NEWS RELEASE

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Globe Project Environmental Assessment Will Include Additional Alternative

After reviewing the public comments concerning the proposed Globe Project, the Forest Service has decided to develop an additional alternative for the project. The additional alternative will be designed to respond to issues raised about the scenic quality of the Thunderhole portion of the project area potentially visible from Blowing Rock.

"Over the last three weeks we have heard from many residents of the Blowing Rock community as well as town officials, Watauga County commissioners, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx and Senator Elizabeth Dole. We clearly heard the importance people place on the scenic views of the Forest from around Blowing Rock. We also heard people's discontent about not having longer to review and comment on our proposal. In response to these concerns, I have asked our project team to develop an additional alternative for my consideration. The project team will use the scenic quality issue as the impetus for developing this new alternative," said district ranger Joy Malone. The project team will look for ways to meet all objectives for the project while giving additional consideration to the scenic quality of the area.

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The public will then be given another opportunity to provide comments on the updated environmental assessment and new alternative. "We would like to give people ample time to develop thoughtful input for our project team to consider," Malone said. The Forest Service is currently evaluating the best way for the public to provide additional comments. "We received many comments during the previous comment period, and we don't want people to have to re-submit those same comments."

Additional information on the Globe Project will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Background information on the existing proposal can be found at http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/grandfather/globe.htm.

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