

Joseph Sisson and Family

[REDACTED]
Fulks Run, VA 22830

September 13, 2019

Mary Yonce, North River District Ranger
401 Oakwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

SUBJECT: North Shenandoah Mountain Project

Dear Mary Yonce,

As stated before in our November 5, 2017 Forest Service Comment letter, we live between Feltz Ridge and Leading Ridge in the George Washington National Forest. My family and I hunt on the George Washington National Forest. We understand that there is forest stand improvement, thinning and SL & TM pine restoration to be done on Leading Ridge to revitalize the forest for my children and grandchildren. We have some concerns and suggestions regarding the leading Ridge Working Area.

We understand that there is to be a temporary road created in order to get to the proposed forest stand improvement area, thinning area and SL & TM pine restoration area. At present, there are illegal ATV trails in that area. Once the temporary road to that area is created, we still feel that there needs to be a gate with limited access. On the EA it looks like logging will be permitted for locals. Those specific people could be given a key to the gate. Hopefully, this would lessen more illegal usage. If logging is to be permitted, I would be interested in being notified for that opportunity.

Also, when you are thinning the existing trees, we would still like to see some of the old growth white oak trees left.

Regarding the Feltz Ridge and Leading Ridge Working Area proposed burns, we are still concerned for our livestock since the area to be burnt in some places is less than a mile from where the livestock is pastured. We are worried about the horses trying to get away from the smoke and possibly injuring themselves. According to the map this proposed burn is very close to our land and our neighbors. We would like to be notified when the proposed burns will be happening. You can leave a message for us with our neighbor, [REDACTED]

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sisson and Family

