



Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Wildlife Resources

Ryan J. Brown
Executive Director

March 01, 2021

Eric Freels
Acting District Ranger
401 Oakwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Mr. Freels,

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Region II Wildlife Manager Matthew W. Overstreet and District Wildlife Biologist Sarah Peltier would like to express our unified support for the Pedlar River North Vegetation Project Draft EA. Upon review of the proposed actions and analysis documents, we support the management objectives put forth in this proposal and recommend the use of native grasses and forb seed mixtures where planned in openings.

DWR, recognizes the value and importance of forest management for maintenance of forest health, timber production and wildlife habitat development. The proposed EA is in accordance with our own forest management objectives currently implemented on our wildlife management areas. As wildlife managers, we promote the use of diverse logging practices to create early successional habitat. In addition, we support the use of prescribed burning for the management of healthy, sustainable forests and the benefits fire provides to wildlife populations.

Please let us know in Region II, if we can ever assist or help promote forest management efforts on our public lands.

Respectfully,

Region II Wildlife Manager

District Wildlife Biologist

Sarah K Peltier