



Carolina Mountain Club

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August 2019

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Our Forests are in Danger---Take ACTION!!

by Marcia Bromberg

The Forest Service is planning to curtail public comment. Under the guise of acting more quickly, and responding to climate change and natural disasters, they are planning to be able to cut large tracks of forest land without advance warning and without accepting public comment. Sam Evans of the Southern Environmental Law Center has summarized the basic issue, which is to change the rules of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

The Forest Service is proposing to eliminate public participation and science-based analysis for nearly every decision affecting national forests, from timber sales to road construction to pipeline rights of way.

The Forest Service is required by law to take public comments on this proposal, but if we don't speak up now, it could be our last chance. If the proposal moves forward, the public won't receive notice or a chance to object to specific projects in the future.

Comments are due August 12.

The address for sending comments is www.OurForestsOurVoice.org through our friends at the Southern Environmental Law Center. Start your comments with your personal experiences with our forests.

Public participation is essential for good decisions affecting public lands. When the Forest Service considers allowing logging, roadbuilding, mining, or fracking on our national forests, it must balance those uses with impacts to wildlife, clean water, backcountry areas, recreation on rivers and trails, and other social and economic impacts. That balancing act is impossible without listening to the people who would be affected by its decisions. Among other things, this proposal would cut the public out of:

- Commercially logging up to 4,200 acres (6.6 square miles!) at a time;
- Building up to 5 new miles of roads at a time;
- Adding illegally created roads and trails to the official roads and trails systems;

• Closing roads used by the public to access hunting areas, streams for fishing, and trails; • Bulldozing new pipeline or utility rights of way up to 20 acres (e.g., 4 miles at 40' across) The logging loophole created by this proposal is so big that every single timber sale in the Southern Appalachians would fit through it—meaning no more public input or science-based analysis. To give a sense of scale, 4,200 acres of harvest would cover, in a single decision: • 5 years' worth of commercial logging at current levels on the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest;

Not only would these decisions be made without public input; they would also be made without environmental review and without considering whether there are less harmful ways to meet the same needs. (See the Sierra Club website: Wenoca.org)

Horizons Kids take on a CMC Youth Partner Challenge

On Wednesday, July 10th, I watched as three busloads of kids pulled into Hooker Falls parking lot at DuPont. CMC member Bev McDowell was driving one of the buses. Twenty-eight kids, six volunteer teens, and five teachers all piled out of the buses in three organized groups.

Earlier in the year, Bev asked me if I would lead a hike for Horizons kids. "Sure", I thought, not knowing anything about Horizons, but I love the idea of CMC getting kids on the trail.

First stop was to the brand new bathroom facilities at the parking area. After a short activity to teach what to bring in a daypack, (and what NOT to bring) we started towards Triple Falls. For many of these kids, it was their first time out in the woods. They marveled at the river, the smells, and of course the falls. After a snack at the shelter, we headed up to High Falls shelter for lunch. After learning a song about the earth's water, we headed back down to the parking lot and a splash in the water.



I learned that Carolina Day School, where Bev works, offered its school building to host the new Horizons Program during the summer beginning with fifteen rising first graders last year. The same fifteen children, now rising second graders arrived this year along with a new group of first graders. Each participant will return every summer through 9th grade. Horizons, a nonprofit funded by donations, offers six weeks of academic work, music, art, swim lessons and great field trips like this one at Dupont. CDS also offers the use of their busses aiding the transportation of participants to and from field trips.

It is a gift to see the children's joy of being outdoors, to see them feel proud of themselves when they have accomplished a two to three mile hike, and to see youth volunteering and sharing their time to help guide these children on new adventures. I have to agree with Bev's statement, "It's some of the most demanding & yet most rewarding work I've ever done."

Horizon's Mission Statement: Changing the life trajectory of low-income students by instilling in them the joy of learning, the skills for success, and the inspiration to realize their dreams.

What better way to build success and inspiration than to learn while outdoors? I am proud that CMC is encouraging more young people to get out on the trail.

If you would like to be involved in CMC's Youth Partner Challenge and want to learn more, check out our website under Challenge or contact Jan Onan.

