



File Code: 1920

Date: September 16, 2013

Dear Interested Partner:

In February and March of 2013, the National Forests in North Carolina held a series of six public meetings to begin the discussion on revising the land and resource management plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests (NFs). In May 2013, we had a second round of public meetings in Asheville and Franklin to further discuss the existing condition of the forests and gather feedback on some specific topics of interest.

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, we will host a public workshop at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, to initiate the conversation regarding need-for-change in the revised forest plan. The workshop will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with Sign-In beginning at 9 a.m. The Arboretum's address is 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, N.C. 28806. Admission to the Arboretum will be waived for individuals participating in the meeting.

We recognize that many individuals may not be able to travel to Asheville and so we are providing some pre-work and information on how to send in feedback if you cannot attend.

The October 5 meeting will be an all-day working meeting to identify what changes are needed in the revised forest plan. There will be a brief opening presentation followed by a working session where participants will contribute written Need-for-Change ideas for each of the topic areas. The format for this portion of the meeting will be similar to the February-March 2013 meetings where participants contributed ideas for the Assessment; participants will roam freely, contributing as much or as little to each topic areas as they desire. During the afternoon session, small groups will help consolidate and refine the need-for-change statements.

The initial step in the plan revision process is to assess the existing conditions and trends of the forest. Over the last year, the Forest Service has been gathering information and compiling it into an Assessment Report. We have received an extensive amount of information from other agencies, scientists, partners, and interested publics throughout the process and appreciate the high amount of interest surrounding this plan revision.

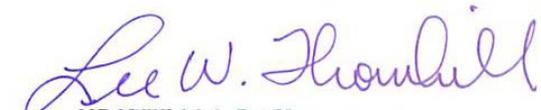
A draft Assessment Report for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs will be available for your review on the Forest Service website www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsnc. We are sharing this draft as a work-in-progress; some sections are still under development. Some of the information included in this report has been summarized, and additional detailed reports will supplement information found in the summary. We hope to have the documents posted online by the end of the week. The Assessment may help you think about what needs to change in the revised forest plan. If you would like a hardcopy of the Assessment Report you can send an email request to NCPlanRevision@fs.fed.us or contact Heather Luczak at 828-257-4817.



Included in this mailing is a flyer for the October 5 meeting, the meeting agenda, and sample need-for-change statements. The sample statements are provided as a way to think about what your own statements might look like.

Thank you for your continued interest in the revision of the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs forest plan.

Sincerely,


for KRISTIN M. BAIL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure(s)