

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE DRS85428-RIz-26 (05/14)**

Short Title: State Parks System Additions.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Goss.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF BEAR PAW STATE NATURAL  
3 AREA AND YELLOW MOUNTAIN STATE NATURAL AREA TO THE STATE  
4 PARKS SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
5 REVIEW COMMISSION.

6       Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution states  
7 that it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve  
8 park, recreational, and scenic areas and, in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a  
9 part of the common heritage of this State its open lands and places of beauty; and

10       Whereas, the General Assembly enacted the State Parks Act in 1987,  
11 declaring that the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geological,  
12 biological, scenic, and recreational resources, and that such resources are part of the  
13 heritage of the people of the State to be preserved and managed by those people for their  
14 use and for the use of their visitors and descendants; and

15       Whereas, an area on the Avery and Watauga county line, including Hanging  
16 Rock Ridge and the headwaters of Dutch Creek, is known to be nationally significant  
17 for its excellent examples of the rare High Elevation Rocky Summit community type  
18 and other exemplary natural communities; and

19       Whereas, rare species found at the site include Heller's blazing star, Blue  
20 Ridge goldenrod, spreading avens, American speedwell, wretched sedge, Roan  
21 rattlesnakeroot, and golden tundra-moss; and

22       Whereas, this site was known by the Cherokee as Yonah-wayah, or Bear's  
23 Paw; and

24       Whereas, the Bear Paw State Natural Area has been found to possess  
25 biological resources of statewide significance; and

26       Whereas, the area known as Yellow Mountain in Avery and Mitchell  
27 Counties near the Roan Mountain massif is known to be nationally significant for its

1 Grassy Bald and Heath Bald natural community types, as well as its assemblage of other  
2 outstanding high-elevation natural communities; and

3       Whereas, the site supports dozens of rare plant and animal species, including  
4 the northern flying squirrel, the spruce-fir moss spider, Gray's lily, Roan Mountain  
5 bluet, and the rock gnome lichen; and

6       Whereas, the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area has been found to possess  
7 biological resources of statewide significance; and

8       Whereas, both of these natural areas are valuable for scientific research and  
9 education, and as examples of the diverse natural resources of North Carolina; Now,  
10 therefore,

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12       **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of  
13 Environment and Natural Resources to add Bear Paw State Natural Area to the State  
14 Parks System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

15       **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of  
16 Environment and Natural Resources to add Yellow Mountain State Natural Area to the  
17 State Parks System as provided in G.S. 113-44.14(b).

18       **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.