

CMC Position on Pisgah / Nantahala National Forest Management Plan Revision

July 5, 2013

The Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the collaboration of Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest stakeholders. We would like the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Management Plan Revision to:

- Preserve the natural appeal and solitude that hikers enjoy on the forest trails while enjoying the area's majestic views, beautiful flowers, plants, trees, waterfalls, waterways, geology, birds, and other wildlife.
- Provide a logical system of hiking trails that includes loop hikes and long-distance hikes, as well as, access to points of interest and a wide variety of scenery and habitats.
- Accommodate the growing demand for recreation in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests due to population growth in the western North Carolina area, the growing number of visitors to the area, and increasing interest in outdoor recreation.
- Protect viewsheds from the negative effects of timbering and, also, protect the trails' natural environment from timbering, erosion, and other disturbances.
- Actively support "Leave No Trace" principles.
- Manage trail use in order to protect trail tread.
- Manage trail use in order to protect the safety of all users.
- Actively ensure appropriate trail use.
- Protect trail tread from damage by machines, water, and erosion during Forest Service projects.
- Build trails in more remote areas that are less developed.
- Protect natural resources in trail environments, especially, in sensitive ecological areas, such as rare plants and streams.
- Take into consideration that, in addition to being a hiking club, CMC's volunteer members contribute a huge amount of time constructing and maintaining a vast territory of western North Carolina's hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.