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Comments: I do not oppose logging on principle to control forest overgrowth and fire. However, with both the Forest Plan and this Southside Timber Project, Forest Service leaders have put commercial logging first and ignored federal law and overwhelming public support for conserving our most beloved natural areas and landscapes. Fixing these problems would have only removed 50 acres from over 300 acres of logging. They have even ignored concerns from the agency's own scientists about the impact logging could have on the already imperiled Blue Ridge lineage of the green salamander. And don't be fooled by the Forest Service's claims that the project will benefit the Golden-Winged Warbler.

There are one million acres in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. That's plenty of land to accommodate sustainable logging practices and create new young forest habitat for deer and grouse without destroying an area that the Forest Service itself has deemed an 'exceptional ecological community' with 'features that are not found anywhere else in [...] the Eastern United States.'

Please do not destroy the natural beauty of this area.