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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project. I'm very supportive of large landscape level projects on the national forest that include numerous resource development and enhancement activities. The proposed actions listed in the scoping notice should improve habitat diversity and forest health and I support the different projects proposed.

However, I would like to make the following comment. At the August 22, 2019 public meeting the FS noted there would be 1,259 acres of regeneration harvesting done in this area. The September 15, 2017 scoping identified 1,470 acres to be regenerated. I assume the decrease in acres is due to objection to some harvest units and the FS deciding to drop portions or all of some units. This defeats the value of large landscape projects when considering the need to increase young forest habitat across a mature forest landscape. I would like to recommend the FS consider two options: 1) add additional units to proposed timber harvest areas or add additional timber harvest areas, and 2) increase the size of regeneration harvest units within the proposed timber harvest areas. As you are aware many forest wildlife species are in serious population declines due to lack of early successional/young forest habitat on the GWNF. There needs to be a concerted effort to increase this habitat component on the forest for these species as well as for forest health and diversity.

Also, many sportsmen (hunters and fishermen) utilize roads and logging roads to access the GWNF to pursue their sport. Consideration and consultation with these user groups should be included before final decisions to decommission roads are made.

The proposed increase in forest/wildlife openings will be a great benefit for many wildlife species that utilize this type of habitat to meet their annual habitat requirements.

Lastly, I support the increase in prescribed burning proposed in this project area. Again it appears that the acres have decreased from the scoping notice figures. Please consider optimizing the acres for prescribed burning but not at the expense of reducing acres designated for timber harvesting. These 2 practices don't create the same habitat conditions and should have minimal overlap.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comments. Al Bourgeois