

# Nantahala Trip

## Preparation and Tentative Schedule

### Bring:

- (1) Field clothes, hiking boots, and raingear
- (2) Clipboard, compass, plant press, tree ID book, & calculator (1 per group)
- (3) Camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, lantern, collapsible chair, etc.)  
→ If possible, please try to consolidate with others (e.g., 4 people to a 4-person tent) to minimize necessary equipment.
- (4) Personal effects (there are 2 showers and several restrooms near the camp sites)
- (5) Two changes of clothes (again to minimize space)
- (6) Trout fishing rod & waders (if interested)
- (7) Food for breakfast and lunch on Saturday & breakfast on Sunday. We will stop for fast food on Friday evening and for Sunday lunch. Turkey fry and BBQ on Saturday night prepared by Ben Jones and Dr. Gray.

### Tentative Schedule:

#### **Friday, 23 September: (meet at 12:30 am)**

- 1) Depart Knoxville at 1:00 pm from the usual location.
- 2) Stop at Walmart in Franklin, NC to buy fishing licenses (for those interested), purchase any forgotten items, and eat “fast-food” dinner near Walmart.
- 3) Go to camp site (Kimsey Creek Group Camp in the Wayah Ranger District) and set up camp.
- 4) Fish, hike, build campfire and relax.

#### **Saturday, 24 September: (begin at 8:30 am)**

Sampling will be divided into 5 groups at a time. Each group will measure forest vegetation characteristics associated with one sampling point (like our lab) but in 2 different sites: grouse habitat and grouse non-habitat. A total of 10 sampling points per habitat classification will be measured (b/c we have 10 groups). We will compile everyone's data for use by the entire class (thus consistent and careful measuring among groups will be important!). Compiling data ( $n=10$  per habitat classification) should allow sufficient power to quantify vegetation differences (graphically and statistically) between grouse habitat and non-habitat, and help guide management prescriptions in your final project. Ben Jones also has created a GIS for this area, which can be used in your plan (it will be provided during the GIS lab in November). Groups 1-5 will measure vegetation in the morning and Groups 6-10 will measure vegetation in the afternoon. While one group is measuring, Ben will take the others on a tour of Nantahala. Information on Nantahala's history, current management, etc that Ben and others discuss will be important to include in your management plan (study site description and management techniques for ruffed grouse).

*General Schedule for Saturday is:*

8:30 am: Vans leave for field (Groups 1-5 sample first, Groups 6-10 tour Nantahala with Ben Jones).

12:00 pm: We will not return for lunch (need to take something along if desired).

1:00 pm: Switch and Groups 6-10 do field sampling and 1-5 go on tour.

5:00 pm: Finish and return to camp for turkey fry and BBQ at camp. Build campfire and listen to UT-LSU game.

**Sunday, 25 September: (begin at 9:00 am)**

- 1) Break down camp (8:30 am).
- 2) Do plotless vs. plot sampling exercise (9:00 am).
- 3) Return to Knoxville.

Outside of scheduled activities, you all are free to do whatever desired. There are some great hiking trails and excellent trout fishing near the campsite. Kimsey Creek, Park Creek, and Nantahala River are within walking distance. Here are some websites:

<http://ncnatural.com/NCUSFS/Nantahala/nantfac.html>

<http://www.highlandsinfo.com/activities/nantahala.htm>

## **Driving Separately**

You may drive separately following the vans or independently. If so, please see directions posted on the website. Also, please let Dr. Gray know by Tuesday, 20 September 2005.

## **Not Going**

You may elect not to go to Nantahala, but this is strongly discouraged. Collected data and general information on Nantahala and grouse management will be acquired during this trip and necessary for your final project. If you are unable to attend Nantahala, you can write a 10-page paper (following missed lab specifications) or volunteer 21 hours to compensate for a 4% reduction in your final grade (Nantahala counts for 2 labs). If you do not plan to attend, please inform Dr. Gray and your team members by Tuesday, 20 September 2005.

## **No Dogs Allowed**