

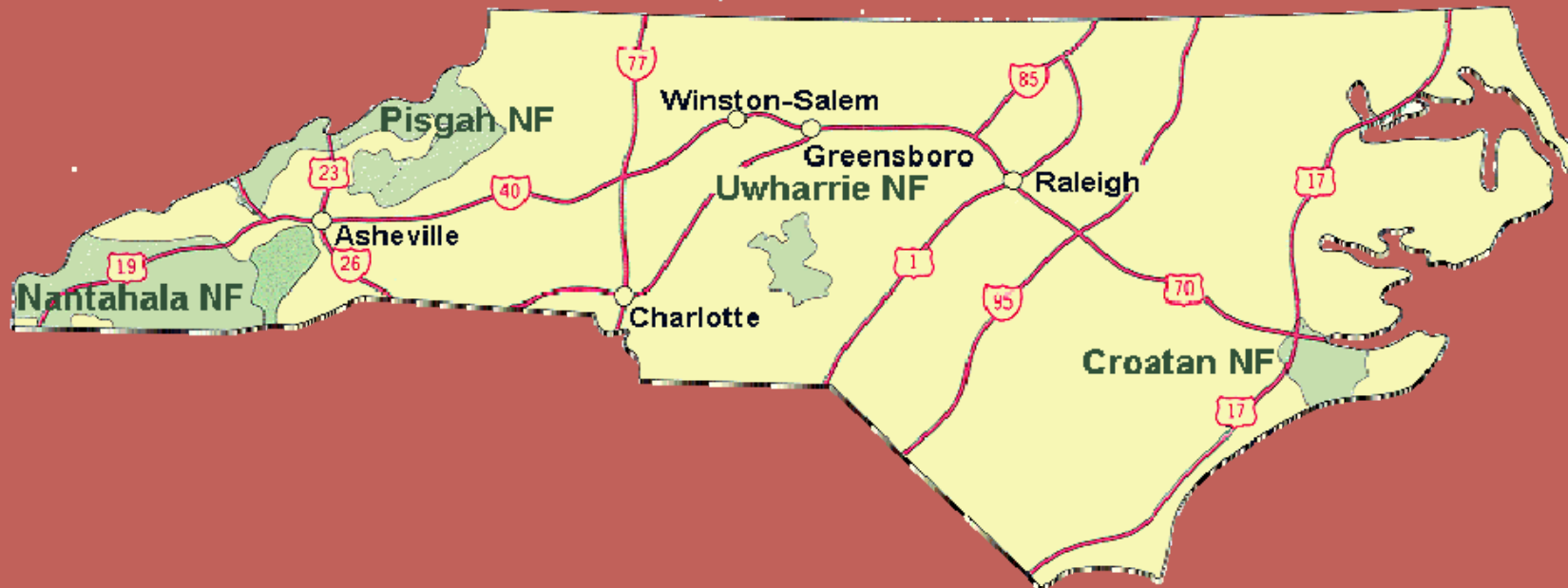
# National Forests in NC Restoration Workshop August 23, 2008



