Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:24:21 PM First name: Chris Last name: Bolgiano Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live on the border of the George Washington National Forest, largest in the East, and over the last 40 years i have seen wasteful projects including logging of mature forests with excellent potential for old growth, clearing out of areas deemed full of invasives, only to see nothing further done and invasives flooding back in, and other stupidity of managers who must show they "manage" to keep their jobs The loss of biodiversity has also been obvious, much of it due to the increase of deer that find excessive forage in the areas that have been cut, either by shelterwood cutting, which is so close to clearcutting it might as well be, or the seed tree method, which is even closer to clear cutting. There has also been an enormous increase in nonnative Japanese stilt grass and other nonnative vegetation - some of it even planted by the USFS. Short term economic gain cannot compete against long term sustainability unless the U.S. Forest Service adopts a policy of protecting stands of mature, mast producing trees to allow them to develop into old growth, and such stands should form half of the entire national forest for the sake of biodiversity that cannot survive in human-dominated landscapes.