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Title:

Comments:

I, along with the VBHA, totally support the Sandy Ridge Project. It certainly shows in depth conscientious research to support the objectives needed to maintain a healthy forest. . I truly believe we need more active supervision of our Natural Forests. Anyone that spends much time in the NF now, and has past experience with how it used to be as far as new growth and wildlife habitat and wildlife numbers is sure to notice the decline we are experiencing today. The forests are getting past the mature stage.. I support much more responsible proactive management in our National Forests which include controlled burns and timber harvest as long as done reasonably and under supervision. I support the wildlife clearings, I think there needs to be more clearings to promote new growth in our forests, these are the areas that provide the most new crops of both soft and hard mast plus areas for wildlife to raise their young.

As far as timber harvest, I am for that as long as it is done in a manner that allows for natural forest regeneration and proper use of harvested material.

. Natural regeneration will provide both hard and soft mast that bear, deer, turkey, grouse and any species we care to mention requires. It will also provide areas for the young to be born and sheltered in. If we can attract game animals, particularly bears, to the mountains and off the lowlands it will eliminate so many bears from being killed as nuisance animals when they are mostly just wanting something to eat to keep from going hungry. Thank you for allowing the VBHA to participate in this process.

Richard Sprinkle, VBHA advisor