*Nantahala/Pisgah National Forest*



# National Forests in North Carolina




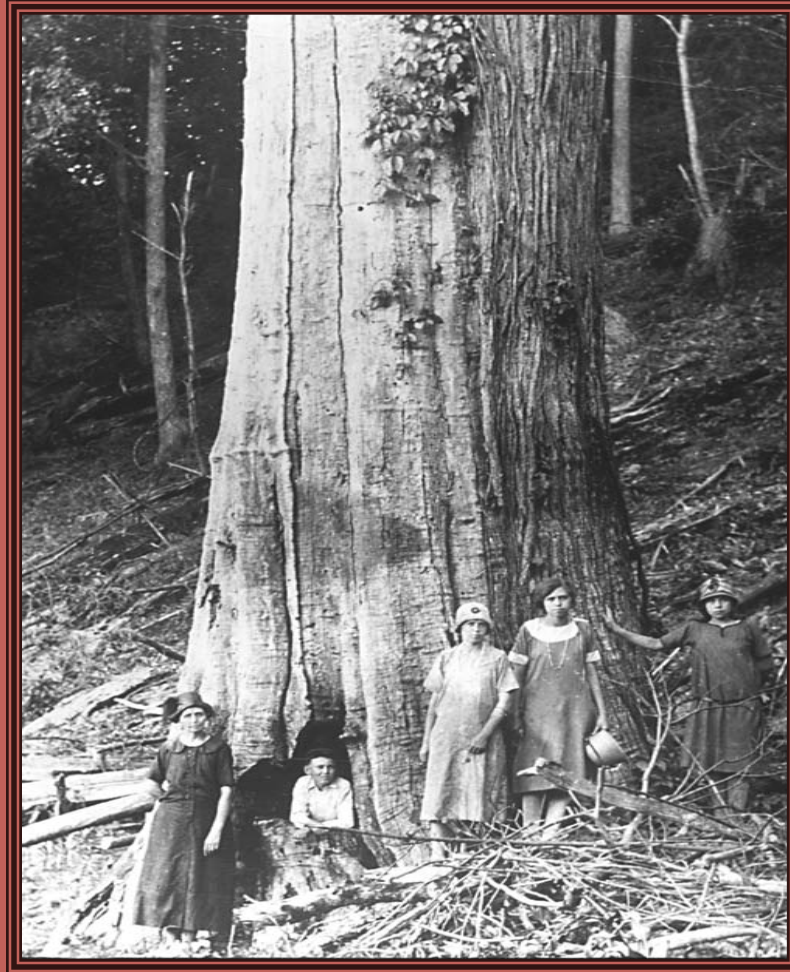
# Why We Are Here Today

- **Regional Focus on Restoration (protect, restore, respond)**
- **Emphasis on Partnerships**
- **Leverage cooperative efforts**
- **Prioritize work on the ground**



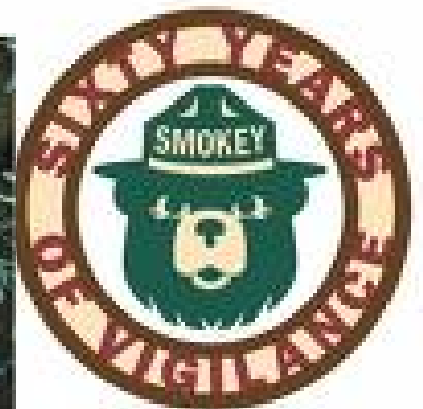
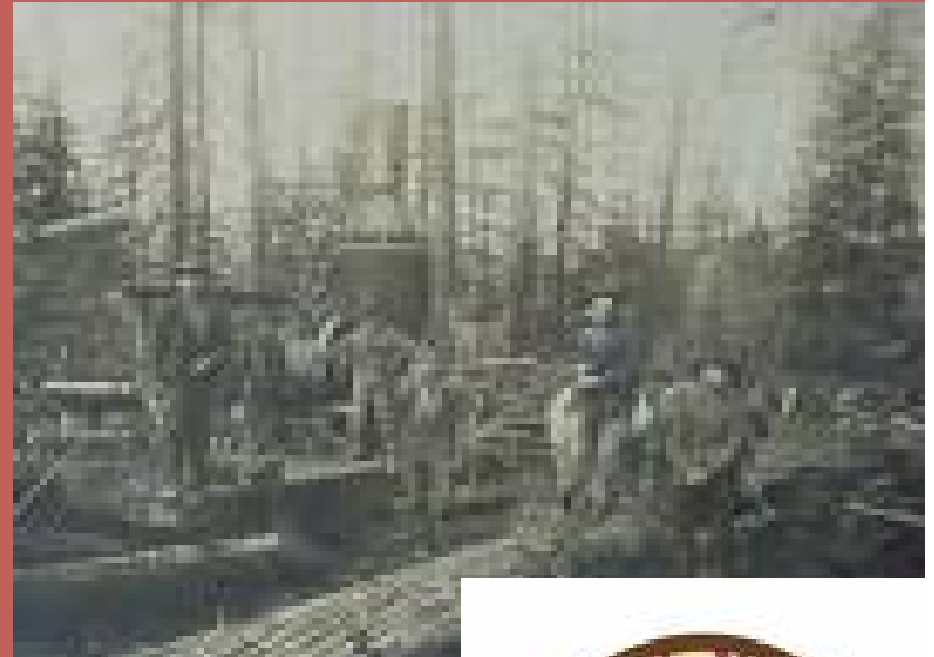
# American Chestnut

 A family stands in front of a huge chestnut tree. The forests certainly looked different prior to the arrival of the chestnut blight.




# Factors Which Affected Current Forest Conditions

- Exploitive logging
- Fire Suppression
- Loss of Chestnut
- Selective Logging
- Land Development
- Loss of Hemlocks



# Objective of July 26 meeting

 **To identify restoration priorities for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests that partners, managers and scientists consider important and support.**



