Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2024 8:31:56 AM
First name: Daniel
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Greetings,

I am a botanist and nature-enthusiast, and life-long resident of North Carolina. I appreciate the sentiment and forethought put forth in the proposal and I also have concerns about specific techniques named to achieve the goals. In particular the TNC recommendations express skepticism about specific herbicides (triclopyr and glyphosate), yet there is no clear recommendation not to use these chemicals, in addition there is a recommendation for extensive study and tracking of impacts on aquatic ecosystems of herbicide-based non-ground disturbance release methods yet there is no clear accountability process to ensure that this work will be done. I appreciate the intention, but it is the overall impact on sensitive species, of plant, animal and fungi that leaves me feeling concerned.

In regards to mechanical (ground-disturbing) techniques for release of spruce, have you considered exclusive use of horse-logging teams? I am aware that these are less common in the timber industry, yet I know that they exist and could potentially be called upon for assistance. It seems to me that the reduced impact and additional benefit of encouraging an old-time skill could be doubly beneficial to the future management of the national forests.

Thank you for considering my comment,

Daniel Macon Foscue, Weaverville, NC