

Mountain counties likely to accept state ridge limits

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By The Associated Press

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With a Jan. 1 deadline facing them, it appears many of North Carolina's mountain counties will accept the state's ridge construction limits instead of adopting their own rules, officials say.

"Most of the counties are at a fish-or-cut-bait stage," said Alan Lang, a planner with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and

Community Development in Asheville.

Most of the counties in his western region apparently will not adopt local regulations, he said.

"If you simply allow the state ban to take effect, it simply prohibits," said Lang. "It's simply less of a hassle for them than enforcing their own regulations."

However, at least one county has passed its own ordinance.

The Avery County Board of Commissioners on Thursday passed an Avery County Mountain Ridge Protection Ordinance. The ordinance prohibits buildings taller than 40 feet or three stories on ridge tops.

The board also passed a companion ordinance prohibiting tall buildings in the valleys, except in special cases.

Meanwhile, officials in many of the 23 other mountain counties are mulling the law passed by the Legislature this year which prohibits buildings of more than 40 feet on ridges higher than 3,000 feet.

It also gives counties the option of passing its own ordinance if it wants stricter or more lenient limits than are in the state law.

In Burke County, commissioners on Tuesday rejected a planning board proposal to make the state prohibition apply to the county's peaks below 3,000 feet.



Happy Birthday

Dec. 11,

71 Raney Shoupe (Mom)
Dot, Evelyn, Louise, Bill
and Lois.

Grand Kids, Richard, Kathy, Jack, Ken, Ann,
Jamie, Beth, Mike, Jimmy and Ashley.