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Comments: Ranger Lauren Stull,

The Virginia Bear Hunters Association definitely supports the Piney Mountain Project. Previous forest plans have four objectives which are to be used to measure how well management actions achieve the goals and desired conditions for forest management. These four primary objectives are:

1. Maintain a minimum of ten percent of the prescription area in early successional forest habitat.
2. Maintain a minimum of ten percent of the area in late-successional or oldgrowth forest conditions.
3. Maintain up to 2 percent in early successional foresthabitat conditions in openings 2 to 5 acres in size.
4. Maintain an open road density at or below 1.5 miles per square mile of National Forest System roads.

The National Forest needs work done responsibly to promote the above goals but seems to be falling further behind in actual work being done. Anything that can be done to accomplish and promote the health and welfare of the forests we have been blessed with has the VBHA's continued support and wishes for success.

Once again we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this process and best regards.

Richard Sprinkle

VBHA advisor