



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Terry Seyden 828-257-4202
November 17, 2006

For Immediate Release

FOREST SERVICE INVITES COMMENTS ON REVISED GLOBE PROJECT

The Forest Service today issued a new alternative for the Globe project designed to better respond to the concerns of the Blowing Rock community while still meeting the Forest's timber and wildlife management objectives.

According to Joy Malone, Grandfather District Ranger, "we have completed additional analysis and have made a number of changes to the Globe project proposal in response to public concerns. We are also providing another 30 day comment period on this revised environmental assessment and new preferred alternative."

"We understand that maintaining the scenic beauty of the forest is important to the residents and visitors to Blowing Rock. We have made a number of changes to further reduce the potential impact of the project on the town's scenic views of the forest. We dropped one unit, reduced the size of another unit and increased the number of trees left within all of the remaining cutting units potentially visible from Blowing Rock. We are confident that, especially with these changes, our proposed forest management activities will have only minor effects on the views from Blowing Rock", Malone added.

-more-

“We have also tried to better explain the purpose and need for the project,” Malone noted. “In addition to improving wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities, the proposed project will provide timber products to local communities and will help control the spread of invasive exotic plants in the area.”

“In response to public questions we have also taken another look at the effects of the proposed project on recreation opportunities in the area and old growth communities,” Malone said.

Copies of the revised environmental assessment and new preferred alternative can be found at <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/grandfather/globe/globe.htm>. There will also be an open house from 3:30-6:00 pm, Monday December 4th, at the new Fire Hall, 5430 Adako Road, Collettsville, NC. Forest Service personnel will be available at the open house to answer any questions people may have about the new proposal.

Anyone wanting to submit comments over the next thirty days can send an e-mail to comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgahgrandfather@fs.fed.us or mail written comments to: Grandfather Ranger District, Attn: District Ranger, 109 East Lawing Drive, Nebo, North Carolina, 28761.

A final decision on the Globe project is expected in early 2007.

###