



NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL PARK, PARKWAY AND FORESTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary
Department of
Environment &
Natural Resources

Council Members

Jason Love, Chair
Macon County

Nelda Holder, Vice-Chair
Buncombe County

Tim Nicholson,
Cherokee County

Delos Monteith
Jackson County

Jonathan Douthit
Swain County

Myrna Campbell
Haywood County

Jason Robinson
Yancey County

Thomas Massie
Ex-Officio Member

Bob McCollum
Ex-Officio Member

Judith Francis, AICP
DENR Representative

The North Carolina National Park, Parkway and Forests Development Council was established in 1974 by the General Assembly for the purpose of convening a citizens group that could bridge the interests of public land stewards and managers with the interests and needs of communities bordering public lands § 143B-324.1. Since 1990, oversight has been provided by the Department of Environment & Natural Resources. The Council serves as a bridge between the citizens of Western North Carolina Counties whose borders incorporate public lands and the managers who care for them on behalf of the public.

The Council provides a forum for citizens and agencies to learn from one another about the issues facing local governments and public lands. As a result, the Council may choose to act to educate and influence elected and appointed officials to take actions that will benefit our public lands and the communities where they are located.

Overview

Since its creation in 1974, the Council has been actively involved in the protection of scenic and recreational resources in western North Carolina. The Council consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. North Carolina statutes require that one Council member be appointed from each of the following counties:

- Buncombe
- Haywood
- Jackson
- Swain
- Cherokee

In addition, three members are appointed who reside in counties adjacent to the following specified areas:

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

Council Duties and Responsibilities

- the establishment of appropriate public access and facilities in the portion of the Smoky Mountains National Park lying in North Carolina
- the completion and enhancement of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina
- advise/confer on management of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
- the establishment of other recreational areas in that part of North Carolina immediately affected by Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway or Pisgah or Nantahala National Forests
- advise/confer with various individuals, organizations or agencies

Council Accomplishments:

- helped secure support for Gorges State Park
- secured the Park's vanity license plate that has generated over \$1 million in revenue for GSMNP (as of 2007)
- advocated for the North Shore Road resolution of cash settlement
- established a position on the roadless issue
- supported Land For Tomorrow bond issue
- Advocated for the Air Quality Summit in 2000 & NC Clean Smokestacks Act
- encouraged education to increase awareness about climate change
- established good interaction with Tennessee on common issues
- advocates for land conservation issues

Five Year Goals:

TO DISSEMINATE INFO ON SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IMPACTING PUBLIC LANDS IN THE WNC REGION

- To address air quality to improve viewsheds
- To inform local decision makers and area citizens of potential impact on region by global climate change and acid deposition
- To address water quality and quantity issues as they relate to impacts on public lands
- To assist local communities with appropriate land use planning as it relates to public lands
- To develop effective methods to relate agency concerns via communications with local officials

TO HELP SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION / PRESERVATION IN WNC

- To obtain 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
- To Help Distribute Info on Base Funding Needs For NPS & USFS (for Land Management, Maintenance & Acquisition)

TO ASSIST STATE & FEDERAL RESOURCE AGENCIES

- To Expand Facilities and Appropriations for State Parks/Forests in WNC
- To Expand Facilities and Appropriations for Federal Land Management Agencies in WNC
- Consider supporting continued funding for BRIDGE Program
- Insure adequate law enforcement capability for all public lands to protect the safety of the public and the park personnel and to enforce or mitigate against encroachment on public lands

TO ASSIST STATE & FEDERAL RESOURCE AGENCIES

- to help distribute information on base funding needs for the National Park Service and United States Forest Service
- TO HELP SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION IN WNC
- TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH COUNTY OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC LEADERS

For additional information about Council meetings or to schedule a Council member for a speaking engagement, contact staff support for the Council, at (828) 296-4523 or at judy.francis@ncdenr.gov