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Comments: I support the management activities planned for this project. The Cherokee National Forest, along with the majority of the Appalachia region, does not provide adequate habitat for historical plant and wildlife species. Specifically, the region's, including Sugar Mtn., forests are a monoculture of late successional stages, and thus species diversity and richness throughout the region are declining. There are a multitude of peer-reviewed research studies that tie late successional stage forests due to lack of active habitat management to species declines. For example, white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse populations, and the overall health of individuals, have been declining for several decades due to lack of habitat diversity as a result of a lack of active management according to literature. Ruffed grouse in particular are a species that require early, mid, and late successional stages of forest to survive; Much of which, aside from late stage forest succession, is not available in the region. If these species, and others are to persist with ever increasing anthropogenic pressures, there must be efforts made to alter the successional stages for the region's forests in order to diversify the habitat.