RESOLUTION

07-2025

Supporting the Designation of the Delayed Harvest Portion of

Wilson Creek as a Public Fishing Area

WHEREAS, Wilson Creek, a Wild and Scenic River is a popular outdoor recreational area in Caldwell County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Caldwell County residents and tourists visit Wilson Creek each year to enjoy fishing, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, and other recreational activities often leading to overpopulation of the river; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024, Wilson Creek was devastated by Hurricane Helene when large amounts of rainwater caused devastating flooding which washed away homes, displaced large boulders, eroded streambanks, destroyed travel trailers, and caused large trees to fall into the river at various spots; and

WHEREAS, due to the lasting impacts of Hurricane Helene, the United States Forest Service made the decision to close its 3.3 mile stretch of Wilson Creek to the public to mitigate possible hazards to the public and reconstruct this area for improved parking and recreational activities such as swimming; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that in the upcoming warm season Wilson Creek visitors will move upstream to the portion of Wilson Creek that is not regulated by the United States Forest Service and this migration will cause swimmers, kayakers, fishermen, and those picnicking to be clustered together in a small fraction of the river; and

WHEREAS, to eliminate the potential for overcrowding in the upper portion of Wilson Creek, the Caldwell County Commissioners see the benefit in designating the delayed harvest portion of Wilson Creek as a Public Fishing Area; and

WHEREAS, by designating the delayed harvest area as a Public Fishing Area, each recreational activity would have a designated space along the river and allow for individuals to enjoy recreational activities without impacting one another.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners supports the designation of the delayed harvest area of Wilson Creek to be a Public Fishing Area to promote the enjoyment and safety of individuals visiting the river.

Adopted this the 14 day of April 2025.

_____

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____

Abby Rich, NCCCC
County Clerk