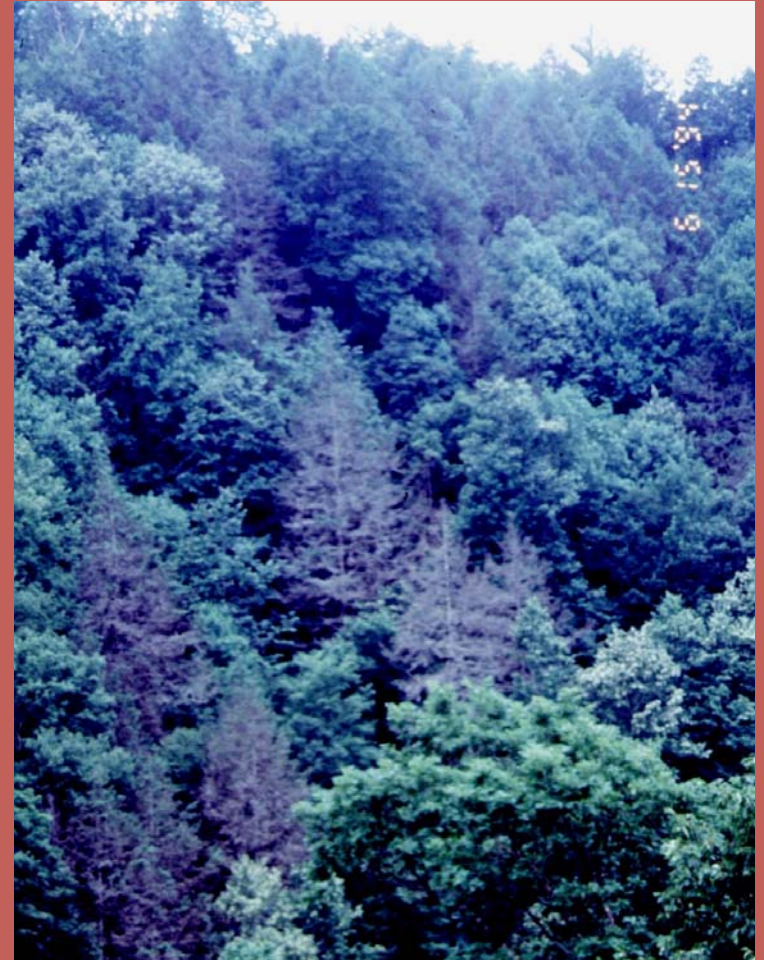
# A restoration priority ...

- **Addresses a critical ecosystem restoration need.**
- **Holds high potential for impact (where our actions can make a big difference).**
- **Supported by FS and Partners.**
- **Has large-scale application.**



# Priorities Identified

- **Restoration of Streams and Watersheds**
- **Restoration of Rare Native Communities (including hemlock)**



# Priorities Identified

■ Restoration of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

■ Restoration of Diversity in Low-Diversity Forest Stands



# Priorities Identified

■ Restoration of Wildlife  
Habitat Diversity

■ Recovery of  
Threatened and  
Endangered Species


■ Control of Invasive  
Species



# A restoration priority ...

- **Addresses a critical ecosystem restoration need on NF land**
- **May be Addressed in our Rapid Assessment Process or in other venues at other scales**
- **Supported by FS and Partners.**

# Restoration


 We are making the *assumption* that all these topics are important to sustaining the forests of WNC and its more efficient to focus discussion on specific meaningful next steps rather than fine tuning topic statements


# Restoration

- ***“What are the three most important next steps we need to take to address one or more of the 7 restoration topics?”***
- Think types of activities not specific projects.
  - Actions on the ground
  - Other activities: keep it real

# Priorities- Next Steps

## 1. Restoration of Streams and Watersheds

 Example: Identify those streams best suited for restoration of native brook trout fishery.


 Example: Inventory non system roads such as in Roy Taylor Forest and close out those causing most amount of sediment.

# Priorities Identified

## 2. Restoration of Rare Native Communities



 **Example: Increase efforts to restore grassy bald habitats on Roan Mountain**


 **Example: Update conservation areas for hemlock woolly adelgid treatment to include Carolina Hemlock stands not yet wiped out by HWA**



# Priorities Identified

## 3. Restoration of Fire-Dependent Ecosystems

 Example: Identify table mountain and pitch pine stands most in need of prescribed fire.

 Example: Apply results of Fire Learning Network to set priorities for where prescribed fire is scheduled on Nantahala/Pisgah

# Priorities Identified

## 4. Restoration of Diversity in Low-Diversity Forest Stands

- **Example: Look for opportunities to target yellow poplar and white pine for removal to favor desired hardwood species in cove and upland hardwood sites.**



# Priorities Identified

## 5. Restoration of Plant Communities by Controlling Invasive Species

- **Example: Take aggressive control actions on oriental bittersweet such as at Bent Creek Experimental Forest**
- **Concentrate on treating invasive exotics showing up after large wildfires such as in Linville Gorge**


# Priorities Identified

## 6. Restoration of Diversity in Wildlife Habitat

-  Example: Develop specific strategy for increasing populations of golden wing warbler.
-  Example: Identify major species in decline on forest and develop set of actions to reverse this decline.




# Priorities Identified

## 7. Restoration and Recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species

 **Example: Monitor populations and look for opportunities to augment specific rare plant species such as occurring in the Roan mountain massif**

 **Example: Update burning plans for fire dependent rare plants such as in Linville Gorge Wilderness**

# Desired Outcomes

-  Identify the most important approach for addressing priorities.
-  Share information on specific partnership activities/opportunities.
-  Explore topics where there is not full agreement and identify avenues for further dialogue.

# Context

- **Rapid Assessment is a primary way of addressing restoration priorities but not the only way.**
- **Rapid assessment will continue to focus on meeting plan objectives of early successional habitat, old growth, recreation needs, scenic values etc, in addition to reviewing restoration opportunities!!!**