

**From:** [JW Richards](#)  
**To:** [FS-comments-southern-chokeee-watauga](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Pond Mountain Project  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2023 1:50:32 PM

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Mr. Keith Kelly,

I strongly support the actions within the proposed Pond Mountain project. The implementation of Early Successional Habitat management is very much needed at all elevations (especially at higher elevations) and forest types in the Cherokee National Forest to increase forest diversity.

I urge you to utilize active forest management to create 8% early successional forest in management prescription 8.C (rather than the proposed 6.2%) and maximize the amount of early successional habitat allowed in management prescription 4.A and 4.F as outlined as objectives in the Forest Plan.

In addition, please ensure that the treatments in the Pond Mountain project include groups that are 2-5 acres and larger in size. Treatments less than 2 acres in size are not as effective in creating the diversity of habitat that is so lacking on the North End of the Cherokee.

I also request that the North End of the CNF follow suit of the South Cherokee and create a programmatic or landscape scale EA for restoration treatments that address habitat needs for mid to to high elevation wildlife species associated with early seral habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project,  
Jeff Richards