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Comments: After careful review of actions planned for the TGIRP I would like to express my support for moving forward on the project as planned. I was specifically encouraged by plans to improve timber quality in overstocked areas, diversifying forest structure (which should improve niche richness and benefit biodiversity), and climate adaptation management like planting (projected) future climate adapted trees and favoring oak through weeding and potentially fire (which I am especially in favor of). The current plan meets the multiple use goals of the USFS and if carried out properly should improve the forest in both ecological and economic terms.

It is and, in my professional opinion, should remain the responsibility of the USFS to continue to produce wood products, and make available to the public NTFPs, while stewarding the recreational and ecological value of our federal lands. This plan will produce timber to help meet the national and global demand for building, stationary, and other timber products without serious long term negative effects on the landscape. Proposed actions will also likely result in increased production of berries and other non-timber forest products for public use.

I urge you to move forward with plans to implement the actions described in Appendix C and to employ the use of fire as a tool on the landscape in a way that honors the original stewards of this land. If fire management is to occur I urge the staff of GMNF to engage regional tribal leadership to incorporate indigenous knowledge into this management.

Jake Stever - CF1361 (CT)