



**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 Dan Lovelace would like to express our unified support for the Bobblets Gap Vegetation Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Upon review of the proposed actions and analysis documents, we support the management objectives put forth in the EA. Furthermore, we recommend using native grasses and forb seed mixtures for disturbed soil stabilization and would encourage the planting of American chestnut seedlings on log landings throughout the proposed project area.

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 promote continued forest management efforts on our public lands.

Respectfully,

Region II Wildlife Manager

District Wildlife Biologist

*W Dan Lovelace*