



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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

NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Terry Seyden, 828-257-4202

For Immediate Release May 20, 2004

Public Open House for the Stateline Project

The USDA Forest Service will host an open house for the Stateline Project at the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, located on NC 212, approximately 15 miles north of Marshall, NC, on Wednesday June 2, 2004, from 3 pm until 7 pm. Forest Service officials will be on hand to provide information on the project and answer questions. Information gained at the open house will be used to prepare the environmental assessment (EA) for the project.

The Stateline Project is located near Sugarloaf Mountain in the Mill Creek and Shelton Laurel Creek drainages – Compartments 401 and 402. The purpose and need (objectives) for the proposal are to meet Forest Plan direction by: balancing age-class distribution, improving timber stand conditions and providing for a continuous supply of timber; reducing competition and improving species composition in existing and proposed harvest units; increase utilization of forest products; controlling non-native invasive species; improving conditions for wildlife; closing illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails; protecting heritage resources; and improving water quality.

An alternative (Proposed Action) has been developed to meet the purpose and need by: harvesting timber through regeneration and thinning; constructing and reconstructing roads; using herbicides for vegetation control; improving wildlife habitat;

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closing illegal OHV trails; completing a watershed improvement project; and offering a rhododendron sale.

Public scoping for this project began in February of this year and concluded in March. Additional alternatives for meeting the purpose and need will be developed as part of the analysis process. The Forest Service anticipates preparation of the EA to be completed in late summer 2004.

For more information contact Paul Bradley, Appalachian District Ranger or Michael Hutchins, Interdisciplinary Team Leader at 828-682-6146, in Burnsville, NC.

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Driving Directions from Marshall:

From Marshall go approximately 10 miles west on US 25/70.

Turn right and go approximately 3.5 miles on NC 208

Turn right onto NC 212 and go approximately 5 miles to Laurel Volunteer Fire Department.