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First name: Curtis & Renee
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: May 26, 2021

USDA Forest Service
Barry K. Garter, Area Ranger

RE: Mount Rogers NRS Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project

Our home is located in the Collins Cove community, which is "inbound" of the Jefferson National Forest and within the Ewing Mountain proposed Vegetation Project.

We have the following comments concerning this proposed project:

*Collins Cove Road, State Route #643 is the only road allowing access and egress for residents of the Collins Cove Community. Collins Cove Road is a gravel road and a very narrow single lane road. Any operations will greatly impact the residents on a daily bases. We strongly recommend that the Forest Service communicate any daily operations with the residents. A transportation plan needs to be in place for the logging operations and movement of vehicles and equipment to avoid any conflicts with residents using the road on a daily bases.

*Damage to private, County and State roads - with the usage of heavy equipment on the road system, what actions will the Forest Service take to operations causing damage to the road system?

*We would recommend a meeting with the residents and the Forest Service as this project moves forward, so that residents have a clear understanding of the type's of operations being conducted.

*Forest Service shall provided updated information and notifications to property owners on any actions that will be taking place within the scope of this proposed project, such as timbering, clearing, chemical or burn treatments

*More detailed map showing proposed projects - indicating type of operations and timeframes.

*Affect of proposed projects on designated trails within the project area; i.e. will projects close any of the designated trails while being done, affect on designated trails (damage) and maintaining trail aesthetics.
*Request that Forest Service maintain buffers to protect the trails where the project areas cross's designated trails.

*Income from Timber Sales should be returned to the Mount Rogers NRA for future projects. Some of the designated trail systems are in dire need of improvement.

Please include us with any information concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Curtis and Renée Stilwell