



NATIONAL FORESTS **IN** **NORTH** **CAROLINA**

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FOREST SERVICE PRESENTS INFORMATION ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The USDA Forest Service will present information on roadless areas at a meeting on May 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the University North Carolina at Asheville's Owen Conference Center.

The meeting will provide information about a proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement that affects roadless areas on North Carolina's national forests. The session will include a short slide presentation and an informal question-and-answer period. In addition, local information, such as roadless area maps, will be presented at the meeting.

Within North Carolina's 1.2 million acres of national forest land, roadless areas total 172,481 acres. Roadless areas are located on three of the four North Carolina

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national forests—Nantahala and Pisgah national forests in the western mountains and the Croatan National Forest on the coastal plain.

Last year, the president directed the Forest Service to begin a public dialogue about the future of inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System. The Forest Service expects to issue a draft environmental impact statement on a new roadless policy for public comment within the next few weeks.

On June 10, the Forest Service will hold a follow-up meeting where the public is invited to comment on the draft environmental statement. That meeting will be held at Owen Conference Center from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, visit: **<http://roadless.fs.fed.us>**. or
<http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc>