

# BACKCOUNTRY AREAS

| AREA            | RANGER DISTRICT/<br>Closest Town | DESCRIPTION   | TRAIL MILEAGE | POSSIBLE USES | TRAILS   | TRAIL MAP   |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|--|---|
| Black Mountain  | APPALACHIAN<br>Burnsville        | Significant elevation change up to spruce-fir forest; steep, rugged, rocky trails | 43            | +             | Black Mtn. Crest, Buncombe Horse Range, Bald Knob Ridge, Mt. Mitchell, Big Tom Gap, Higgins Bald Ground, Colbert Ridge*, Woody Ridge | South Toe River Area  |
| Cheoah Bald     | CHEOAH<br>Almond                 | High elevation view, steep trails, grassy bald, cascades, shelter                 | 18            |               | Appalachian (Stecoah Gap to Wright Gap), Bartram, Rock Creek   | Appalachian Trail, FSQ*: Hewitt, Tipton Nantahala                 |
| Laurel Mountain | PISGAH<br>Brevard                | Streamside & ridgeline trails, some views, high use                               | 13            | +<br>+        | Pilot Rock, Laurel Mtn. Connector, Laurel Mtn.*, Big Creek*, Pilot Cove/Slate Rock*  | Pisgah District Trails  |
| Mackey Mountain | GRANDFATHER<br>Old Fort          | Primitive ridgetop trails, low use, few signs or blazes                           | 17            |               | Mackey Mtn., Laurel Fork, Greenlee Mtn., Hickory Branch, Leadmine Gap  | FSQ*: Old Fort, Marion West                                       |
| Blue Valley     | HIGHLANDS<br>Highlands           | Through sideslopes of Blue Valley, crosses small streams and Glen Falls           | 8             |               | Bartram*, Hurrah Ridge, West Fork, Glen Falls, Chinquapin Mtn.   | Bartram Trail 1 Good ROG**  |
| Panthertown     | HIGHLANDS<br>Cashiers            | Stream valley, views, rock outcrops, waterfalls                                   | 30            | <br>          | Being planned  | FSQ*: Big Ridge, Lake Toxaway                                     |
| Shelton Laurel  | APPALACHIAN<br>Hot Springs       | Remote, steep, rugged trails; some waterfalls; low use; shelters                  | 33            |               | Appalachian (Allen Gap to Flint Gap), Pounding Mill, Hickey Fork, White Oak*, Fork Ridge, Green Ridge                                | Good ROG**<br>FSQ*: Greystone, White Rock, Flag Pond, Hot Springs |
| Snowbird        | CHEOAH<br>Robbinsville           | Stream basin, ridgetop & creek-side trails, waterfalls                            | 37            |               | Big Snowbird, Burntrock Ridge King Meadows, Middle Falls, Mitchell Lick, Sassafrass Creek, Snowbird Mtn.                             | Snowbird Area   |
| Fires Creek     | TUSQUITEE<br>Hayesville          | Remote, high elevation, some primitive trails; low use                            | 19            | +             | Rim* (Big Stamp to Bald Springs Tr.), Bald Springs, Chunky Gal, Shinbone   | FSQ*: Andrews, Tipton Shooting Creek, Hayesville                  |
| Wilson Creek    | GRANDFATHER<br>Linville          | Narrow, deep stream valley, streamside trails                                     | 10            |               | Wilson Creek, Bill Crump, Wilson Creek Spur, White Rocks   | Wilson Creek Area   |

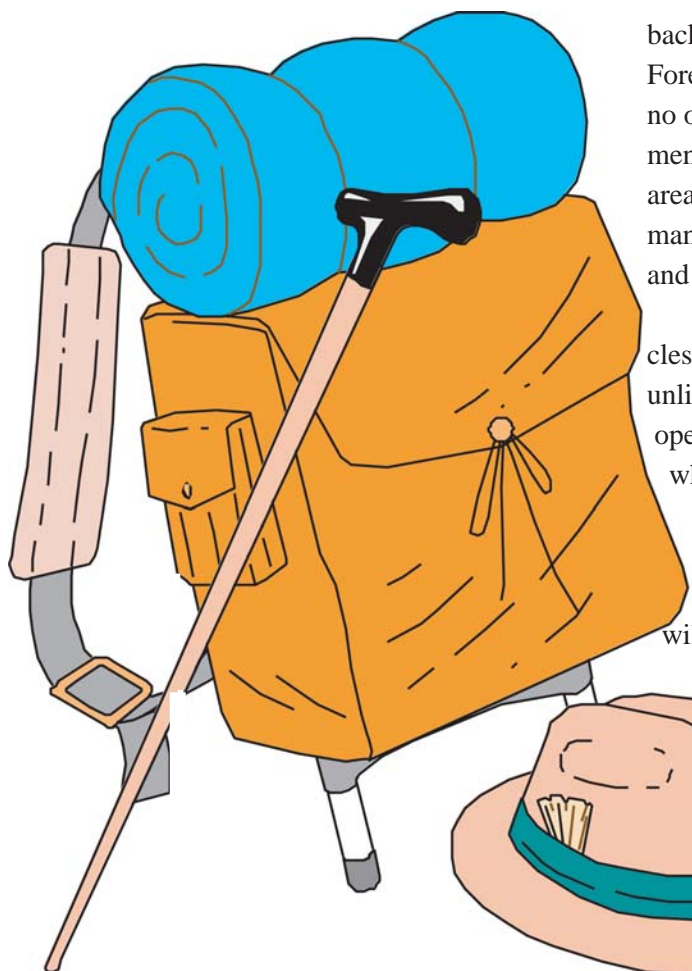
☆:Portions of trail are outside backcountry area.

\*FSQ:USGS quad with national forest lands and trails

\*\*ROG:Recreational Opportunity Guide

+ :Be sure trail is designated for your desired use.

# BACKCOUNTRY



Hundreds of miles of trails await you in the backcountry areas of Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. These areas are large blocks of forest with no open roads and little evidence of timber management. Some trails begin outside the backcountry area and travel through some evidence of resource management, such as wildlife openings, old roads, and timber harvest sites.

As in designated wildernesses, motorized vehicles are not allowed in backcountry areas. However, unlike wilderness trails, some backcountry trails are open to mountain bikers. Trail head signs designate who can use the trail.

Most are signed and blazed, and the size of the hiking group is not limited, although groups no larger than 15 are recommended. In wilderness, group size is limited to 10.

Backcountry areas offer a vast array of scenic beauty and recreation opportunities. So get a trail map and your day pack or backpack, and explore the backcountry! The chart above describes trails. Maps are available at district offices and by mail. Information on pages 4 and 16.

## POISON IVY

is a common plant that causes an itchy rash and should be avoided. It has white berries



that are eaten by many birds, especially in the winter when food is scarce. Poison ivy grows as a vine or shrub, but always has three leaflets. Remember: *LEAVES OF THREE, LET IT BE.*

**TICKS & CHIGGERS** are present in the mountains and common on the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain. Chiggers cause an itchy welt, especially in warm, tight places, such as under waistbands and elastic. Ticks can transmit diseases. Wear insect repellent in the summer and check for ticks after every trip to the woods.

**SNAKES** that are poisonous are rarely seen, but rattlesnakes and copperheads do live in North Carolina. Cottonmouths live along rivers and in the coastal swamps.

To be safe, leave snakes alone—don't try to catch, antagonize, or kill them. Also, avoid putting your hands or feet near rocks or logs, where snakes aren't easily seen.