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First name: Jared

Last name: Simpson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mr. John Morgan, District Ranger

Cheat Potomac Ranger District

2499 North Fork Highway

Petersburg, WV 26847

Subject : Upper Cheat River Project

Mr. Morgan

In your plan for the Upper Cheat River Project, annual Harvests of around 1% per year seems lacking in the in the overall management of the area. I am in support of the USFS plans to increase harvesting in order to become a more diversified forest for many different uses, however 1+/- % per year seems insignificant.

Secondly, the methods in which the proposed harvesting is to be conducted, (mostly Helicopter, with some cable yarding sales) will lead to little benefit to the local industry and will lead to a low percentage of actual sales rates. I believe these will mostly [ldquo]no sale[rdquo], which will lead to a significant number of costly [ldquo]re-Ads[rdquo], ultimately ending up as no sales. As a 23-year Forestry professional, I have experienced both Helicopter and Cable Yarding units, and these methods simply add little to the industry and local economies.

In summary, the forest will fall further and further behind from a management standpoint at the low proposed rates of harvest and we as an industry need to stick to the proven conventional logging practices the State has been known for. Conventional Logging has been proven to protect the land and provide valuable revenue to the local communities.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jared M. Simpson, WV RPF 538, MD RPF 680