CMC Education Committee

Hike the MST on September 7th or 8th

by Marcia Bromberg

Help celebrate the Mountains-to-Sea Trail's 42nd birthday with a weekend of hikes. There are several ways to participate this year. Thirty-three guided hikes are scheduled in 27 trail towns across the state over the weekend of September 7th-8th. A 42-Mile Challenge is set on the trail near Blowing Rock - hike 42 miles in 2 days, and raise funds to support the MST. Or hike on your own, anywhere on the MST anytime over the weekend, and report back by sharing your experience with us here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms>

You can find out about all these options on [Birthday Hike | Mountains-to-Sea Trail](#)

I'm leading a hike along the Shut-In portion of the MST, and there are other opportunities nearby (Cherokee, Marion, Blowing Rock and Deep Gap) or plan a weekend exploring somewhere new on the trail. And if you can't hike, make sure you raise your glass to the amazing hiking trail!

Solicitation for Nominations 2019 CMC Awards

by Barbara Morgan

Each year, CMC formally makes two very special awards - the Award of Appreciation and the Distinguished Service Award, with primary presentation at the Club's Annual Meeting. To find out more about these awards and to see who has received them since 2000, please go to our homepage (Carolinamountainclub.org) and click on About Us at the top of the page. From the drop down, choose Service Awards. As you click on the blue links to the two awards, you'll see a brief description of the reasoning for each, along with past recipients.

Think about the exemplary work of CMC members who should be considered for one of these awards - either the Award of Appreciation for actions during the past year or the Distinguished Service Award for actions that have consistently contributed to the Club at a high level for an extended period of time, typically ten years or longer or truly outstanding contributions over a shorter period of time.

As Past President, I'll be chairing the committee that decides who gets these awards this year, and it will be made up of several Council members and several members-at-large. If you know of someone you'd like to nominate, please send me their name, what award you're nominating them for, and a brief description of why you think they should be considered for the award. Email it to me at barbc129@gmail.com or mail it to me, Barbara Morgan, at 65 Dillingham Rd, Asheville, NC 28805 no later than August 19.

CMC maintainer Shawn Riley has been named the Volunteer of the Month for July for the whole Appalachian Trail by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

by Kathy Kyle

Shawn Riley has been a volunteer for the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) since 2014 and brings extensive trail maintenance experience from his time volunteering on trails in Florida. He currently maintains a 2.3 mile section of the A.T. from Round Knob Springs Rd. to Big Butt, which includes a shelter and a privy. Riley must climb a steep two-mile section of the Trail in order to get to his section. This is the kind of work that Riley enjoys.

After joining the CMC as a trail maintainer, Riley took it upon himself to hike the entire 93 miles that the club maintains with a GPS in hand. While the hike would be a pleasure for most, and certainly for the dedicated Riley, he then spent hours on a computer using GIS software to help improve the club's existing data of the Trail's location.



With his GIS skills, Riley has become integral in the planning of trail relocations. Riley has mapped Trail reroutes for the Konnarock crew on multiple occasions, with the most recent being a 1.1 mile relocation of the A.T. near Log Cabin Road. When Riley is not regularly working with the CMC Monday Work Crew, he is meticulously scouting various sections of the Trail with his GPS. Riley then provides section maintainers and crews with accurate locations of the work that needs to be done. In tandem to scouting he also performs regular routine maintenance such as removing blow-downs and clearing drainages. CMC Trail Supervisor Paul Curtin states "Shawn Riley makes the whole maintenance responsibility of the club better by identifying issues to help focus our efforts on where the real problems lie."

Riley goes above and beyond the call of a volunteer. He frequently maintains A.T. side trails and helps assist on other sections of the Trail. Curtin explains, "When a Section Maintainer was incapacitated, Shawn stepped in and re-blazed the section and helped with other chores." Riley is dedicated to working on the effective removal of graffiti from shelters. Riley also spends his time making and replacing wooden signs along the CMC section of the Trail. Since becoming a volunteer in 2014, Riley has contributed over 1,554 volunteer hours towards the Trail, averaging 50 hours a month in his first 16 months. Of those hours, 1,053 of them were spent on the Trail. Curtin concludes that Riley "is recognized within CMC as being the strongest contributor to our A.T. maintenance efforts."

Pete Ripmaster To Speak on August 19

by Randy Fluharty

Next up in our Speaker Series! We've got local Asheville legend, Pete Ripmaster, joining us. Pete's story includes a 1000-mile journey (by foot) across the Alaskan wilderness, -50F temperatures, a brush with death, howling wolves, unrelenting determination, and a first-place finish at the 2018 Iditarod Trail Invitational (ITI) in the Foot 1000 category.

