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First name: Douglas Last name: Gerlach Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support this project. Early successional habitat is the single most lacking habitat type in the southern Appalachian's, and is an extremely important contributor to biodiversity of all native fauna and flora in the region. Forest preservation and exclusion of timber harvest and suppression of prescribed fire has led to massive areas of closed canopy forests that equate to a biological desert when compared to the early and mid successional habitats that preceded them.