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Comments: I am writing to express reservations about the GAP project in the 7-Mile Ridge area of Yancey County. I am definitely in favor of responsible forest management, and understand the importance of mediating risk for wildfire. I understand that reducing risk includes methods such as fuel removal through commercial and non-commercial logging as well as using controlled burns.

The 954 acres proposed for commercial and non-commercial logging in the 7-Mile Ridge area includes several areas of rich cove habitat as well as a very rare and unusual Red Spruce bog. The proposal does not give adequate detail about how the commercial and non-commercial logging would take place in such a way as to protect these sensitive ecosystems. More analysis and information needs to be provided about road construction, stream crossings, and watershed protection in this very sensitive area.

Additionally, areas adjacent to the Crabtree Falls area of the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park appear to be designated for non-commercial logging. What precautions are being taken to protect the scenic value of this National Park resource?

In summary, this proposal seems to have been done hastily, and lacks adequate analysis of potential impact on sensitive areas. While the overall goals are good, more information needs to be provided to make us all confident that this project is going to adequately protect the environment.