

RECREATION AREAS:

Sycamore Flats Picnic Area: picnicking, restrooms, fishing.

Davidson River Campground: camping, restrooms, hiking, fishing, showers, fee area.

Coontree Picnic Area: picnicking, restrooms, hiking, fishing.

Sliding Rock: swimming, restrooms, scenic viewing, fee area.

Cradle of Forestry in America: information available, interpretive trails, restrooms, assessible to those with disabilities, fee area.

Pink Beds Picnic Area: picnicking, restrooms, hiking.

Sunburst Campground: camping, restrooms, picnicking, fishing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more details, contact the **Pisgah Ranger District:** 1001 Pisgah Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768, 828-877-3265; The center is 1.5 miles from the junction of NC 280 and U.S. 276 and is open daily from May-October and Monday-Friday in the off-season. You may also visit the National Forests in North Carolina web site: www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc.

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FOREST HERITAGE

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY



The entrance arch into Pisgah National Forest remained in place from 1916 to 1936, until U.S. 276 was built.

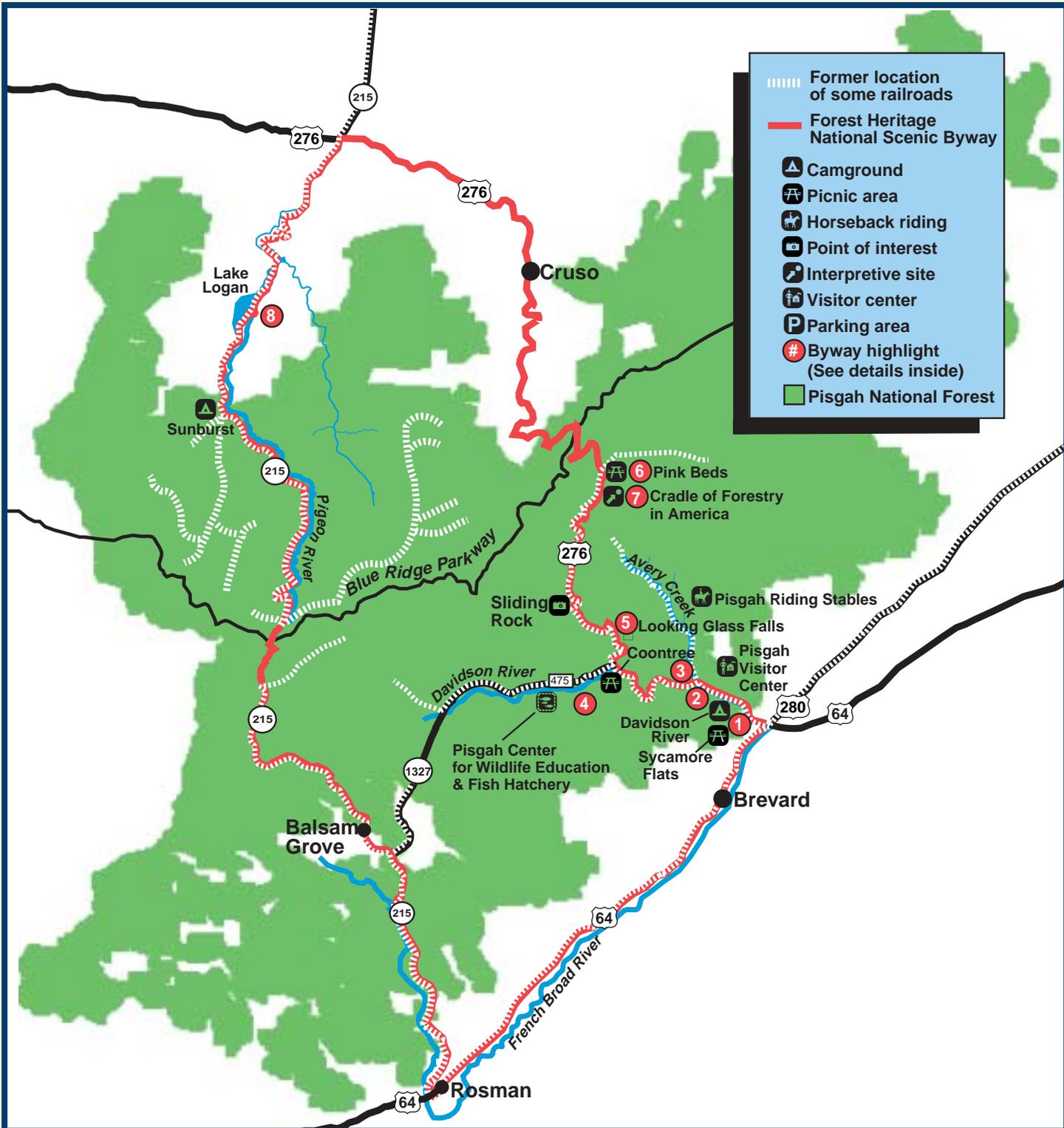
Drive the 79-mile Forest Heritage National Scenic Byway, and imagine the changes the forests have seen in the past century.



