



# Badin Lake Road (FDR 597) Environmental Assessment



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## To Submit Comments

Comments on this project can be directed to:

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## Background and Purpose

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Uwharrie National Forest, is in the process of preparing an environmental document for the rehabilitation of Badin Lake Road (FDR 597). The project includes a 3.5 mile portion of the road from McLeans Creek Road (FDR 544) north to Shamrock Road (SR 1179). This project would improve the road to meet NCDOT standards by providing wider lanes, paving the roadway, and replacing the vented ford over Reeves Spring Branch with a bridge. Other drainage improvements would include rehabilitation or replacement of existing large culvert pipes under the road.

## Alternatives Analysis

Road improvement alternatives have been developed and analyzed based on existing accident data, roadway conditions, traffic volumes, and cultural and natural resources. Evaluations considered widening one or both sides of the road, realigning the road at sharp curves, providing a smoother grade where the road currently has steep grades, crossing Reeves Spring Branch, and providing adequate shoulders. Two primary build alternatives and a no action alternative were considered for this project. Alternative 1 would perform no actions to the existing road other than routine maintenance activities.

Alternative 2 is a build alternative with a 35 mile per hour (mph) design speed. Alternative 3 is a build alternative with a 30 mph design speed. A modified build alternative was developed from each primary build alternative in order to reduce impacts at specific locations. The study evaluated the impacts of the proposed road improvements on both the human environment (including property impacts, historic and archaeological sites, access, visitor use, and construction impacts) and the natural environment (including streams and wetlands, water quality, noise, air quality, natural habitats, and protected species).

## Preferred Alternative Selected

The alternative that is preferred for this project is Alternative 3 with Modifications. The modifications included changes to reduce impacts at a wetland area, at Reeves Spring Branch crossing, at Holts Cabin Picnic Area, and at the intersection with SR 1179. The alternative was designed to follow the existing alignment except where it was shifted in order to avoid or minimize impacts. This alternative has the least environmental impact: no impact to wetlands, impact to 651 linear feet of streams, and impact to 0.63 acres of floodplains. Sixteen private parcels of property would be impacted, with the total area to be acquired from private owners of 0.74 acres.

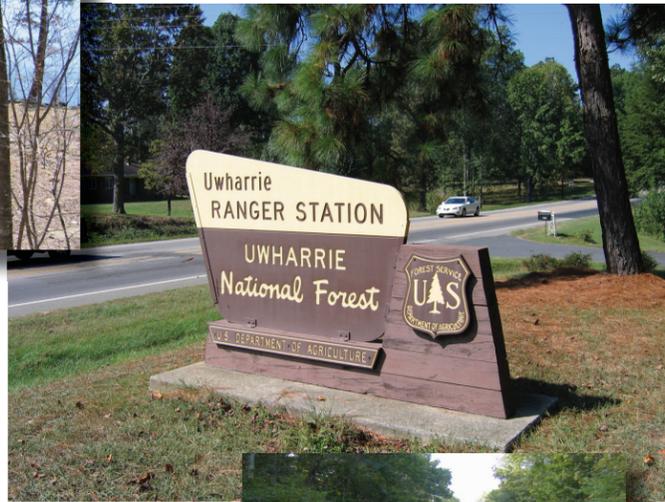
## Planning Process

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) is a procedural law that provides a process for agencies to make an analytical study of the impacts of alternatives. It also requires agencies to involve interested and affected members of the public. The planning process provides a framework for striking a balance between the use and preservation of natural and cultural resources. The NEPA process includes the following steps:

### NEPA Process

1. *Initial Data Gathering and Issue Identification (Spring 2006)* — Develop baseline resource data; hold public meetings if sufficient interest is shown
2. *Alternatives Development (Summer 2006)* — Develop a range of reasonable alternatives based on agency objectives and public interests
3. *Impact Analysis (Summer 2007)* — Analyze the human/environmental consequences; recommend the preferred alternative
4. *Environmental Assessment (Jan. 2009)* — Prepare, review, and release document for public comment; present results at public meetings
5. *Decision Document (Summer 2009)* — Prepare, review, and release document to public
6. *Final Design (Winter 2009)* — Develop final construction and right of way plans

We are here



**Environmental Document Completed**

The Environmental Assessment has been completed for the rehabilitation of Badin Lake Road (FDR 597). This report describes the purpose of the project, the alternatives analysis process and preferred alternative, existing resources, and anticipated impacts on those resources. The Environmental Assessment is available for review by the public. To view the document, you can:

- Download a copy from [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/uwharrie](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/uwharrie) --> Forest Service Announcements or from [www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov)
- Request a personal copy on CD by contacting Teresa Gresham by telephone at (919) 677-2194 or by email at [teresa.gresham@kimley-horn.com](mailto:teresa.gresham@kimley-horn.com).
- Visit the District Rangers' office at 789 Highway 24-27 in Troy or 160A Zillicoa Street in Asheville.
- Visit the Montgomery County Public Library at 215 West Main Street in Troy.



Comments on the Environmental Assessment can be submitted until March 25, 2009 to FHWA at the address on the reverse side of this newsletter.

