

Transportation would be provided by NPS or personal vehicle depending on the condition of the road.

3.1 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would forego any improvements to Lake View Road with the exception of routine maintenance. Under this alternative, there would be no changes to the existing conditions within the study area. No compensation would be provided in lieu of building the road. NPS would continue to provide transportation across Fontana Lake for annual cemetery visits and would maintain current amenities, policies, and practices of GSMNP.

A No-Action Alternative is required by NEPA, but does not meet the purpose of and need for the project. Because the No-Action Alternative would avoid any adverse environmental impacts, it provides a basis for comparing the potential impacts and benefits of the partial-build and build alternatives.

3.2 Monetary Settlement

The Monetary Settlement Alternative would provide monetary compensation to Swain County. No additional roadway would be constructed. NPS would continue to provide transportation across Fontana Lake for annual cemetery visits and would continue current amenities, policies, and practices of GSMNP.

The Swain County Commissioners passed a resolution on February 11, 2003, that stated the County would accept a monetary settlement of \$52 million to settle the 1943 Agreement. Bryson City passed a similar resolution on March 3, 2003. Copies of these resolutions are included in Appendix C. The amount of \$52 million was assumed for analysis purposes in the DEIS.

3.3 Partial-Build Corridors

3.3.1 Laurel Branch Picnic Area (Initial Concept)

The Laurel Branch Picnic Area would include a day-use area prior to reaching the existing tunnel. Lake View Road would end at the existing parking area east of the tunnel. A new, two-way, paved entrance/exit road near the parking area would provide access from Lake View Road to the picnic area. Outdoor facilities would include covered picnic tables, an interpretive trail, drinking fountains, and restrooms. Section 8.3 of this report details the refined concept for this alternative.