

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

**Don't forget: This is your National Forest! Become informed as to how it is being managed.**

### **Get a copy of the Croatan Plan**

In 2002, a new plan for the Croatan was finalized. This plan will be in effect for several more years. Fortunately for natural resources, the plan is based on a goal of restoration of natural or pre-settlement vegetation types, especially for the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem.

To request a copy of the Croatan Plan, go to the National Forests in North Carolina website ([www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/)) or write (National Forests in North Carolina, 160 A Zillicoa Street, Asheville, NC 28801) or call (828-257-4200). Copies may also be available at the Croatan District office on US 70 at Riverdale.

A five-year (through 2008) evaluation of the plan is now available. This can be obtained electronically by going to the website given above.

### **Get on the mailing list for Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for North Carolina**

By means of the above website, get on the mailing list (either postal service or e-mail) for Schedules of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for North Carolina National Forests. Also request that you get on the mailing list for individual projects proposed for the Croatan National Forest.

### **Use the Schedule of Proposed Actions and individual project descriptions to evaluate projects proposed for the Croatan National Forest**

Become knowledgeable about projects proposed for the Croatan. Go out and look at the sites where activities are proposed and communicate any concerns to the Forest Service (using contact information given in the project descriptions). Be aware that concerns should ideally be within the context of how the project promotes (or does not promote) the goals of the current Croatan Plan.

It should be stressed that the summation of what a project is intended to do and the current condition of a project area should not be accepted at face value. Many such summations are written early in the planning process and in some cases the information contained in them may be incomplete, or sometimes, actually misleading.