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First name: Larry

Last name: Hayes

Organization: Harry B. Hayes Lumber, Inc.

Title: President

Comments: 07/29/21

Dear Mr. Morgan,

I am a native of West Virginia and have been a second generation logger and sawmill owner/operator for 40 years. I am writing to comment on the Upper Cheat Project Plan.

I was pleased to see the 10 year schedule for managing this portion of the National Forest. However, I am concerned with only harvesting 1% of the project area on an annual basis. The rate of harvest should be increased in order to change the overall stand structure and to balance the age class. My biggest concern is the harvesting methods. Helicopter logging compromises 54% and cable yarding 15% of the methods. Both methods have extremely high costs which take away value from the timber sales and the general public. Also, the local logging force misses out on these timber sales because the helicopter crews and cutters are from the West Coast.

Again, I am glad to see a 10 Year plan for the Upper Cheat Portion of the Monongahela National Forest but hope that you will increase harvest rate and gear the harvesting methods to a more conventional ground logging method.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Hayes Lumber, Inc.

Larry Hayes, President