

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/12/2019 5:31:24 PM
First name: Sandi
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Organization: Mount Rogers NRA Trail Advocates' Coalition
Title: Public Lands Liaison
Comments: June 12, 2019

Mr. Barry K. Garten?????????
Area Ranger, Region 8?????????
Southern Region?????????
George Washington/Jefferson National Forest/Mount Rogers NRA??????
3714 Highway 16

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Shelby Williams, Project Leader
1700 Park Avenue, SW
Norton, VA 24273

Subject: Mount Rogers NRA Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project

Dear Ranger Garten and Project Leader Williams;

We appreciate you and your staff meeting with us recently to discuss your up-coming Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project and we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in your forest management plan decisions.

The Mount Rogers NRA Trail Advocates' Coalition understands the need to maintain our National Forest and wish to work in concert with you to ensure the forest remains healthy so that we all can continue to enjoy the beauty it provides. After studying your May 16th proposed project plan we have the following comments and questions to submit for your consideration:

* Project Location: outline

More information needed before comment:

Many of the targeted harvest areas (units) are adjacent to or are in the immediate vicinity of popular horse trails. How many units will be harvested simultaneously? Does your Vegetation Project allow for a scenic buffer of some distance between the trails and the harvesting area? Assuming you will be using existing historic logging roads during the harvesting, will those logging roads be left accessible afterwards since those historic roads are currently being used by trail riders? Your May 16th letter indicates management actions will be planned over the next 1 to 5 year; will harvesting be conducted during this time? Has thought been given to state road conditions and the impact of logging trucks on same? Have you considered the impact of your project on the local economy?

* Management Direction:

More information needed before comment:

Would it be possible to review the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan as well as the referenced management prescriptions?

* Purpose and Need:

More information needed before comment:

We would like to better understand your objectives and goals as they pertain to "existing condition and desired condition" and the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan.

* Create and enhance habitat:

More information needed before comment:?

The projected harvest areas appear to be mainly in populated areas of the NRA and we question how these specific areas will help to attain your stated goals more so than targeting areas deeper in the forest.

* Sustain forest and ecosystem health:

More information needed before comment:

What do you attribute the infestations and future spread of non-native, invasive plants to?

* Offer wood products to contribute to the local market:

More information needed before comment:

Will any and all proceeds generated from this Ewing Mountain Vegetation Plan remain in and benefit the management of the Mount Rogers NRA solely?

Could we have a copy of your referenced "Forest Plan"?

The Board and Members of the Coalition appreciate the opportunity to provide comments during this decision making process and we look forward to a continued working relationship with you.

Sincerely,

Mount Rogers NRA Trail Advocates' Coalition
1120 Dry Road
Speedwell, VA 24374