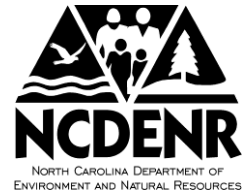




# WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL



**Beverly Eaves Perdue**  
Governor

**Dee Freeman**  
Secretary  
Department of  
Environment &  
Natural Resources

## Council Members

**Maxine Dalton**, Chair  
Madison County

**Nelda Holder**, Vice-Chair  
Buncombe County

**Delos Monteith**  
Jackson County

**Eric Jenkins**  
Burke County

**Jonathan Douthit**  
Swain County

**Myrna Campbell**  
Haywood County

**Jason Love**  
Macon County

**Vacant**  
Cherokee County

Thomas Massie  
Ex-Officio Member

Bob McCollum  
Ex-Officio Member

Judith Francis, AICP  
DENR Representative

Established in 1974 by the N.C. General Assembly, The Western North Carolina Public Lands Council\* is a citizens' group that works to bridge the interests of public land stewards and managers with those of the communities bordering our public lands. The Council provides a forum and information source for citizens, agencies, and local officials in the region, and may advocate with officials on specific actions benefiting WNC's public lands and communities. The Council also maintains dialogue and cooperation on common issues with its counterpart in the state of Tennessee.

## **Overview**

The Council consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, with one representative named from each of the following counties:

- Buncombe
- Cherokee
- Haywood
- Jackson
- Swain

The three additional members are chosen from counties adjacent to these specific areas:

- Blue Ridge Parkway, or
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, or
- Pisgah or Nantahala National Forest

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

*The Council offers support, planning and dialogue regarding the following:*

- Appropriate public access and facilities in the portion of the Smoky Mountains National Park lying in North Carolina
- Enhancement/completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina
- Management issues for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
- Establishment of other WNC recreational areas in territories immediately affected by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, or the Pisgah or Nantahala National Forests
- Creation of multiple parkland impacts that tie environmental values and economic benefits to travel and tourism in the region.

## **Council Accomplishments**

*The following are examples of the Council's advocacy successes:*

- Support for Gorges State Park
- Vanity license plate for GSMNP (generating over \$1 million in revenue as of 2007)
- North Shore Road resolution of cash settlement
- Air Quality Summit in 2000 and for N.C. Clean Smokestacks Act
- Regular dialogue and cooperation on common issues with Tennessee
- Additional land conservation

## **Five-Year Goals**

*The Council will act to provide information on specific environmental issues impacting public lands in the WNC region, including:*

- Improving viewsheds by addressing air quality
- Addressing impact of water quality and quantity issues for public lands
- Developing effective communication to relay agency concerns to local officials and area citizens, and to assist local communities with appropriate land-use planning

*The Council will help to secure additional funding for resource conservation/preservation in WNC, including:*

- Obtaining full funding for trust funds used to acquire and enhance public lands in WNC, such as Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Parks & Recreation Trust Fund, Natural Heritage Trust Fund, Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Distributing information on base funding needs for NPS and USFS for land management, maintenance and acquisition

*The Council will support state and federal resource agency goals such as:*

- Expanding facilities and appropriations for state parks/forests in WNC
- Ensuring adequate law enforcement capability for all public lands for the protection of the public and park personnel, and to enforce or mitigate against encroachment on public lands
- Supporting continued funding for BRIDGE program

For information about Council meetings or to schedule a Council member for a speaking engagement, contact Judy Francis, staff support for the Council, at (828) 296-4523. Information is also available at [www.onenaturally.org](http://www.onenaturally.org) under "Commissions and Councils."

\*(The Council was originally called the N.C. National Park, Parkway and Forests.)