

Date submitted (Eastern Standard Time): 11/30/2020 7:29:25 AM

First name: Phillip

Last name: Kendall

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I live just two miles down the road from Max Patch. My family has lived here for almost 20 years and we have seen the changes firsthand, the increase in traffic, trash, and the steady degradation of the top of Max Patch. We manage a small farm and hospitality business that relies on folks being able to happily enjoy the beauty from atop Max Patch as well as the surrounding area. I used to go up there all the time to just catch a sunset or meet with friends, but now I go almost exclusively to collect data for the forest service and keep tabs on the damage and what the scene really looks like up there. Back in Septemeber I went up there on a Saturday at 7pm and counted 244 cars...and counting! That means that at least 500 people were on top of Max Patch at one time, and that's become the norm every weekend from April through October. If it's clear and beautiful and the ideal day to check out Max Patch then expect to be going to a festival!

I also participate in trail maintenance with Carolina Mountain Club. Our club maintains the AT over Max Patch. Max Patch is suffering greatly from overuse and inconsiderate campers, with weekends exceeding 100 tents on top most nice weekends. Human feces, toilet paper, trash, and camping items are leftovers after every weekend. The parking area is unacceptably small, resulting in cars blocking two way road traffic and the inability of emergency vehicles to travel the road. Campers trash the summit and destroy signage and fencing.

I see many projects in NC on this list that rehab or build new toilets and parking on much lesser used sites. If the answer is these projects were previously defined, then I blame the Forest Service for not defining a much needed project. This project is sorely needed and much higher priority than most if not all the other toilet/parking projects on this list.

I ask you to strongly consider adding Max Patch projects to this list!

Sincerely,
Phillip Kendall