

**From:** [Elizabeth Benham](#)  
**To:** [FS-comments-southern-chokeee-watauga](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Opposition to Pond Mountain Timber Sale Proposal in Cherokee National Forest  
**Date:** Saturday, February 18, 2023 11:06:53 AM

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I am writing in regards to the proposed timber sale in the Pond Mountain area of the Cherokee National Forest. As someone who values the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities this area provides, I urge you to reconsider the proposal and take into account the potential negative impacts on the environment and community.

Specifically, I urge you to exclude Lower Rough Ridge (Units 12 and 13) from commercial logging due to its high scenic and recreation values, as well as the risk of erosion and loss of soil and water quality on the steep slopes. Furthermore, I encourage the agency to prioritize high biodiversity values by retaining potential snags and denning trees, as well as promoting less focused-on trees such as walnut, hickories, cherry, basswood, and more.

In addition, I ask that you exclude areas with significant recovering hemlock components, such as Unit 4, from commercial logging. The decline of hemlock due to invasive species such as the hemlock wooly adelgid is a major concern that must be addressed.

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the potential use of herbicides (Imazapyr and Glyphosate) in the general forest and along the Laurel Fork corridor. I strongly urge the agency to seek alternatives to herbiciding up to 2500 acres of this analysis area, and to consider the importance of recreation to this area, which is well-known for hiking, fishing, backpacking, photography, and more.

Thank you for considering my concerns and taking action to protect the Pond Mountain area for future generations.