



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

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Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project
Attention: Jessie Howard, Project Coordinator
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Deer Association (NDA) would like to express its support for the proposed Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project. NDA's mission is to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. The proposed plan addressing the imminent challenges of climate change on our watersheds aligns with our mission to prioritize healthy wildlife habitat.

The Southern Appalachian Subregion encompasses a vast and ecologically diverse landscape, home to critical habitats, recreational assets, and essential water sources for millions of people. It is positive to see the Forest Service take decisive steps to enhance watershed resiliency through strategic projects aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change. The proposal's focus on improving infrastructure, enhancing water quality, and preserving aquatic habitats is not only commendable but also essential for the long-term health of our ecosystems.

In conclusion, NDA supports the Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency Project and would like to see the project moved forward as outlined. By doing so, we will not only safeguard our natural heritage but also strengthen our communities' resilience in the face of a changing climate. I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that this project will undoubtedly bring to the Southern Appalachian Subregion.

Sincerely,

Catherine Appling Pooler
Director of Policy