

From: [Jimus888 Davidson](#)
To: [FS-comments-southern-chokeee-watauga](#)
Subject: [External Email]Pond Mountain Project (63431) comment
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 2:34:56 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As someone who visits and values the area for recreation, I'm very concerned about the proposed Pond Mountain timber sale and the cutting and pesticide application that would occur right next to a wilderness area. There is no way that these activities can be done without negatively affecting the wilderness area, and therefore they should be prohibited.

- There should NOT be commercial logging along the Lower Rough Ridge (Units 12 and 13). As part of the area that includes Firescald Falls and Frog Level, this has high scenic and recreation values. There are also some steep slopes in some of the areas to be logged that make this a high-risk area for erosion and loss of soil and water quality. These stands are largely recovering oak-hickory forests that should be allowed to develop and diversify through natural processes.
- Regardless of whether logging takes place or not, the agency should promote high biodiversity values: retaining potential snags and denning trees, retaining and promoting trees that have had less focus from the agency in the past: walnut, hickories, cherry, basswood, and more.
- Some areas, like Unit 4, have a significant recovering hemlock component. Hemlock has been under tremendous decline in the last 20 years from the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid. These areas should be excluded from commercial logging.
- This proposal will allow repeat treatments of herbicides (Imazapyr and Glyphosate) both in the general forest, and along the Laurel Fork corridor. The agency should seek alternatives to herbiciding up to 2500 acres of this analysis area which is right next to a river and pristine wilderness area.
- The analysis of this project should consider the importance of recreation to this area. This is a well-known area for hiking, fishing, backpacking, photography, and more.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Thank you,
James Davidson

James Davidson

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