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Comments: I have hunted for all small and large game in the north GA mountains for 25 years. Squirrel, turkey, and deer populations are usually so low I will not harvest them. Mast crops can go from bountiful one year to absolutely none to extremely low mast the next 3 years. These woods just can't support and maintain anything but low and sporadic wildlife concentrations. I can spend all day covering several miles for multiple hunts and not hear or see even a squirrel. Sad. It's a hardwood desert, largely devoid of wildlife except woodpeckers and some bears (that over last 6 years I don't see near the bear sign or number of bears that I used too).

Forest is pretty to look at, but that's about it. I'm glad to see it being finally recognized after all these years. Just this year no does could be killed in our 2019 Regulations. Doesn't really matter... nobody hunts anymore up there. I rarely see other hunters (they learn quickly your lucky to even see a tweety bird). I'm hopeful that new forest management can maintain aesthetics and at the sad time improve habitat...and this doesn't turn into widespread ugly clear cutting.

I also noticed the forest service increasing it's blocking of access to many older forest roads (seemed to ramp up during Obama presidency). That seems shortsighted. If people can't access it, then they will forget about it and not support it. Scaring? That's a poor excuse, Buffalo traces are still visible in Kentucky after 250 years. Let the 4wd folks have access but do concur the ATVs cannot be trusted to not just go rampant everywhere.

Chestnut trees are gone. These hardwood deserts just can't provide. I wish at least remote mountain tops were frequently burned to help out.

Off the soapbox. Thanks.