



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
www.nps.gov/blri

199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Parkway Seeks Public Input For Vista Management within Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel Habitat

(Asheville)—The Blue Ridge Parkway (Parkway) is seeking public input, through November 19, to identify issues and additional study that will be needed to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) for managing vistas within Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel (CNFS) habitat along the Parkway. Listed as an endangered species in 1985, some 25-30 years after the construction of the Parkway through its habitat, the CNFS now receive additional protection through the Endangered Species Act and through NPS Management Policies.

Parkway officials said that they currently manage 264 overlooks along its 469-mile length. One hundred thirty-eight vistas and overlooks are in potential CNFS habitat and would be considered under this plan.

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.

For more information and to comment on this project, visit the National Park Service website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Select Blue Ridge Parkway from the park dropdown menu and then click on project title "EA for Vista Management within Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel Habitat." Information is also available, and comments may be made by writing to: Blue Ridge Parkway, ATTN: Suzette Molling, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Comments must be postmarked by November 19.

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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