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## Scenic route in Haywood, Transylvania gets national designation

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A route through Pisgah National Forest in Transylvania and Haywood counties has received federal designation as a national scenic byway.

The route has already been designated as the Forest Heritage Scenic Byway by the state Department of Transportation. The action announced Friday by the Federal Highway Administration could bring the byway increased recognition and traffic.

The 65-mile byway begins at the N.C. 280/U.S. 64/U.S. 276 intersection in Pisgah Forest, just northeast of Brevard. It runs north on U.S. 276 to cross underneath the Blue Ridge Parkway, where it enters Haywood County, then reaches the rural community of Bethel.

There it turns south on N.C. 215, climbs south back to the parkway then descends along the North Fork of the French Broad River to end at U.S. 64 outside Rosman.

There are 149 federally recognized scenic byways in the country, including four in North Carolina. North Carolina has 54 routes in its scenic byway program.

Another route along the Outer Banks also received federal recognition Friday.

More information about the state's scenic byways is available at [http://www.ncdot.org/doh/Operations/dp\\_chief\\_eng/roadside/scenic/](http://www.ncdot.org/doh/Operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/scenic/).

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