



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
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Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

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Parkway Seeks Input for Control of Hemlock Wooly Adelgid

(Asheville)—The Blue Ridge Parkway is seeking public input, through July 2, to identify issues and additional study that will be needed to develop an Environmental Assessment for control strategies of Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA) along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina.

Parkway officials said that a long- term management strategy that would preserve hemlock forests by minimizing the impact of hemlock woolly adelgid at the Blue Ridge Parkway is needed. HWA is a non- native insect pest that is quickly decimating hemlocks in the eastern United States.

The project scoping phase, now underway, is the initial step in the development of an Environmental Assessment that will analyze alternatives and their potential impacts.

Those who wish to review and comment on this document may do so by visiting the Internet site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Select Blue Ridge Parkway, "Plans/Documents Open for Comment" then click on the document link. (Direct link is: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=355&projectId=18306>) Even though using this website is recommended, written comments may also be submitted to: Blue Ridge Parkway, **ATTN: Suzette Molling**, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Comments must be postmarked or entered via the Internet by **July 2**. Ideas and concerns expressed by those who comment will be used to prepare the final proposal and impact analysis.

Comments are typically treated as a public record and made available for public review. Individuals may request that the National Park Service withhold their name and address from disclosure. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law.

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