Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/27/2021 3:18:49 PM
First name: Richard
Last name: Sprinkle
Organization: Virginia Bear Hunters Association
Title:
Comments: Ranger Freels,
I personally, and also with the Virginia Bear Hunters Association's backing, ask you to initiate this management project to restore the health of America's federally-owned forests in this strategic area.. This proposed project land is also one I am personally familiar with and have hunted on for over twenty years.
This well thought out and researched project gives the Forest Service the ability to :
1. Reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, insect infestation and disease, and to protect municipal watersheds.
2. Remove mature timber which creates revenue to replant, manage, and rehabilitate the woodlands and also help local economies.
3.Create the young and mixed-age diverse forest habitat to support all wildlife and to incentivize and fast-track forest projects developed by local collaboratives, usually consisting of conservationists, sportsmen and women including hunters, fishermen and women, hikers, bikers, wildlife and bird watchers and photographers, timber industry and local elected officials.
With all of the acres of National Forest in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests adjoining Roanoke, Botetourt and the surrounding counties, I think it is extremely important that forest management that has been ignored for years be put back on track to restore the health of the forests we have been blessed with.
Thank you for the opportunity to participate. Best of luck with this extremely worthwhile project.
Respectfully,
Richard Sprinkle, Advisory
Virginia Bear Hunters Association