



CHEROKEE COUNTY

75 Peachtree Street
Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-5527

County Administration

Randy Wiggins, County Manager
Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board
Candy R. Anderson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Darryl R. Brown, County Attorney

Board of Commissioners

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman
Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman
Ben Adams, Member
Alan Bryant, Member
Mark Stiles, Member

State of North Carolina
County of Cherokee

PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND PARTICULARLY TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & THE US FOREST SERVICE.

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and, indeed, all the way to the Magna Carta of 1215 A.D. guarantees the right of the people to petition the government for redress of grievances of wrongs or injustices, including, but not limited to, constitutional property rights and financial wellbeing of the citizens of Cherokee County.

Whereas, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners is an elected body that represents the citizens and residents of Cherokee County, North Carolina, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of North Carolina.

Whereas, the established federal bureaucracy has, over the course of time and without offer of remedy to the people of Cherokee County, deprived the citizens of Cherokee County of their respective and collective rights to utilize property within the borders of the county.

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the over 25,000 residents of the County shows and petitions as follows:

Cherokee County, NC, is a small county in the Appalachian Mountains in the southwestern corner of North Carolina, consisting of 298,482 acres of which the USFS owns 92,637 acres (31.036%).

HIWASSEE LAKE

Lake Hiwassee was formed by the TVA's Hiwassee Dam. The TVA took more land than necessary to build the dam and fill the lake. Instead of giving the land back to the original owners, the TVA



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deeded the land to the USFS which now owns almost all the shoreline. The USFS actively restricts private and commercial development of the land. Lakefront land should be made available for private and commercial development such as private homes and commercial development to enhance the property tax base of Cherokee County and to support revenue generation for the benefit of the citizens of the county. TVA lakes in our neighboring counties allow such development putting our county at a disadvantage in terms of recreational facilities, property tax, and tourism dollars. There is no USFS campground in Cherokee County. A campground exists, but the USFS refuses to make the necessary investment to maintain the facility. As a result, the only campground on Lake Hiwassee in Cherokee County was closed by USFS.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Restrictions on logging must be loosened to allow a resurgence of the logging industry in our county. Our last sawmill has now closed. Logging is an important source of income for our citizens and provides tax income for the county. The forest service is not capable of maintaining roads and property it now owns. This limits citizen access to forest areas for recreation and hampers wildfire control. USFS has been guilty of "windshield management", i.e., managing its property from the cab of a USFS truck.

STATE PARK

USFS should relinquish portions of its land to the State of NC for the sole purpose of the development of a State Park in Cherokee County. The State has indicated that it might be willing to take this on should the acreage be provided by USFS.

WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS

All requests for Wilderness Designation must cease. The USFS cannot handle the land it now owns. Our citizens must have access to our forest land for all types of logging, recreation, hunting, and fishing.

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners petitions and demands action by the Executive Office of the President and its cabinet departments as well as the United States Congress, without delay, to address and grant the relief herein above stated by the Petitioners.

So submitted on this the 21st day of April 2025.

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, MD, Chairman
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
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Mark Stiles, Commissioner

Ben Adams, Commissioner

Alan Bryant, Commissioner

Cal Stiles, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Maria Hass, Clerk to the Board
Maria.hass@cherokee-county-nc.gov
75 Peachtree Street
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