

\$5,000 FIDDLE FILM

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** National Park Service
- **FUMBLE:** \$5,000 documentary on Master Fiddler Roger Howell
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Increase oversight of the grant process



Photo: Roger Howell Documentary Project

Unnecessary federal spending comes in all shapes and sizes, but it all contributes to the massive national debt. This year the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill University in North Carolina was awarded a \$5,000 grant to produce a documentary film

For more information, please visit:

[Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: Grant Award Announcement](#)

[Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: About](#)

about Madison County Master Fiddler Roger Howell.²²⁷

The grant was funded through the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, part of the NPS National Heritage Partnership Programs. In 2003 Congress designated the Blue Ridge National Heritage area in recognition “of the unique character, culture, and natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains and foothills in Western North Carolina.” This legislation also formed a non-profit to oversee the federal funding, develop partnerships in the region, fundraise, and implement projects.²²⁸

RECOVERY

A \$5,000 grant, which is \$500 greater than the monthly income of the average American family, does not compare to the billions of dollars of frivolous spending by the federal government each year.²²⁹ However, it is not the federal government’s job to increase local tourism. With all due respect to Mr. Howell and his accomplishments, a documentary about a North Carolina fiddler does not benefit the U.S. national interest or the American public. There are surely interested people in North Carolina or fans of Mr. Howell who could have financed the documentary instead.