

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/6/2020 11:00:25 AM

First name: Norman

Last name: Sykora

Organization: Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club

Title: Assistant Supervisor of Trails

Comments: On September 28, the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club (NBATC) conducted a field visual analysis of Harvest Unit 41 of the North Pedlar River Vegetative Regenerative Project. A further analysis was done by GIS mapping. The field analysis was done from three different locations on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) for possible physical and/or visual impacts on the A.T. Both analyses revealed that there is a clear visual impact to the A.T. This occurs where the A.T. is east of the Lynchburg Reservoir and toward the northern end almost directly across from the eastern side of unit 41. The sight line is through only a few trees with the rest over the open reservoir. NBATC is therefore asking that at the very least the east facing portion of unit 41 be removed from the North Pedlar River project so as to eliminate any negative visual impact to hikers and visitors along the A.T. This would be approximately 15 acres or ½ of the unit.

NBATC also wish to express concern that care and caution is taken during any prescribed burn. The Brown Mt. Creek shelter, privy, and a nearby foot bridge is immediately to the east of the creek and the eastern boundary of the burn area. Another damaged foot bridge is one mile south along the A.T. but will be replaced and back in use in a few years.

NBATC would like for mitigation of any hazard trees that may occur along the A.T. and near any structures that may be the result of a prescribed burn.

NBATC would like to thank the USFS for their cooperation in dealing with these concerns of the NBATC.

Norman J. Sykora

Assistant Supervisor of Trails