WNC VITALITY INDEX WORKSHOPS

The WNC Mountain Resources Commission will be sponsoring workshops throughout the western region to familiarize and train practitioners using the recently developed WNC Vitality Index. The index is a web-based tool that contains over 160 different data metrics that describe current information about environmental, demographic, economic, and built conditions in the western 27 counties of North Carolina. Attendees will learn, through hands-on training, to explore the different data sets, download graphs, charts, and maps, and use the report narrative in specific planning scenarios for particular areas. The index was funded through a partnership between the NC Mountain Resources Commission, U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, the UNC-Asheville National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center, the Asheville Board of Realtors, Duke Energy, The Community Foundation of WNC, and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The training will be conducted by staff from the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center. Each of these FREE workshops will run from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and lunch will be provided at no charge.

3.5 CM credits for certified planners have been applied for. SPACE IS LIMITED – so reserve your place now for the following dates by notifying the contact person for one of the following locations:

February 22, 2013	Land of Sky Regional Council, Asheville	lindag@landofsky.org
March 6, 2013	Southwestern Commission, Sylva	ryan@regiona.org
March 22, 2013	W. Piedmont Council of Govts., Hickory	john.marshall@wpcog.org
April 3, 2013	High Country Council of Govts., Boone	dcavanaugh@regiond.org
April 12, 2013	Isothermal Planning & Dev., Rutherfordton	kfuller@regionc.org

Still have questions? Contact Judy Francis, AICP at judy.francis@ncdenr.gov

To view the Index, go to www.wncvitalityindex.org