, increase timber revenue for local school systems

The National Forests benefit the region by providing a large land area that is forested, where wildlife species that are not doing well on private lands

Economic benefits from people visiting area to recreate on Natl. Forests (tourism)

Large amount of undeveloped land

Bring-more hunting & fishing. Use timber harvesting

Tourism & economics

The National Forests should be places that benefit all wildlife, especially those species that need active management-this benefits the region, society as a whole

Destination for tourism (economics), key factor in quality of life attracting new residents-particularly retirees, provides an eco-system for an extremely diverse set of biological species (not sure if over 28000)-biodiversity

Natl. Forests protect water quality and scenery of mountains that are jeopardized by development

Economic value-attracts tourists to recreate in the area. Acts as a draw for outside companies to locate here (Sierra Nevada Brewery), important to protect water resources

Income, Tourism, Hunting, Fishing

Spectacular mountain and forest scenic beauty! Outstanding areas for hiking, camping & backpacking. A big draw for tourism opportunities for recreation

The National Forests should be places that practice sustainable forestry and support local timber operations which benefit local economies

Healthy environment & a good quality of life: clean air, clean water, connection to nature

A stable clean environment sustaining many different ecosystems

Increases cultural wealth, draws tourism and preservation of local traditions

Recreation related economic benefits, personal connection with nature through human-powered recreation, clean water and native fish, wildlife and plants benefit from the NF's

Brings tourists to WNC, offers respite & healing

Viewing wildlife-wildflowers, birds, scenery. Economically-brings many visitors and provides camping for churches and youth groups, etc.

Economically: tourism brings dollars. Natural environment sustains healthy living for human & animal life. Protected watersheds provide clean water for drinking

Diversity of plants & animals, refuge for rare species, opportunities for education, medicinal herbs, reference water quality

Health of the land (air/water/earth), ecotourism (economic boon), connection to land/history, etc.

Economics, timber harvesting

WNC benefits or can benefit if the Pisgah and Nantahala ND re-implement a true multiple-use plan that more actively uses timber mgt.-25% of USFS timber sale revenue goes to the county-aka schools. Timber industry and the supporting industries help the local economy and the state

Long range views, tourism, very diverse plant life

Hunting & fishing licenses, clean water

NF land provides WNC with precious clean water and air

The NF is central to WNC's economic stability. It makes possible thousands of jobs in the tourist industry

My club has over 2,500 members in the SE U.S. we plan numerous trips every year to collecting sites in the Nat. Forest-the members coming to our area help the economy and promote tourism to other sites of interest in WNC

Tourism is what sustains my town of Hot Springs economically and the NF is crucial. The P. N. Forest provides a sustainable clean watershed. The trees are an awesome resource as carbon capturers and they need less management than they need & benefit wild life as they are

There are children/people that if not for the NF would never get to enjoy the things that our ancestors took for granted: undeveloped land, native wildlife, outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, and camping

Benefits in the future: greatly expanded recreation, hunting opportunities, economic revenue, local school funding, more diverse use, access for seniors, native species (warm season native grasses)

Provides multiple recreational opportunities in a vastly protected forest setting with minimal development

It helps people without land to have a place to hunt and it provides jobs

Rock hounding- gems, minerals displayed in museums. Tourism- money brought in by people visiting to rock hound, hike, camp, sightsee, hunt, etc., Air & water quality- increased quality from National Forest can be achieved with responsible rock hounding

Preservation and conservation of our mountain resources, diversity of uses: timber, hunting, preservation, hiking, recreation. Economic benefit from visitors to our area forests

It gives the people somewhere to go when they have nowhere else to hunt, fish and hike

I think we who grew up hunting and fishing here benefit from what the land provides

Wildlife habitats to help the game we pursue to thrive so that my children and grandchildren can have a chance to do the same things that I have. Recreational areas to camp, fish & hike for adventure and health. Permanent forest to keep our world clean and flourish

Provides a living breathing classroom for the children in the area to experience nature, economics of timber & other resource harvests, gives us ownership of NFS lands of the region back to its people

Clean water/watershed protection, eco-tourism benefits economy, clean air-forests removing CO2 (carbon sequestration) =public health

Provides wildlife, plant, mineral, timber, medicinal resources that not only provide ecosystem services now but resources we may not even realize we need in the future. Preserves, protects one of the globes most spectacular mountain scenic landscapes. Unbelievably rich recreational resources support high quality of life for residents & visitors. Air, water quality.

Word Clouds

The responses that we received from the two benefits questions on the previous pages have been compiled into word clouds. A word cloud is a visual representation of text data that can be useful for quickly identifying the most frequently used terms. The larger the word font, the more frequently it was used by meeting participants in their answers to the two questions. There is a separate word cloud for each question. Word clouds were created using Wordle.net.

