

From: [Willie Dodson](#)
To: [FS-comments-southern-chokeee-watauga](#)
Subject: [External Email]comments on proposed Pond Mountain Project
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Mr. Kelley,

I am a NC resident and TN property-owner. I recreate frequently throughout the year in the Cherokee National Forest of East Tennessee. I am writing to express concern about the Pond Mountain Project.

- 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.
- 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.

Thanks for considering my concerns. If you would, please respond to these concerns via email.

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Willie Dodson
Appalachian Voices
Central Appalachian Field Coordinator


