Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2019 4:00:00 AM
First name: Allison
Last name: Lay
Organization: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Title: Environmental Engineer
Comments: Ms. Davalos,

Please find attached VMRC's comments on the Wildlife habitat and viewshed management proposal for the High Knob Observation Tower project in Wise County, Virginia. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best,

Allison Lay

Environmental Engineer

Attachment text:

Dear Ms. Davalos:

This will respond to the request for comments regarding the wildlife habitat and viewshed management proposal for the High Knob Observation Tower Project, prepared by the USDA Forest Service, on behalf of Clinch Ranger District. Specifically, the Clinch Ranger District has proposed to remove trees on approximately 8 acres surrounding the High Knob Observation Tower, and create pollinator habitat in Wise County, Virginia. We reviewed the provided project documents and found the proposed project is outside the jurisdictional areas of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and will not require a permit from this agency.

Please be advised that the VMRC, pursuant to [sect]28.2-1200 et seq of the Code of Virginia, has jurisdiction over any encroachments in, on, or over the beds of the bays, ocean, rivers, streams, or creeks which are the property of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, if any portion of the subject project involves any encroachments channelward of ordinary high water along non-tidal, natural rivers and streams with a drainage area greater than 5-square miles, a permit may be required from our agency. Any jurisdictional impacts will be reviewed by the VMRC during the JPA process. Should the proposed project change, a new review by this agency may be required relative to these jurisdictional areas. If you have any questions please contact me at (757) 247- 2276 or by email at jeff.madden@mrc.virginia.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Madden

Environmental Engineer, Habitat Management