Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Wayne Last name: Thacker Organization: Title: Comments: Folks,

As a frequent "wanderer" in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests who appreciates the importance of healthy forest habitat, I support the proposed action (Alternative 2) as developed by the U.S. Forest Service in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which directs the national forests toward stewardship. I strongly urge the USFS to stand by its choice to move in this direction even against unrealistic narratives which oppose restoration. Further, please continue pursuit of Native wisdom to combine with science-based management tools in an effort to restore responsible uses now on the decline (e.g., hunting upland game birds on the GWJEFF) and to restore the forest diversity that supports hundreds of species (especially those that use young forests - 0-20 y.o.).

I appreciate the work the Forest Service has done and is doing; and, appreciate this opportunity to offer my comment.

Wayne Thacker

Bumpass, Virginia