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Comments:

Wilderness designation.

I hope you will designate these areas (below) for Wilderness. It is really important that we have more Wilderness areas. I am older now, but I loved hiking in the natural world and I care deeply that younger people have the opportunity to use these places in the same way, according to their tastes. I care that these and other areas receive maximal protection from exploitation that will either harm the forests themselves or harm the way they can be used. In our fast-paced over-urban world, we desperately need to ensure that wild places remain for solitude and the quieter forms of recreation, as well as for protection of negation and animal habitat so that our fellow creatures on this planet can continue to thrive too.

Thank you.

Black Mountains: including Bearwallow- old growth forest, virgin spruce-fir forest, next to Mt. Mitchell, UNESCO biosphere reserve

Craggy Mountains (Big Ivy): old growth & virgin forest, Nat. Heritage Areas, Walker Cove Natural Area

Ellicott Rock Extension: roadless, next to existing wilderness, close to Chattooga Wild & Scenic River corridor

Harper Creek: congressionally designated wilderness study area

Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Extensions: old growth forest next to established wilderness; connection bet. Nat. Parks

Linville Gorge Extensions: old growth forest next to Linville Gorge wilderness area

Lost Cove: congressionally designated wilderness study area

Mackey Mt: largest unbroken tract of old-growth forest in Pisgah National Forest

Middle Prong Extension: watershed & wildlife habitat sanctuary, migratory corridor, including for cerulean warbler

Overflow Creek (Blue Valley): congressionally designated wilderness study area, old growth forest

Shining Rock Extensions: Mt Treasure Area, Inventoried Roadless Area; includes Graveyard Fields, Art Loeb trail etc

Snowbird: most is congressionally designated wilderness study area

Southern Nantahala Extensions: old growth forest, rare high elevation mt. bog, animal corridor, diverse plants

Tusquitee Bald: old growth forest, Inventoried Roadless Area; Fire's Creek's watershed; animal sanctuary

Unicoi Mountains: old growth forest, special biological area; Inventoried Roadless Area; cultural/historic significance

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