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First name: Lauren
Last name: Kerwien
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Subject: Support for the Red Spruce Restoration Project
To Whom It May Concern:
I am writing to express my support for the Red Spruce Restoration Project proposed by the U.S. Forest Service. As someone who values our natural ecosystems and frequently visits the area, specifically the Washington & Jefferson National Forests, I believe that this project is essential for restoring the health and resilience of our forests.
The Red Spruce ecosystem is a vital component of our region's biodiversity, providing habitat for numerous plant and animal species, including the endangered Northern flying squirrel and the Cheat Mountain salamander. The proposed restoration efforts, which include planting native Red Spruce seedlings and removing competing vegetation, will help re-establish this critical habitat and promote ecological balance.
Additionally, the project's focus on enhancing soil health and water quality is crucial for sustaining the long-term vitality of the forest. By restoring the natural hydrology and improving soil conditions, the project will support the overall resilience of the ecosystem in the face of climate change induced flooding and other environmental stresses.
I commend the U.S. Forest Service for their dedication to using science-based practices in this restoration effort and for engaging with local communities throughout the planning process. I urge the agency to prioritize the implementation of the Red Spruce Restoration Project to ensure the preservation and enhancement of our precious natural resources.
Thank you for considering my support for this important initiative.
Sincerely,
Lauren Kerwien

Virginia Native Plant Society | New River Chapter Secretary & Vice President
The American Chestnut Foundation | Meadowview Research Farms Laboratory Manager
l.kerwien@gmail.com
973-508-9847