

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/11/2022 5:00:00 AM

First name: Jeff

Last name: Johnson

Organization: Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council, Nantahala District

Title:

Comments: Dear Andrew Gaston, District Ranger, Cheoah/Tusquitee Ranger District:

Reference the Crossover Project. The Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council supports Alternative B. In supporting Alternative B we must note that that the area needs more regeneration for future mast production and early successional habitat. Peak mast production in oaks occurs between age 40-80 years old. The Analysis area currently has only about 15% of the area in the 40-80yr old age classes. In addition, there is only approximately 10% in age classes 1-40. Alternative B proposes a mere 7-8% of the area to be regenerated.

While we strongly support Alternative B, we hope that future projects will propose more regeneration in relation to the size of the area being considered when existing regeneration is lacking.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council, Nantahala Chapter

David Whitmire

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council, President