Meet us on Monday, August 19 from 6:30 - 8:00, for an evening of stories and Q&A with Pete at 821 Riverside Dr. #179 across from the Astral office. Enter the alley at Entrance B and park in the back lot. Free to attend! Cold beverages provided.

Big thanks to Dewey Property Advisors for allowing us to host this event in their space! And a big thanks to our members Jennifer Pharr Davis and Brew Davis for developing and coordinating this Speaker Series!

Keep Those Photos Coming!

by Bobbi Powers

Keep your **WITS** about you whenever you are out in nature.

W = waterfalls,
I = insects,
T = trees,
S = stones

Entertain us at the Annual dinner with your WITty takes on these aspects of Mother Nature.

Please send up to 6 photos to CarolinaMtnClubphotos@gmail.com Your name on your photo will be your reward for helping to enliven the pre-dinner social hour.

Thanks!

Wednesday Hike Leaders Needed

The Hiking Committee is sorry to hear that Bob Poe will no longer be leading the alternate, easy to moderate Wednesday hikes. His contribution over the last several months has been greatly appreciated.

These hikes have been very popular so we wish to continue them. Beginning with the 4th quarter, hike leaders will be requested to lead easy to moderate Wednesday hikes. The hike leader will have the option to begin the hike at any time as is now done on Sunday half-day hikes. Look for the request for hike leaders in your e-mail the first of this month.

Brenda Worley
Councilor for Hiking

Facebook for CMC

by Danny Bernstein

CMC has had a Facebook page for years. Along the way, we've attracted thousands of followers, including many nonmembers who are interested in following our hiking and trail maintenance events.

Our Facebook page, managed by the CMC Communications Committee, has featured pictures and comments from hikes, Youth Partnership activities, and trail work details.

But not all members choose to join Facebook, even though it's free and easy. For those who are not on Facebook, you can still see our CMC page. Just go directly to the CMC FB page, using this web address:

<https://www.facebook.com/Carolina-Mountain-Club-371782880625/>



Service Dogs on CMC Hikes

by Randy Fluharty

There have been some questions raised about allowing service dogs on CMC hikes. As most of you know, our policy is that pets are not permitted on CMC hikes. The Council has had numerous

discussions about this and has concluded that this is the best policy decision for the club as a whole.

However, service dogs are not considered pets. Federal and state law requires that service dogs be allowed to accompany their owners in any public area. Being a 501c(3), CMC is required to abide by this law. So, how do we allow service dogs on hikes with the minimum of disruption to our hike?

- Service dogs must be on a leash at all times and under the control of their owners.
- Service dogs must be well behaved and not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- If the above conditions are not met, we can refuse to allow the service dog on our hikes.
- We cannot require proof that the dog is a service dog. There is no certification process for service dogs.
- We can ask the owner two questions: 1) Is the service dog needed because of a disability, and 2) What services or duties is the service dog trained to perform for the owner. We cannot ask what disability the owner has.
- Service dogs can be used for both physical and emotional disabilities.

Now, all that being said, I will say that our one experience with a service dog was very positive. The owner and her dog were great additions to the Wednesday hikers group. We did have one regular hiker who was afraid of dogs and would not hike with us when the dog was present. This was unfortunate, but the law required us to allow the dog to accompany his owner. The person who had a fear of dogs was gracious and understood our situation. Most of us were rather sad when the dog and his owner moved away a few months later.

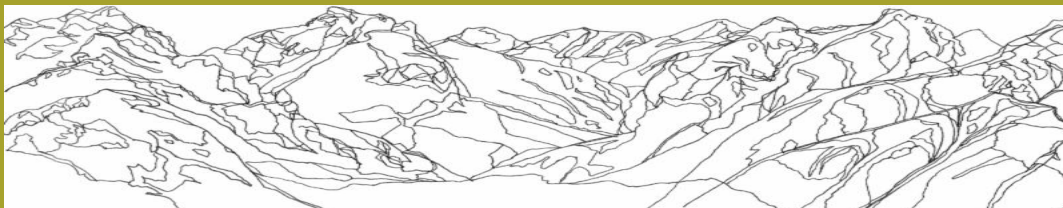
Carolina Mountain Club is a very welcoming organization. It is my hope that with the above information we can welcome service dogs and their owners and have as positive experience as the Wednesday hikers did with our previous situation.



The eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

To join Carolina Mountain Club go to: www.carolinamountainclub.org. Click on "Join CMC" on the right side. Follow the instructions. Send all address and email changes to Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802



Let's Go!

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[Hike Reports](#)

[Future Hikes](#)