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First name: Candace

Last name: Lansford

Organization: BCH SWVA

Title: President

Comments: The members of BCH of SWVA wish to go on record that we recognize and appreciate the conditions outlined in the scoping letter as a result of lack of attention and mismanagement over the last few decades. We also agree with the proposed actions as outlined and support the efforts to improve habitat and overall health of the forest. However, we also wish to note that we have seen the results of previous Forest Service efforts involving logging operations which resulted in clear cutting which left the forest in an ugly mess of downed trees and limbs and new growth of mostly scrub oaks. I cite the area near the Moore Trail which we have brought up in our previous meetings. One of the areas we feel strongly about is the need and desire to leave a buffer along existing trails to preserve the natural beauty of those areas. Also, we feel it is important to leave a buffer where the National Forest adjoins private property. Both of these areas were addressed in the discussion between Sandy Stephenson and Shelby Williams. We just wish to reiterate our concern and support for the stated position as outlined in Sandy's summary of that discussion.

We would like to formally request a meeting between the Forest Service and the officers the BCH of SWVA, the Mount Rogers NRA Trail Advocates' Coalition, and the BCH of the Virginia Highlands. We feel that it is necessary to discuss and clarify some of the proposed actions so that we can properly communicate with our members.