



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	DuPont State Forest Welcome Center
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Project Narrative:	<p>The DuPont State Forest is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains between Hendersonville and Brevard, North Carolina. The forest's beautiful natural setting, with four major waterfalls, crystal clear woodland streams, abundant flora, and natural wonders, attracts visitors from around the country, the region, and the local area.</p> <p>The forest, established only within the last ten years, already is the most visited forest in the state, with a total of 106,000 visitors in 2004. Visitors are attracted by the forest's beautiful natural setting, with four major waterfalls, crystal clear woodland streams, abundant flora, and natural wonders. DuPont State Forest is fast becoming one of the leading mountain bike destinations in Western North Carolina. The forest offers over 80 miles of trail, nearly all of which is open to both equestrians and mountain bikers. DuPont offers everything from gentle forest roads to exciting single track, with an impressive variety of scenic attractions located only minutes apart.</p> <p>The original 7,600 acre forest, established in 1996 through a generous bargain sale from the DuPont Corporation, is presently open to hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. In 2000, the Forest was expanded by two property additions, including the spectacular 2,200 acre tract in the center of the Forest containing High Falls, Triple Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls. History of the DuPont State Forest</p> <p>The goal of this initiative is to complete a facility to welcome the estimated 110,000+ visitors to the forest each year. The center will be staffed to provide information to visitors on the forests' amenities, facilities and trails and provide information on resource management. The preliminary site plan includes a public restroom facility which will be completed as part of the Welcome Center project. A water well has been drilled for the site but a new septic system will have to be installed to accommodate the Welcome Center and public restrooms facilities.</p> <p>The Welcome Center will be located in an existing, partially built 1200 (approx.) square foot structure which was on the property when it was acquired by the State of North Carolina. A new roof for the building was recently built to prevent damage to the structure through exposure to the elements.</p>
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On-site staffing requirements include two individuals to ensure the facility will be available to the public seven days each week. In addition, fixtures and equipment will be required to operate the facility.

Local State Senators Snow (D) and Apodaca (R) have submitted a Bill (Senate Bill 629, see attached) to provide \$300,000 in capital funds for the completion of a Visitor's Center at DuPont State Forest. The introduction of this legislation (Senate Bill 629) is a big step in the campaign to provide facilities to welcome the estimated 110,000+ visitors who will visit the forest each year.

Goal: A front-door facility available to the public for information about DuPont State Forest, including recreation opportunities and resource management.

Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
NC Division of Forest Resources	\$600,000	3 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Identify uses of building	DFR and partners	DFR
Design and plan for completion of construction including interior layout and exterior site plan.	\$500,000	DFR
Complete construction of Welcome center	Contractor	DFR
Design public restroom facility, keeping in mind disposal of waste and wastewater	Designer	DFR
Complete construction of restroom facility	Contractor	DFR
Determine staffing needs of new facility based on hours of operation and level of use by the general public.	DFR and partners, funding for new positions	DFR and partners
Equipment & Furniture	\$30,000	Partners
On-Site Staff (2)	\$70,000	Partners

Performance Measures:	Completion of facility; facility fully equipped and staffed; level of satisfaction of users.
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Status:	Planning Phase; Building currently consists of basic structure and roof. A well has been drilled for the site.
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