

Purpose and Goals
Stakeholders Forum for the Nantahala & Pisgah Plan Revision
Approved September 23, 2015

Purpose: In a collaborative dialogue amongst stakeholders representing diverse interests, identify zones of agreement to form recommendations around critical resource issues related to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests' plan revision. The key issues are forestry and restoration, special designations, and sustainable recreation. Recommendations should achieve clean and abundant water, connect communities to the land, and maintain and restore resiliency and diversity.

Goals:

- Supplement the Forest Service's public involvement process with collaborative dialogue
- Strengthen relationships amongst stakeholders with differing views about how to manage the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
- Develop consensus recommendations on key issues to provide to the Forest Service
- Support the development of an implementable Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan

Geographic area of focus:

Recommendations will pertain to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, taking into consideration the larger regional context.

What this process is not:

- A substitute for the Forest Service's systems/processes to gather public input
- A replacement for existing partnerships or collaborative groups.

Time Frame for the Stakeholders Forum:

- This group is convened for the purpose of providing consensus input to the U.S. Forest Service prior to the release of the Draft EIS as detailed below:
- Ideal Milestones
 - Kickoff of full group – September 2015
 - Full recommendations submitted by January 15, 2016 (may take longer)
 - January- February 2016 meeting with the Nantahala & Pisgah National Forests to discuss recommendations
 - Meeting prior to the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to discuss alternatives (spring 2016)
 - Post-release of DEIS – perhaps submit refining comments, assess group purpose and performance
 - Determine next steps, if necessary, for the group