**USDA Forest Service
Pisgah National Forest
Pisgah Ranger District
NORTH CAROLINA**



FOREST HERITAGE SCENIC BYWAY MAP



JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

Step back in time as you drive the Forest Heritage National Scenic Byway. Use your imagination to envision the forest as it was decades ago.

Wagons, waterpower, railroads & timber

By 1900, the land east of the Blue Ridge was the part of George W. Vanderbilt's estate called Pisgah Forest. In 1912, Vanderbilt sold rights to "all timber, wood and bark standing and down" on 69,326 acres of Pisgah Forest to Louis Carr for \$12 an acre. Carr had 20 years to cut the timber—generally taking everything over 14 to 16 inches in diameter at the stump.

In those days, the only roads were wagon roads, including the one that forded the Davidson River several times to John Rock. Along the river were homes, mills, and a school. Much of the private land was farmed. Carr built rail lines along the creeks to bring out the timber by train until about 1920.

In 1914, the U.S. Forest Service bought 78,410 acres of Pisgah Forest land from the Vanderbilt estate. This land later became part of the Pisgah National Forest, established in 1916—the first national forest in the country created from purchased land.

South of Vanderbilt's land, Gloucester Lumber Company logged the watershed of the French Broad River's headwaters. The forest supported both a sawmill and tannery until the early 1950's.

On the west side of the Blue Ridge, the Suncrest Lumber Company and its subcontractors logged the Pigeon River watershed for spruce and hardwood.

Logging practices of the early 1900's often scarred the land, silted the creeks, and destroyed acres of wildlife habitat, and yet forests reclaimed the farms and cut-over



ABOVE: Stacks of logs lay above a trestle. By the 1920's, acres of virgin forest were logged.
LEFT: Davidson River Mill sat near today's entrance to Pisgah National Forest.

land. Today, as you drive through the forest, it is hard to imagine the landscape changes that occurred.

BYWAY HIGHLIGHTS:(See map #'s on back)

1. Davidson River Mill at Sycamore Flats: For several decades, Davidson River was harnessed to forge iron, grind corn, and mill fabric. During the Civil War, water power provided a vital source for iron and fabric.

2. English Chapel: A.F. English founded this church in 1860 after paying \$5 for a half acre on which to build the chapel. The building, that also served as a school, had "all but fallen down" by 1940. Like the original church, volunteers pitched in and built a new one from rock.



ABOVE: One of Carr's logging trains ran right past Looking Glass Falls. U.S. 276 replaces the train tracks.

LEFT: The town of Sunburst boomed with the business of logging during the early 1900's.

BELOW: Until 1956, crops covered the land where Davidson River Campground is today. The ranger station is in the lower right.

3. Davidson River Community: In the early 1900's, a community of independent, self-reliant families lived along the Davidson River and its tributaries. They farmed the land or maintained pasture. Today only a few apple trees and daffodils reveal the locations of homesteads.

4. John Rock Logging Camp: Historically, the Davidson River Road followed the river past John Rock to Gloucester Gap. The flat land below John Rock held a logging camp, Black Forest Lodge, Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and Boy Scout camp.

5. Looking Glass Falls: Carr's logging railroad ran right past this scenic spot. Today the highway follows the former railroad grade.

6. Pink Beds Community **7. First Forest School:** At the turn of the century, the settlers in this small community farmed the land and met in the schoolhouse for church. From 1898 until 1913, the school served Dr. Carl Schenck, who founded the Biltmore Forest School. This was the first forestry school in America that taught the new science of caring for forests. Today the school and the surrounding area are part of the Cradle of Forestry in America. This historic site, with its collection of historic buildings, a steam logging engine, and old



sawmill, tells the story of Dr. Schenck's school and the beginnings of forestry.

8. Sunburst, a Logging Town: A bustling town grew up around a large, double-band sawmill that employed hundreds of workers. About 400 men were employed to harvest and process red spruce. Logging ended after a devastating wildfire in 1925, and the mill closed. Town remnants were buried under Lake Logan in 1933.

Gloucester Lumber Company: Timber from the slopes draining into the headwaters of the French Broad River fueled the Toxaway Tanning Company and the Gloucester Sawmill, both built in Rosman. Tannin derived from the bark and wood of chestnut, hemlock, and chestnut oak trees was needed to tan leather.