Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 10:35:38 PM First name: Bruce Last name: Whelchel Organization: Title:

Comments: I would like to ask you to better take into account old growth forests in your management plans, including the plan for Pisgah and upcoming plan for nantahala forests. I use the old growth forests for hiking. But, most importantly, old growth is an incredible way to curb climate change as these forests have such a large amount of stored carbon. On top of that, many of our mammals and birds rely on the old growth forests.

Thank you for listening to my comment.