



# CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

P. O. BOX 58

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

*In "The Land of the Sky"*

March 12, 1932

Mr. Peter J. Hanlon, Supervisor  
N. C. National Forests  
Post Office Box 731  
Asheville, N. C.

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

The resolution that was discussed in your office March 3 proposing that the Shining Rock high-elevation area be set aside as a Wild Area under Regulation U-2 was unanimously adopted that evening at a meeting of the Carolina Mountain Club. A copy of our resolution is enclosed.

We were naturally disappointed to learn that your intentions are to recommend development of this area for high density population recreation use. The plans you discussed to open up the area with additional roads and recreation improvements and its subsequent use from the adjacent Blue Ridge Parkway would certainly destroy, from our point of view, the naturalness that we hope can be preserved.

When we pointed out that the Park Service will provide a large recreation and camping area on Tennessee Field just five miles from the proposed Forest Service recreation development we were unable to understand why this would not serve the need for such development in this area. We also cannot understand why the beauty and charm of the Shining Rock Ledge cannot be enjoyed visually by motorists driving or parking on the Parkway without defacing that same beauty with additional roads and another recreation area. It would seem to us to be in competition with the use that is already planned to be served by the Park Service.

A clause has been added to our resolution since we discussed it with you asking that the area be conserved with due regard for measures to protect against fires. If the existing roads were locked against motorized use by the public it would seem to us that the Wild Area could be maintained on each side of such a trailway. We also feel that the Wild Area should include the summit of Cold Mountain as originally contemplated, but should not preclude the later creation of a lake near Graveyard Flats as has been under consideration for a number of years.

It is hoped that our viewpoint, which we are sure is shared by many other Outing Clubs of this region, will be considered on a basis of the great need for a suitable high-elevation Wild Area to serve the vast population of the Eastern States.

Sincerely,

*Carlton W. ...*  
President  
CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

cc: Chief, U. S. Forest Service  
Washington, D. C.

Regional Forester, Region 8  
Atlanta 8, Georgia

January 24, 1962

Mr. Peter J. Hanlon, Supervisor  
North Carolina National Forests  
Post Office Box 731  
Asheville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Hanlon:

We herewith respectfully petition the U. S. Forest Service to establish a Wild Area in accordance with Regulation U-2 consisting of the 10,000 acre high altitude area presently designated by you for Recreation Use extending from Richland Balsam Mountain to Silvermine Bald on the Pisgah Ledge and thence North on Shining Rock Ridge to Cold Mountain.

The objectives in the Charter of the Carolina Mountain Club are to promote the enjoyment of the out-of-doors and to encourage the conservation of our natural scenery. We feel that a great opportunity is available now for the Forest Service to duplicate in the Eastern United States, near the center of a vast population, this small likeness of the present great Wilderness areas existing solely in the West. Where could a better location be East of the Mississippi River than the high mountainous area above the 5,000 foot elevation in Haywood County, North Carolina, with 6,540 foot Richland Balsam at one tip and 6,030 foot Cold Mountain at the other end? To serve the East as its small counterpart of western Wilderness Areas it would seem that there could be no better choice than this 10,000 acres already determined to be best suited of all Uses for recreation. The preservation of this spectacular country within a wilderness environment offers even greater possibilities of scenic beauty and natural charm to future generations of Americans as the disastrous burns of 1925 and later years heal over in protected natural regeneration.

Because of the great need for a Wild Area in the East and the exceptional qualifications of this particular tract for that purpose, we solicit the consideration of the Chief, U. S. Forest Service, toward immediate action in taking such

Mr. Peter J. Hanlon

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steps as are necessary to proclaim the Shining Rock Ledge-Richland Balsam country a Wild Area to be administered in the same manner as a Wilderness Area.

This letter has been unanimously endorsed by the Carolina Mountain Club Council at a meeting held on January 23, 1962.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edgar Lyngholm  
President  
CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

cc: Chief, U. S. Forest Service  
Washington, D. C.

Regional Forester  
Region 8  
Atlanta, Georgia