

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Edgar

Last name: Wood

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To The Forest Service:

As a Soil & Water Supervisor in Cherokee county, ruffed grouse hunter, and hiker I am disappointed that the original Pisgah and Nantahala forest plan that was developed over 12 years may be in jeopardy of being eliminated in favor of a new old growth forest protection plan. This new directive will hinder any plans to effectively manage our forests the way they need to be managed. I agree there are places that do not lend to management where the terrain prohibits where the old growth should be maintained but the vast majority of these forests need to be managed using forest BMP's according to location. From my observations old growth stands shade the forest floors eliminating cover for wildlife and new growth. Eliminating old stands and replacing with new stimulates wildlife and better timber quality plus providing access by roads to areas for continued management and public access.

I don't know what these "Environmental Groups" are thinking but somebody needs to tell them that trees are a renewable resource. They will grow back! We need to get some "common sense" back in forest management and quit tying the hands of the Forest Service and let them do their job of managing our nations forest land.

Thank YOU,

Ed Wood