

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 10:24:42 AM

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Comments: I am a retired state wildlife biologist that worked 40 years on wildlife conservation in Virginia and West Virginia. I have a Master's degree in Wildlife Conservation. I am more concerned about the significant decline in many wildlife species that are dependent on early forest succession habitats rather than old growth forests. There are a host of wildlife species that are threatened or endangered whose future depends on active forest management rather than climax old forest ecosystems. I am concerned that this proposal would override existing forest plans and negatively influence the active management of National Forest lands in a manner that would lessen the planned forest management that would otherwise result in diverse habitats and ecosystems that are critical to these threatened wildlife. I am utmost concerned with the language includes the provision for recruitment of old age forests. It has been my experience that our National Forests are aging under existing forest management plans and this proposal will undoubtedly contribute further to over mature forest conditions and further declines in many threatened wildlife populations. The National Forests I am most familiar with (GW/Jeff. Mon) have not been able to meet their Plan Forest Management Goals because of a host of variables. I do not foresee those circumstances changing in the future. This proposal only adds another variable for USFS Managers to address and will likely be the source of more appeals to future management proposals. If approved, this proposal would undoubtedly add to Forest conditions that will ensure the continued decline in threatened wildlife that are dependent on early succession forests. After all, weren't these lands purchased for management of sustainable forest products rather than preservation (National Parks)? In short, i do not object to the continued preservation of existing old growth stands on NF lands in the Mid-Atlantic Region. They are limited in size and exist only because of extenuating environmental circumstances that have precluded their harvest. I do object however, to any further complication of rules and regulations that would further preclude/complicate sound forest management that is necessary to ensure diverse, balanced ecosystems. My concern is today's threatened wildlife do not become tomorrow's endangered or extinct wildlife.