

From: [Chase Chaffin](#)
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Subject: [External Email]Pond mountain project
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Keith Kelly or Acting Ranger I am writing to show my support for the proposed early successional habitat management project on pond mountain. I would also like to ask that the project maximizes the ESH to 8% in 8.C instead of the proposed 6.2%. I would also like to see ESH maximized in the 4.A and 4.F of the area as well. It should also be noted that many stakeholders are in support of following the forest plan for early successional habitat creation on the north end of the CNF. Doing so would ensure proper forest management across the area. The creation of ESH is desperately needed at all elevations and all forest types, but especially for mid to high elevations. This is necessary to create sustainable habitat for a diversity of species that are in desperate need.

I would like to see that the treatments in the pond mountain project include groups that are 2-5 acres in size or larger. Less than 2 acres does not provide the much needed habitat that currently makes up for a very small percentage across the north end of the CNF. The vast majority of the north end is old growth forests that are unsuitable for many species of wildlife. We would like to see that change!

I would also like to see that the north end of the CNF follow suit of the South Cherokee in creating a programmatic or landscape EA for restoration treatments that focuses on the habitat needs of mid to high elevation birds that are associated with early seral habitats.

I hope that treatments within this project are maximized and that the project is a success. I would like to see ESH and healthy, diverse forests across the entire area of the CNF. This is desperately needed to maintain the necessary habitat needs of a multitude of species.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this project proposal as well as others.

Chase Chaffin



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