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NEWS • RELEASE

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Nebo, NC – “The next phase of planning for the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River is underway and you are invited to participate,” announced Miera Crawford, District Ranger for the Grandfather Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest.

A public meeting to present more information about the planning process, as well as to discuss possible issues and actions, is being hosted by the U.S. Forest Service and Caldwell County on March 19, 2002, at the Collettsville School in Caldwell County at 7:00 p.m.

Wilson Creek, from its headwaters below Calloway Peak to the confluence with Johns River, was designated a Wild and Scenic River on August 18, 2000.

“In addition to the designation, the Wild and Scenic River Act requires the agency charged with the administration of a designated river, in this case the U.S. Forest Service, to prepare a comprehensive management plan to provide for the protection of river values,” explained Crawford. “The comprehensive management plan will not outline every possible project that may occur in the river corridor, but shall address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, management guidelines and desired conditions to retain and enhance the Wilson Creek’s outstandingly remarkable values for which it was designated.”

Caldwell County will be a partner in the preparation of this plan and in the management of the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Other State and local governments and the interested publics are also encouraged to join in this effort.

“You are invited to participate in the development of the Wilson Creek comprehensive management plan by providing the Forest Service with any issues and ideas that you might have that may be incorporated into the protection and enhancement of the Wilson Creek corridor,” said Crawford. “You can provide your comments at the public meeting or by sending your written comments to the address below.”

Please send any written comments by March 29, 2002 to: Bonnie Amaral, National Forests in North Carolina, P.O. Box 2750, Asheville, NC, 28802.