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Protection of the Big Ivy Forest

From: James and Eve Davis,
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To: The National Forest Service
Concerning the Plan for the Pisgah National Forest
Specifically the Graggy Mountains (Big Ivy)Area of the National Forest

We feel privileged and grateful to present our opinions to the Forest Service.

We feel very strongly that this area should be left free from logging with severely limited motorized access. The economic and environmental rewards of keeping this area free from logging are great.

We operated our B&B in Barnardsville for 22 years. The National Forest was our "back yard" and a crucial financial asset for the success of our business.

The Big Ivy was a significant factor in attracting guests to our business.

- * They come to hike the trails, particularly to Douglas Falls.
- * They repelled on the rock faces.
- * They fished the streams.
- * They rode horses on the trails.

- * They searched for mushrooms.
- * They used the trails for mountain biking.
- * They came for the Spring wild flowers.
- * They came to Corner Rock to see where Katniss nursed Peeta in the Hunger Games.
- * They ran the same trails used in The Last of the Mohicans.
- * Scientists came from the University of Georgia and University of Alabama to study the bacteria on the roots of the Old Growth Maple Trees.
- * And many came just for the quiet and solitude of the Forest. This is where I went often to meditate and write poetry.

This is not just a forest. The history and heritage of the Barnardsville Community is embedded in the Big Ivy Forest. Many of the families there have eight generations in the ground. The recent turnout of over 300 people in support of the Big Ivy was a testimony to the strength and passion of community support.

This area is a National Treasure and should be preserved in its present form. For details we defer to the expert recommendations made by the Friends of Big Ivy.

Respectfully submitted,

James and Eve Davis