

CLAY COUNTY

P.O. Box 118 • HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28904 • (828) 389-0089

September 27, 2019

Mr. Andy Gaston
District Ranger
Tusquittee Ranger District
123 Woodland Drive
Murphy, NC 28906

Re: Buck Creek Project

Dear Mr. Gaston:

In our letter dated May 10, 2019 to you regarding the Buck Project, we commented on how such a Project would help in maintaining a regular and sustained flow of habitats across the identified forests and stand, thereby increasing the viability of indigenous plant species and animal population for which our region is renowned. However, the Forest Service is not doing enough to maintain a sustained flow of habitats because the Forest Service isn't doing as much as it could in the Buck area. If the Alternative G is approved, the Project will fall short of maximizing the sustainability of the flow of habitats and will inhibit full viability of indigenous plant species and animal population. Alternative G is not enough to sustain wildlife.

We also commented how this project would benefit the citizens of Clay County in terms of offering potential jobs and business-related opportunities, which in turn would enhance our local economy, and provide a renewable resource for our County that would be the source of more jobs in the future. Clay County is approximately 46% owned by United States Forest Service which provides no opportunity for jobs without timber sales. The Forest Service is not doing as much as it could to ensure that there are potential jobs and business-related opportunities for the citizens of Clay County.

Further, we object that the Forest Service is not doing as much as it could in maximizing opportunities to make wildlife habitat. Old growth does not provide food for wildlife. Only certain clear cuts as well as select cuts will allow sprouts to grow and provide the necessary food for various habitats. Making roads throughout is vital for preventing forest fires as well as fighting forest fires. The roads cut should be and can be reseeded to prevent erosion and this will provide food for the deer. These items need to be done by the Forest Service to maximize opportunities to make wildlife habitat.

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CHAIRMAN: DR. ROB PECK

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Our overall objection is the forest service is not doing as much as it could to address these above comments, objections and concerns.

We are in favor of making our forests environmentally sustainable and enabling them to continue to be an enjoyable source of recreation and aesthetic beauty for future generations. Alternative G only addresses a minimum of what the Forest Service needs to provide to ensure a healthy ecosystem for the entire wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rob Peck,
Chairman, Clay County Board of Commissioners

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