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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Potts Creek Vegetation Management EA #52953.

As a resident of the Potts Creek area, I am extremely pleased with the Forest Service's actions to seek comment on this plan. Its citizen involvement that is the cornerstone of this program.

The management plan as presented is extensive and appears to be a multi-year project that will require continuous management by the Forest Service. As the majority of work appears to be planned around securing contractor, it is imperative that the Forest Service be onsite and available throughout the process. With past projects, the residents have seen the Forest Service at the planning stages and in the beginning of the project, but they disappear as the projects move forward.

The use of the Potts Creek "Sweet Road" also needs to be discussed. This road is a recreation "highway" for residents and visitors to the Virginia Highlands. This type of logging and the transportation of those products take a considerable toll on mountain roads. I certainly hope the Forest Service is committing to restoring the road and repairing any damage that occurs over the duration of this project. I would also ask that citizen access to the area not be restricted during this project (with the exception being any safety issues identified with the logging and controlled burns).

I am particularly pleased with the project's plan on the regeneration of canopy trees and the significant inclusion of Red/Chestnut/White Oak trees. I would also suggest that the Forest Service also consider supporting the Hickory Trees as part of their plan. On my property, I find the Hickories to be a center piece of the small game's ability to survive the Winter Seasons.