

## Public Hearing On Green River

The N. C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and the Green River Local Advisory Committee will hold a pair of public hearings on management proposals for the Green River in Polk and Henderson counties.

Hearings will be held Monday, October 20, in the Henderson County Courthouse and Tuesday, October 21 in the Polk County Courthouse. Both hearings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Green River Local Advisory Committee has put forward four alternatives to be considered at the hearings:

Establish a coalition or corporation of landowners along the river to produce a management plan and develop and operate appropriate facilities.

Enter into a cooperative agreement between Duke Power Co., local landowners, appropriate counties and the state of North Carolina under which Duke Power Company would develop facilities and manage the area, the state would lend expertise in outdoor recreation and management, counties would provide road maintenance and law enforcement, and local citizens and river users would patrol the area and handle clean-up campaigns. The Green River Local Advisory Committee would serve as a liaison between landowners and users of the river.

State designation of a portion of the river as a natural or scenic river with appropriate access and facilities to be developed and managed by the state.

No action.

"Two separate things will be considered during the public hearings," said Mickey Lewis, chairman of the Green River Local Advisory Committee. "First, which of the management alternatives the public feels would be best for the Green River; and second, if the public favors designation as a natural or scenic river, we need public input regarding the conceptual plan for management of the river in that system," Lewis explained.

The advisory committee has been examining the Green River for several years. The segment which the committee considers

most appropriate for management as a scenic or natural river for public enjoyment and preservation runs approximately 16 miles from the Lake Summit powerhouse to Lake Adger.

The upper section of the river, from the powerhouse to the Interstate 26 bridge, is considered appropriate for a scenic river classification due to its largely undisturbed natural landscape, according to Kay Scott of the Division of Parks and Recreation, assigned to the advisory committee.

The middle section, between the bridge and Fishtop Falls, meets the requirements of the natural river classification as it travels through cliffs, over waterfalls and under rock outcrops, undisturbed by bridges or power lines.

The lower section, between the falls and Lake Adger, is considered appropriate for scenic river status. It parallels State Road 1151 and offers panoramic views of forests, farms and a rural church.

Lewis says that everyone interested in these alternatives should attend one of the hearings. Speakers will be asked to register, and if a large number of people wish to speak the hearing officer may limit oral presentations to five minutes. Presentations longer than three minutes should be written out and given to the hearing clerk.

Lewis also says that written comments can be sent to the hearings clerk until October 28. Address comments to Hearing Clerk — Green River, Division of Parks and Recreation, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N. C. 27611.

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For more information contact Kay Scott at 919-733-7795, or Mickey Lewis at 704/287-2281.

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