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Comments: It is a huge leap from Bud Mayfields simple chainsaw release of mid-story hemlocks to using commercial timber sale to implement the treatment on a larger scale. All of Mayfield's sites in GA were upland sites. Most of what we are seeking to preserve is riparian, often with steep slopes. Hemlocks will need to be protected from damage during felling and skidding. Remember that our most effective HWA predators spends a significant part of its life in the soil. Soil disturbance has to be minimized.

This is an activity which needs to proceed cautiously and is going to be useful on a very few appropriate sites. We have a fair amount of upland/ up-slope hemlock, but it will be vulnerable to all the burning you wish to do.

We need to build on what nature has done at Boggs Creek and other similar sites cutting the trees encroaching on the hemlocks, but that is not a commercial project.

On another front. The smooth coneflower site in Habersham County could be the focus of an open canopy woodland habitat restoration. There are other areas nearby that could be treated similarly. Sheep Knob in Compartment 245 in particular.